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**VIEW**

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## 1. The president's message by Julio de la Granja

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“Work has been done, but there is more to do...”

“2012 was an important year for the Emmaus Movement as a whole and particularly in Europe.

**The celebration to commemorate the centenary of Abbé Pierre's birth** was the major event of the year. The year therefore started with **the official opening of the place of remembrance and residential centre in Esteville** and ended with **the exhibition about Abbé Pierre's life – *Brother of Humankind and Agitator for Peace*** - in Roubaix in France.



*Abbé Pierre's room has remained untouched.*

2012 was also a year of important meetings for the Movement, specifically in Anglet where the Emmaus International World Assembly was held, and in Paris where the Emmaus France Congress took place.

**This impetus is continuing, as 2013 is the year of the European meeting in Verona in Italy, organised by Emmaus Europe.**

With regard to solidarity, once again the European groups proved up to the task of funding Emmaus Europe's 2012 annual solidarity programme. As for the Emmaus Salons or sales, we have observed that the custom of putting on several regional sales in France every year, with Emmaus Europe's involvement, is now well established. In 2013, the Paris Salon's takings will be used to support

European solidarity and the groups' funding applications have increased compared with previous years.

New groups are preparing to join the Movement, both in Eastern Europe (Romania, Bosnia and Albania) and Western Europe (Italy, UK and France). At EU level, Emmaus Europe's work is now fully recognised. The meeting between Emmaus Europe and Martin Schulz, the President of the European Parliament, and several other MEPs, is proof of this recognition.

Despite the major achievements, a lot still remains to be done in order to ensure that the economy and politics work for the good of humankind and not just for the benefit of capital and politicians.

We must defend minorities (Roma and travellers), migrants, the homeless, those who are in debt, and more generally, anyone in distress.



*World meeting of Emmaus Movement members in Anglet in France.*

We are now faced with an economic contrast on a major scale. A minority are considering where to invest their money and what nationality would be the most beneficial in order to pay less tax, whereas the majority are finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet and to make it to the end of each month.

Abbé Pierre's message is still topical and present in our lives. Proof of its validity is the fact that

every year new people join the Movement, in part because of a range of needs, but also because of their ideals.

Emmaus Europe not only does a remarkable job; our alternative way of life is also respected. Added to the political lobbying done by the Movement, all of these components mean that we are listened to and valued in our daily work to help those who suffer most throughout Europe."

## 2. How the European Union's inter-institutional system works in practice: a constantly evolving structure. What opportunities?

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Let's take a closer look at the implementation of the common European asylum system. It was originally scheduled for implementation in late 2012 and **Emmaus Europe has been campaigning about this 'asylum package' since 2008.**

It has to be said that harmonisation is currently being hampered. The deadlock caused by certain Member States has an impact on the fundamental rights of asylum seekers. The negotiations therefore result in a watered-down system that contains many cautious phrases and a lot of vague wording. This in turn results in unclear and insufficiently precise standards.

Achieving a balance between European ambitions and national policies and between economic and political objectives and protecting human rights is proving very problematic at the present time.

Although creating a uniform European asylum system throughout the European Union is a vital project, a significant number of Member States remain cautious **because of the extra cost involved, the administrative burden and their fear of creating a windfall effect for migrants.** The proposals for recasts therefore appear to be **less ambitious** than the first proposals made by the European Commission in 2008.

Changes made by successive treaty reforms **have not officially altered the Commission's right of legislative initiative.** However, **in practice it has been gradually eroded** due to the development and widespread use of the co-decision procedure. Indeed, right from the start of the legislative process, the Commission is seeing its role as an 'honest broker' gaining in importance, helping an agreement to be reached between the two co-legislators.

However, if we take a look at our example of the common European asylum system, it has to be said that no agreement has been reached on the Procedures directive by the Commission and Parliament, despite the fact that the Commission originally made the proposals for a recast!

This weakening of the Commission's role in the co-decision process has also had **an impact on its power to define the reach of its legislative proposals.** The Commission has started to take into account the positions of the co-legislators right from the drafting of the proposal, thus avoiding including disputed objectives that may well be rejected during the negotiation process.

**The power of legislative initiative has also been significantly eroded by the *European Council* and the *Council of the European Union*.** Indeed, the Commission is increasingly considering itself to be politically obliged to follow the European Council's 'conclusions and proposals'. The Council's resolutions are regarded as being 'informal mandates' addressed to the European Commission.

### Changes over the years

**The amount of innovative proposals adopted by the Commission has dropped significantly** due to all the policy areas having been addressed.

