**Proposal of press release available to Emmaus groups in Europe**

For distribution to local media. To be adapted according to your local situation or what matters most to you.

Press release

Why are European elections important for Emmaus?

Emmaus is present in 20 countries in Europe, where it provides an unconditional welcome to all those who need a roof over their heads, shelter or help to rebuild their lives through integration programmes. The Emmaus movement is also a pioneer in the circular economy. Historically involved in rag-picking to self-finance its work, it has become a key player in Europe's reusing schemes.

Today, the majority of Emmaus' activities is linked to legislation passed at European level.

Waste collection, sorting, reuse and recycling are governed by European legislation. It is crucial for Emmaus that the social and solidarity economy players retain an important role in the face of competition from the market. Europe is also a key decision-making area for combating fast fashion and promoting reuse.

The unconditional welcome given to disadvantaged people from all over the world, which is one of Emmaus' fundamental principles, is also being challenged by European border migration management regulations. Emmaus advocates greater respect for human rights, particularly the Geneva Convention, and calls for Europe to give a dignified welcome to those who have had to flee their country, in the same way as we did for the Ukrainians.

‘We need a Europe that pulls humanity upwards rather than pitting the poor against the poorest by stigmatising immigrants’ Carina Aaltonen, President of Emmaus Europe.

Although Europe has no prerogatives in terms of social action, recent years have seen progress thanks to the European social pilar action plan and the Green Deal. Emmaus is campaigning to give priority to the most vulnerable in the development of all European policies: housing first, unconditional right to emergency accommodation, social protection, minimum income, anti-discrimination, etc. These are all demands for an ambitious social programme in which the most disadvantaged would also be the best supported in the necessary ecological transition.

Emmaus is getting involved because every vote in favour of the Emmaus values will count on 9 June (the date varies from country to country) so that our groups can develop their work and continue to fight poverty and its causes.

You can find all the Emmaus proposals for the European elections on the website: https://emmaus-europe.org

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*You can use Claire Robert's drawing as an illustration, available here:* XXXX

*Or a photo of your group*