Furthermore, the application of the co-decision procedure to new policy areas has been accompanied by a reduction in the length of time needed to adopt legislative proposals and consequently a **drop in the number of conflicts about the Commission's innovative proposals.**

Ultimately, the introduction of the co-decision procedure in the European Union's decision-making system and the way in which the inter-institutional system functions have led to the **role of the Commission being transformed, having gone from being an active initiator to a responsive initiator.**

As of 2013, it will be interesting to observe if, and to what extent, the major changes to the right of initiative introduced by the Treaty of Lisbon will further erode the virtual legislative initiative monopoly that the Commission still formally holds.

In the face of this phenomenon, it is worth wondering about the impact of this institutional machine when it takes decisions on asylum seeker protection. It causes slowness, with the toing and froing, MEP travel, and plenary sessions of the European Parliament **representing a major cost** at a time when we are experiencing a financial crisis.

## **What role for the European Parliament in the run-up to the European elections in 2014?**

Let's go back to our example of the common European asylum system. The 2014 European elections could have a significant impact if harmonisation is not completed by the time they take place. Nevertheless, it is not desirable that the MEPs give in to the pressure being placed on them by the schedule and the Member States, sitting on the Commission. **They run the risk of sacrificing asylum seekers' fundamental rights.**

## **And what about European Citizen Initiatives (ECI) in this context?**

Another procedure has also disrupted the European legislative process, namely the **European citizen initiatives**. One such initiative is the European citizen ***Water for Citizens*** initiative as part of the campaign to defend universal water access and usage, which got underway in 2012. The campaign will continue throughout 2013. Emmaus Europe has got involved alongside other associations and Emmaus International in the IERPE grouping. In this perspective, **Emmaus is working to increase social equality so that everyone finally enjoys the same rights, and in particular the most basic rights, such as water access.**

From now on, the European legislative bodies are made up of a trio in which each party will have to determine the scope of their role so that the legislative system comes fully into play and is effective.

**Emmaus is working to increase social equality so that everyone has the same rights over resources.**



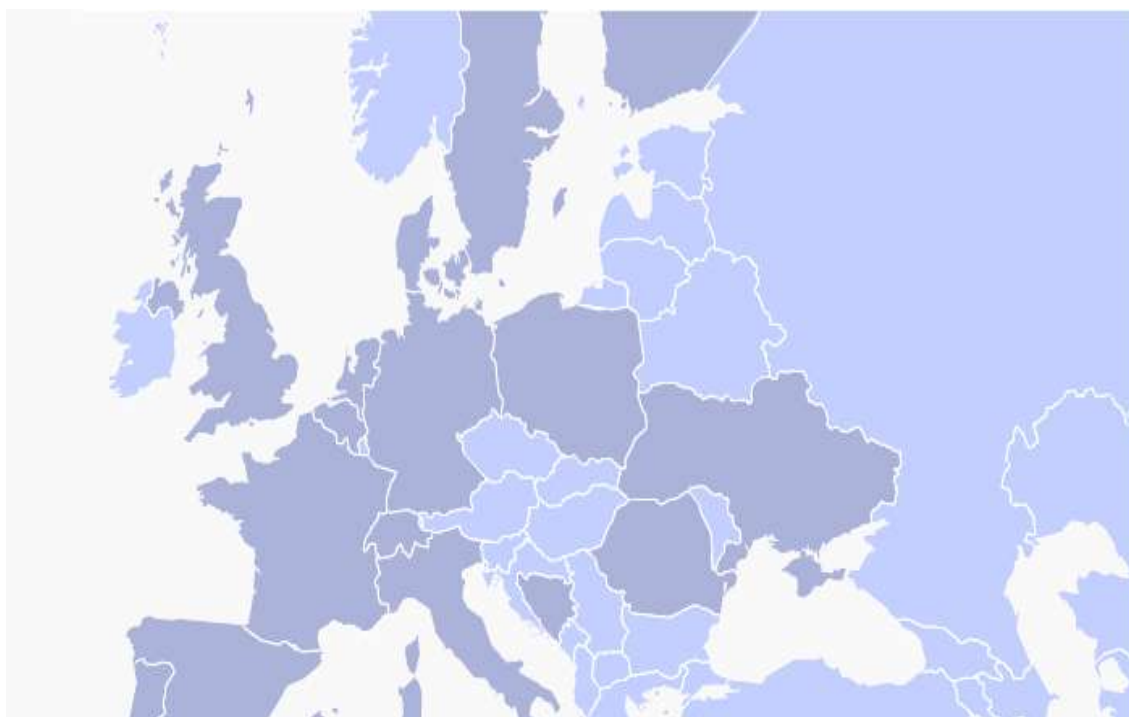
### 3. Emmaus Europe in 2012

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Emmaus Europe in 2012,  
275 member organisations in 16 countries.

Regional life in **Emmaus Europe's seventh year of existence** proved to be vibrant. Nothing would have been possible without the groups' remarkable efforts and initiatives, without the positive responses to invitations to take part in events and consultations, and without the friendly and warm welcome they all offer.

Emmaus is present in the countries marked in dark blue on the map: Germany, Spain, Italy, Portugal, UK, Sweden, Finland, Netherlands, Switzerland, Poland, Ukraine, Romania, France, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Belgium and Denmark.



Furthermore, 16 groups are trial members or applied for trial membership in 2012: one in Bosnia-Herzegovina, one in Finland, one in France, two in Italy, one in the Netherlands, nine in the UK and one in Sweden.



## 4. What do the European groups do?

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The following initiatives were part of the daily lives of the groups in Europe.

**Solidarity economy work:** Collecting, repairing and selling second-hand goods. Offering shelter and support, training and reinclusion to the most disadvantaged people.

**Social initiatives in the following areas:** Housing, social aid (emergency accommodation, social support, combating illiteracy etc), fighting for the rights of the weakest members of society (shelter and support for migrants, people with disabilities etc), protecting the environment and developing Fair Trade.

**Initiatives to safeguard human rights:** Campaign to ensure that the right of asylum is respected and against human trafficking (grassroots initiatives and lobbying the public authorities). At a more global level, the Emmaus groups are working for a Europe that is more respectful of migrants' rights (reception and support).

**International solidarity initiatives:** Sending containers of goods and other forms of support for the activities of groups in a variety of countries.



## 5. Regional life: involvement and subsidiarity

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a. **The Regional Council of Emmaus Europe\* - RCEE** – is the organisation’s Board. Two council meetings were held in 2012.

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### 17-19 February 2012 in Montreuil, France

Apart from the statutory meeting itself, this council meeting included two key events.

- The participants visited three accommodation centres and night shelters run by **Emmaüs Solidarité** in Paris and had dinner with them.
- The Regional Executive of Emmaus Europe organised a debate **on the morning of 17 February on the theme of "Emmaus Europe: solidarity and what should our sphere of activity be?"**

As is always the case at the end of the financial year, Emmaus Europe’s accounts were reviewed by the auditor, who, as usual, came to the meeting to present his report. Even more importantly, a **declaration was published the day after the meeting. “Emmaus Europe is outraged about the pressure put on the poorest people in the name of repaying debt.”**

### 19-21 October 2012, Pamplona, Spain

Emmaus Pamplona celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in driving rain in the Navarra Region of Spain. Group partners and friends from all over Europe attended the event. The group hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> statutory meeting of 2012 of the Regional Council of Emmaus Europe.

Group members took the representatives from all over Europe on a guided tour of all the sites in order to show them the group’s wide range of activities.



*Traperos’ 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in the town*



*Tour of the shop located in Pamplona.*



*Meeting with the companions from the Traperos community in Pamplona.*



*Traperos' 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in the town*

Part of the meeting was dedicated to the issue of human trafficking. The following were invited to attend by Emmaus Europe:

- **Dovilė Gradytė** from the Missing Persons' Families Support Centre (MPFSC) in Lithuania, whose awareness raising work with young girls has now been broadened to include boys.
- **Amela Efendic** spoke about the International Solidarity Forum's experience in Bosnia. **The RCEE decided to act at both local and European level, as they complement each other.** The RCEE also made plans to discuss and define the wishes and intentions of the Movement on the issue and to develop an action plan in order to make progress in this work area.

**Indeed, no member of the Emmaus Movement could have failed to notice. In 2012, the Emmaus International General Assembly held in Anglet adopted fighting all forms of exploitation and slavery and human trafficking as a political action area.**

**\*The Regional Council of Emmaus Europe is comprised of 11 Councillors of Emmaus International (CEI):** Simon Grainge, Javier Pradini, Jean Karekezi, Gérard Racinne, Hans Van Beek, Margarita Ziliacus, Silvana Nogarole, Tobias Petersson, Dzenana Sabic, Gianni Belletti and Franck-Benoît Puntous.

**15 national delegates:** Willi Does (Germany), Gérard Corpataux (Switzerland), Gregorz Hajduk (Poland), Gélu Nichitel (Romania), José Maria Garcia Bresó (Spain), Helka Hava (Finland), Jos Van Der Meer (Netherlands), Delia Ressende Clément (Portugal), Dave Perry (UK), Nanna Nilson (Sweden), Maryana Sokha (Ukraine), Silvana Nogarole (Italy), Claudine Gras (France), Alma Alihozic (B&H) and Julio de la Granja (Belgium).

## b. Meetings of the Regional Executive of Emmaus Europe

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Three meetings were held of the Regional Executive of Emmaus Europe in 2012. The executive's members are as follows: *Julio de la Granja*, president, *Willi Does*, secretary, *Alain Capmas*, treasurer, *Xavier Vandromme* and *Silvana Nogarole* (members of the executive). All the meetings were face-to-face and were held at the shared Emmaus HQ in Montreuil on 5 May, 8 September and 11 December 2012.

## C. The European collectives

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The European Collectives have been part of Emmaus Europe's work since the 2007 Strasbourg Regional Assembly and are retrospective stakeholders that help Emmaus Europe to campaign and raise its profile, with this being needed for external initiatives (local and European level).

The European collectives are working groups whose purpose is to organise the solidarity initiatives aimed at needy groups, with the aim of being transparent and securing their long-term future.

The collectives' primary mission is to **guarantee that solidarity in the region is properly managed** and to **monitor the solidarity actions supported by the Europe Region**.



**Collective meetings are a vital means of bringing alive solidarity in the region. The meetings held by the geographical collectives in 2012:**

### Romania Collective meetings

**20 January** at Emmaus Bourges in France.

**27-28 September** in Iasi, Romania. This meeting was followed by a round of visits and meetings with Amicii d'Emmaus in Targu Jiu and Frères Europa in Satu Mare (29 September – 4 October). These are two new groups that wish to join the Movement.

### Poland / Ukraine Collective meetings

**20 April** at Emmaus Bougival and 21 at headquarters. France.

**23 November** at Emmaus Lublin in Poland. The meeting was followed by a visit to the plot where the Rzeszow community house is being built (24 November).

**Visits and meetings also took place in Bosnia-Herzegovina**, specifically in June, to meet with the members of the ISF and the New Generation group presented by the ISF. Likewise, Emmaus Europe took part in the official opening of the international youth camp in July and in the Srebrenica genocide official commemoration ceremony, which included the burial of victims who were recently identified (11 July).

**These meetings were also the chance to gain a better idea of the groups' situations and to discuss:**

- The situation of each group (premises, activities and staff).
- Progress made on the initiatives supported by Emmaus Europe and Emmaus International in 2012.
- 2013 applications for support (materials and funding).
- The regional transport programme (loads sent and needs for the next programme period).

### As for the themed collective...

**The Migration and Human Trafficking Collective met in Brussels in Belgium on 6-7 July 2012. The meeting was preceded by a visit to the Asylum Seeker Reception Centre known as *Petit-Château* in Brussels city centre.**

The initiatives being run in Lithuania and Bosnia were presented once again at the meeting.

**Fadela Novak spoke about the High Commission for Refugees' work on human trafficking, presenting the EC directive of 2005, which must be transposed by 6 April 2013.**



The other guest speaker, **Zoï Sakelliadou**, a representative of the anti-trafficking coordinator's office, spoke about the work done by the **European Commission** to take action on human trafficking. In particular, the adoption in June 2012 by the European Commission of the EU strategy for the 2012-2016 period with a view to eradicating human trafficking was highlighted: prevention, protection, victim support and prosecution of traffickers.

The participants placed the stress on sharing experiences, awareness raising, collective actions and citizenship.

These meetings enable everyone to benefit from the experiences of others and conversely to promote their achievements.



## D. A brief look at events, anniversaries and other gatherings in Europe

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*April 14: Burgundy and Franche-Comté Regional Salon in Besancon, France*



<b>4 February</b>	Opening of the new shop in Trignac, France.
<b>7-9 April</b>	European elected representative visit to the Hull and Medway groups that are applying for trial membership, UK.
<b>9 April</b>	Meeting of Italian groups to celebrate Easter close to Emmaus Quarrata. The longest staying companions in their communities were congratulated.
<b>11 April</b>	Emmaus Europe representatives spoke at the European Parliament at the conference organised by MEPs addressing the contemporary social, economic and environmental challenges of urban areas (town planning, housing and social inclusion) in Brussels, Belgium.
<b>14 April</b>	Burgundy & Franche Comté Regional Salon in Besancon with the participation of Emmaus Europe.
<b>28 April</b>	Regional sale in Cambrai in Northern France.
<b>27 May</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Péruwelz house, La Poudrière, Belgium.
<b>10 June</b>	Emmaus Krefeld's 20 <sup>th</sup> anniversary, Germany.
<b>14 June</b>	First Paris Region big regional sale in Montreuil in support of the Emmaus Paris Community.
<b>13 September</b>	Session led by Emmaus Europe at the Burgundy-Franche Comté regional meeting in Langeron, France.
<b>14-15 September</b>	40 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations at Emmaus Etagnières, Switzerland. Emmaus Europe was represented at the celebration.
<b>Also in September</b>	The Swedish and Finnish Emmaus groups met on the Åland Islands and the Emmaus groups from Germany held a meeting.
<b>10-11 November</b>	Angers sale, France
<b>1-2 December</b>	Emmaus Forbach's 30 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, France.

## 6. Work areas

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### I. Sustainable development, happy degrowth and the alternative economy

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“As we live together in the Emmaus communities we have a lower carbon footprint, as we use fewer resources by living together. Very strong values, such as sharing work and ideas, recycling, and solidarity with the whole world, exist in Emmaus. We share all of these values with happy degrowth...”

*The words of an Emmaus companion*

The Emmaus Movement is engaging in a broad-based sustainable development dynamic through its work in each of the components of sustainable development, i.e. environmental, social and economic development.

Emmaus is reinforcing its identity and is exemplary in terms of what is done to change the environment: we help to reduce waste even though, paradoxically, Emmaus makes its living from the consumer society. **Reuse and recycling are our strong points.**

**This vision of sustainable development is shared in Europe. We now need to broaden our work to include new ventures and encourage society to reinforce the dynamics already in motion in Emmaus!**

**With the support of the Emmaus stakeholders in Europe, written and visual aids** were developed to showcase the environmentally-friendly practices and measures adopted by the groups and also to promote their feasibility and be a source of inspiration.

The relevance of the existing practices has been promoted and disseminated internally since 2009. **In 2012, we made an inventory of the practical information** that will enable each member organisation to improve their everyday environmental habits. This information was published in the form of a handbook.

**Water, food, purchase of consumables, waste, housing, energy and transport are the issues tackled by the guide.**





The following information is featured for each of the themes: identifying needs, so that a practice can be implemented, available techniques, advantages, drawbacks, references in the Movement, tips and recommendations. The handbook does not aim to be exhaustive. The aim of the initiative is to give everyone the information they need to step up their practices in this area.

Please go to [www.emmaus-europe.org](http://www.emmaus-europe.org) to download the handbook.

### Alternative economy

Economic activity can aid social and professional inclusion as well as being a vehicle for solidarity.

The Emmaus groups are special places in which normal economic rules do not totally apply. The communities are based on sharing, taking in people and being independent from the public authorities.

Sharing is all about sharing economic resources but also and especially about respecting and making use of everyone's skills. By collecting, recycling and selling second-hand goods, communities also carry out social and professional inclusion, as they employ people who are experiencing difficulties and have been excluded until now from the world of work or have lost their jobs in an untimely fashion.

**Making a profit should not be the sole aim of economic activity.** The economy currently generates incredible wealth which is shared out very unfairly. **This causes instability and exclusion.**

**The solidarity economy in Emmaus brings together thousands of local initiatives that employ socially-excluded people and offer alternative forms of employment, saving, decision-making and consuming.**

**The Emmaus local solidarity economy does not seek** to replace the market economy but instead focuses on the problems of the most destitute members of society and the individual and collective needs that have been overlooked by the market and the state. **Our ambition is also for Europe to be exclusion-free and for it to be a region in which men and women are free and equal in rights.**



*Debate at the European Parliament, Strasbourg, France.*

**These were the words of the President of Emmaus Europe, Julio de la Granja, at the Emmaus France Branch 3 meeting** (social and solidarity economy driven inclusion). A discussion was also held about the social and solidarity economy's role at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, in which French groups from the branch, the President of Emmaus France, Simon Grainge, the UK representative, and Javier Pradini from San Sebastian in Spain, also took part.

## II. Emmaus Europe is increasing awareness among European citizens - our political lobbying work

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*“If our practices are beyond reproach we can carry out political lobbying drawing on our day-to-day experiences.”*

*Words of an Emmaus stakeholder*

Although Emmaus is a Movement that refuses to allow itself to be exploited by political parties, the world of politics does have an impact on the groups.

Discussions and community visits demonstrate that politicians do not know us sufficiently well.

Furthermore, Emmaus Europe is stressing the need to go beyond national borders in order to make the views of companions heard on the European stage. Indeed, over 70% of national legislation now results from decisions taken in Brussels, as public policies are taking on an increasingly European flavour. Emmaus Europe wants to highlight its presence on the European stage in response to this phenomenon.

Two concerns persist for Emmaus Europe:

- True upwards harmonisation of European standards.
- True solidarity between States.

Political lobbying based on a human rights approach via events, taking a stance that respects differences in Europe and the commitment of all the groups working on a day-to-day basis is key for our future; **a future closely linked to the evolution of crisis-ridden Europe**. We need to continue challenging politicians.

In line with the work on migration and human trafficking, the following initiatives from **2012** should be highlighted:

- Letters sent to the **MEPs about the lack of goodwill when accepting the European asylum package**.

- Press releases and open letters to coincide with the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Geneva Convention and **to protest about the criminalisation of the homeless in Europe**.

The aim of the latter was **to reiterate the provisions** of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, which promote the principles of human ***dignity, physical and moral integrity, freedom, privacy, equality and non-discrimination, while prohibiting inhumane and degrading treatment***. Hungary was therefore asked to



**immediately repeal the unequal law that criminalises the homeless in the country, with it being asked to reflect on the best way to address homelessness. By doing this, Emmaus Europe denounced a practice which should not be extended to any other European country under any circumstances.**

- Declaration in a context of financial crisis and debt: **“Emmaus Europe protests against the pressure put on the poorest people in the name of repaying debt”** – an excerpt from the declaration:

Emmaus Europe refuses to accept that these self-same governments opt for an economic solution that puts their citizens in dire straits, citizens who have been impoverished by drastic salary and benefits cuts and by tax increases. The Emmaus groups are seeing non-profit organisations having to close or cut the services they offer due to a lack of sufficient credit and those they helped are now knocking on Emmaus’ door. These decisions are causing a recession only felt by the poor.

Emmaus Europe is alarmed by the widening social gulf between the rich and powerful and the growing poor population who are only remembered when money that never helped them in the first place has to be repaid.

Emmaus Europe is calling on governments to:

- Implement robust financial regulation mechanisms.
- Tax financial transactions.
- Change their political behaviour in order to protect the weakest members of society.
- Not penalise households that live on means-tested benefits.

A new social model based on real solidarity quickly needs to be created in order to enable each human being to lead a dignified life.

**Emmaus Europe wishes to enlist each and every citizen and get them to move towards using organisations that respect human dignity** (ethical banks and the local and solidarity economy) and wishes to reiterate its own experience of **how very different men and women, who choose to live simple lives making use of the incredible amount of waste produced by modern-day society, can live together in harmony.**

**These documents were circulated internally and were sent to political decision-makers in the European institutions, MEPs, accredited journalists in Brussels and the French press and networks of non-profits.**

- **Emmaus Europe's letter in response to the Nobel Peace Prize being awarded to the EU.**

**Emmaus Europe welcomes with interest this year's Nobel Prize being awarded to the European Union.**

Emmaus Europe calls on the European Union (Commission, Parliament and Council) to work effectively and efficiently on social protection measures. The Nobel Prize should encourage the European Union to differentiate itself from rampant capitalism and finally create a fairer and more peaceful European society through concrete collective initiatives that curb individual greed. Citizens are consistently demanding it and if the Union does not heed their wishes, a social war may well break out.

The letter was sent to the body tasked with awarding the Nobel Prize. It was sent to the Norwegian Nobel Prize Committee and its director, Geir Lundestad, to the Media and Press organisations / networks and copied to the European institutions.

- **2012 also saw the publication of three newsletters about the groups' experiences of defending human rights and combating human rights violations.**

The sheer abundance of initiatives in each country where Emmaus works is immeasurable but is most definitely palpable and concrete. It is put to test on a daily basis in order to defend those who suffer most.

Emmaus Europe has sought to promote its experience via testimonies and meetings reported on in the newsletters.

The Emmaus groups are confronted by the impact of human trafficking on a daily basis: many victims knock at their door to ask for help. Throughout Europe, whether in countries of origin or destination countries, Emmaus takes in, protects, supports and seeks solutions to ensure that victims do not fall back into the clutches of their traffickers.



- A meeting was held on 25 September 2012 with **Martin Schulz, the President of the European Parliament, in Brussels. Representing Emmaus Europe:** Julio de la Granja, president, Willi Does and Alain Capmas, the secretary and treasurer, and Gabriela Martin, coordinator. **Representing Emmaus International:** Jean Rousseau, president.



**Willi Does introduced the delegation and then highlighted the work done by Emmaus in Germany.** He specifically spoke about Cologne, where there has been a soup run every evening for 50 years, and Krefeld, where the Emmaus community offers an unconditional welcome to migrants. The Emmaus Europe representatives stressed the fact that the Emmaus communities feel that it is their vocation to take in migrants. They explained that through work migrants regain

their dignity. Appalled by the way that migrants are treated in the EU, they called on the Member States and European institutions to take responsibility in order to ensure that migration policy respects human dignity and asylum seekers.

Regarding **migration**, Martin Schulz underlined the fact that the 27 Member States account for 8% of the world's population. This 8% is closing its borders to the rest of the world's population. Europeans need to understand that a fair distribution of wealth is indispensable. Paradox: combating poverty is a priority for the European Parliament but not for the Council of the European Union.



Whereas the European Parliament and Commission believe that the EU should be based on solidarity and cooperation, the Member States use their national interests to justify border closures. They are calling into question the founding philosophy of the European Union by doing this.

**Martin Schulz highlighted the fact that Emmaus' work is still completely relevant today. The issues addressed by Emmaus are continuing in the 21st century.**

- Meeting with Myria Vassiliadou, European anti-human trafficking coordinator, on the European Commission Anti-Trafficking Day, on 18 October 2012 in Brussels. Emmaus Europe took part in this conference as a guest organisation.

- **Meeting between the MEP, Nadja Hirsh, and Elli Kreul and Willi Does.** The work of the Emmaus groups was presented at the meeting. Likewise, the issue of taking in the homeless and undocumented migrants and their own and their children's health and education requirements was discussed.

Ms Hirsh highlighted the significant difficulties involved in raising politicians' awareness about these issues (at local, national and European level) and advocated the importance of communicating specifically at local level.

**The need for dialogue and lobbying is real and is shared throughout the groups in Europe. Both positive and negative experiences are the order of the day.**

## “Supporting dynamic regional lobbying that works for everyone”

### Practical initiatives to combat human trafficking

Support for a shelter for trafficking victims in Vilnius (Lithuania) with an Emmaus partner group that offers victims practical, psychological and legal support and help to return to their families and reintegrate the world of work and society as a whole.

Support for the International Solidarity Forum, an Emmaus group offering protection, medical care, legal aid and psychological support so that victims can overcome the after-effects of their experience.

Initiatives on migration policy and human trafficking in Europe also exist and are worthy of being shared. Additionally, groups located in sensitive countries of origin are far from being the only organisations to run this type of initiative. The scourge of trafficking exists throughout Europe and is not the exclusive preserve of certain countries.

It is clear that Emmaus Europe cannot by itself meet the challenges of the issue of migration and the different forms of trafficking, including human trafficking, which are highly complex and mobilise major human and financial resources.

**Emmaus as a movement is completely justified in taking a stance on this issue, due to its stated mission, enduring nature and worldwide presence.**

**We are just in the early phases of this lobbying work. There is widespread indignation about this terrible problem!** In 2013, let's bring alive the only two conventions that can protect victims (the Council of Europe Anti-Trafficking Convention and the UN Convention on Migrants' Rights).

## 7. Emmaus Europe supports a socially-responsible Europe that helps the most disadvantaged groups

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As Emmaus Europe does not have its own solidarity budget, initiatives are funded using donations from member organisations.

A solidarity programme is sent to all the region's member groups every year. The programme enables them to become involved in funding one or more solidarity initiatives run by the European organisations that have applied for support.

### In 2012, four European initiatives were supported by the groups:

- Safeguard the work of the community and its running by paying the wages of five staff members in Lviv in Ukraine. Support the work of the local group.
- Promote girl and boy power in order to raise their awareness about the scourge of human trafficking in Vilnius in Lithuania.
- Increase financial independence by strengthening selling and farming activities in Iasi in Romania.
- Set up community accommodation to provide a home for homeless young people and set up a shop, storage area and workshops in Targu Jiu in Romania.

### Monitoring of the initiatives carried out by Emmaus Europe aims to:

- Help the European organisations to apply for funding.
- Enable Emmaus Europe's governing bodies to examine the applications in greater depth.
- Enable Emmaus Europe to produce progress reports on the initiatives being supported and publicise progress made.
- Ensure fairness and transparency between the European organisations.

Moreover, the initiatives funded by the **Movement's solidarity via Emmaus International were analysed and progress reports were produced throughout 2012**. The initiatives in question:

- Construction of the community house in Rzeszow (Poland).
- Construction of the community house in Krakow (Poland).





*Community house in Rzeszow*

*Community house in Krakow*

In this area, the European region liaised between the organisations developing the initiatives and Emmaus International.

#### a. Sharing and getting to know each other at the summer camps

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Every summer from **15 June - 15 September** a number of European communities host young volunteers aged 18 and over for stays lasting between one week and two months.

**2012 facts and figures: Summer camps were held in eight countries in which Emmaus has a presence - Belgium (1), Bosnia (1), Finland (1), France (28), Spain (6), Italy (4), Netherlands (2) and Romania (3).**

Emmaus Europe once again acted as an **information channel** via its website.

#### **The convoy and international youth camp in Bosnia**

In June 2012, employees, companions, friends and volunteers set off for Bosnia. Eight trucks and 23 passengers arrived two days later at the ISF in Bosnia, tasked with providing humanitarian aid which would be distributed to needy families in Srebrenica, Bratunac, Zvornik, Vlasenica and other areas. Work, leisure activities, the chance to discover the country and meet people were all on the programme.

### **Championing the Emmaus values in Europe involves:**

Being receptive to the Emmaus ethos as it is lived out elsewhere.

Joining together to discuss alternatives to make for a fairer and more socially responsible Europe.

## b. European involvement in the Paris Salon in support of international solidarity

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Just like every year, this big event is a major exchange of solidarity and a vital opportunity to establish relationships and forge long-lasting and mutually beneficial cooperation links.



**30 European groups took part in the sale at Porte de Versailles on 24 June 2012. Countries such as the UK, Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, France, Switzerland, Poland, Romania and Ukraine were represented at the sale.**



In 2012, the takings of €570,000 (from which expenditure must be deducted) were allocated to funding 12 initiatives run by Emmaus groups in Africa. Thanks to this international solidarity initiative, a group in Cameroon will be able to improve its second-hand store in order to better meet the needs of the local

population, while also creating jobs. This international sale also funded other initiatives linked to farming and promoting women's rights.

### **Solidarity is vital in the Emmaus movement**

*Internal solidarity* between companions, volunteers, friends and all the other stakeholders binds the groups together. This brand of solidarity brings people together.

External solidarity – helping other people and other groups to grow, become strong and independent – motivates us as we carry out our work and helps us to grow too.

**These initiatives are interlinked. They are only feasible if all the Emmaus stakeholders get involved.**



## 8. A brief look at one-off initiatives to bring us closer together

The secretariat has been boosted by an IT system designed by an intern who created an online information directory about Emmaus organisations in Europe, Emmaus contact people / stakeholders and Secretariat admin contact people / stakeholders.

Similarly, an intern specialising in visual communication revamped and refreshed the Emmaus Europe communication resources. A new institutional information pack was created bearing a drawing of Abbé Pierre done by the self-same intern. A document pack, cover pages and posters were also created in 2012.



## 9. 2013 prospects – Verona: discussion time

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The Verona meeting is aiming to be a discussion forum enabling **us to take time out in order to take stock of what Emmaus is all about and of the world outside Emmaus and to further clarify the direction that Emmaus wishes to take on each theme, while continuing to employ a long-term approach.**

**2013 will be the chance for the region to meet up in Verona, specifically on 26-27 April.**

This meeting aims to be in step with the member organisations' desire to have a forum at which they can reflect upon social issues and the challenges with which we are faced and which we must address in practical terms.

The meeting will culminate on 27 April 2013 in initiatives being ranked in order of importance so that a policy reflecting the region's vision can be adopted.

**We invite as many of you as possible to contribute to the suggestion box. This will enable you to explain your suggestions in greater depth. The suggestions you make may well be turned into initiatives to be implemented following the meeting.**

**“Let’s work together to make Europe a dynamic region, in which we are keen to listen to each other, reflect and take action!”**



*The Carraro Centre in Verona in Italy*

**“Our method is based on the creation, support and animation of circles where all, feeling free and respected, can meet their own needs and help each other.”**

Article IV of the Emmaus Movement Universal Manifesto drafted in Berne (Switzerland).

## 10. How to contact the Emmaus Europe Secretariat

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- **Camille Decaens:** Solidarity Coordinator
  - **Ambre Takei:** Admin-Finance Assistant
  - **Julie Bardèche :** Lawyer -Volunteer
  - **Gabriela Martin:** Coordinator
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