

Emmaus in Europe



Dear all,

This month, we are turning our attention to the composition of the new European Commission, one of the European Union's key institutions. We want to focus particularly on the Commissioners whose portfolios are linked to our work.

We would also like to take a closer look at the Emmaus Piadena solidarity project (which you can support as part of the annual solidarity programme) and the latest news from our partner RREUSE.

Lastly, we hope to see many of you at the 'Let's talk food' online discussion on food and culinary delights on 19 November. You will find all of the information below.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue!
The Emmaus Europe team

Summary

Spotlight on...

European Commission 2024-2029: Austerity and competitiveness



European Commission. - Credit: EmDee, CC BY-SA 4.0 -https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/, via Wikimedia Commons

We now know the list of European Commissioners put forward for the 2024-2029 term of office. It is no great surprise that the European Commission is heading in a worrying direction for the future of our activities and our values. It is now up to the European Parliament to hold hearings with each of these candidates to decide whether or not they should be appointed to the post of European Commissioner.

The strong presence of conservative and right-wing parties is a source for concern, as at the European level, these parties are rarely receptive to our cause and share very few of our values. This raises concerns about their ability to defend social rights, equality and climate justice, issues that should be at the forefront of European concerns. Of the 27 Commissioners proposed (one per Member State), 12 are from conservative parties, five from liberal parties and one is from a far-right party. Furthermore, five are labelled as independents, but are in fact close to right-wing and far-right parties. Only five Commissioners are from social democratic parties.

With regard to content, we are also concerned about the loss of the Social and Employment Commissioner position and the appointment of three different Commissioners responsible for migration policies, with a prevalent use of terms such as "prosperity", "competitiveness" and "security". In the letters sent to the Commissioners to define their roles, the President of the Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, unapologetically defends a vision of Europe geared towards competitiveness, economic growth and security. At Emmaus, this choice raises alarm bells, as it promotes a Europe of increasingly closed borders and an economic model that favours big business, while neglecting social issues, human rights and crucial environmental concerns.

[Read more](#)

Emmaus Europe will keep abreast of all the latest European institutional and legislative developments. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact [Manon](#).

European Action



Final chapter of the European project on digital services for the SSE

Led by RREUSE, the European recycling network, the DigiSocCirc project aimed to support, optimise and accelerate the integration of circular social enterprises into the digital age, while strengthening their social and environmental impact. It analysed the main digital trends, threats and opportunities for social economy organisations. Several reports were published over the course of the project, providing insight into our partners' practices and culminating in the publication of the final report in September.

Download the various reports and analyses drawn up available by clicking on this [link](#).

Textile overdose: Europe's industry at boiling point due to fast fashion

Since early autumn, the entire second-hand textile distribution network in Europe has reached saturation point. There are many reasons for this gridlock, but the main cause is the constant mass influx of new, low-quality clothing.

In many countries, our groups have already been impacted, particularly our textile platforms. Together with RREUSE and the European networks of local and regional authorities, we are working on an appeal to the European Union and will keep you informed.

To find out more, please contact [Manon](#)
Emmaus Pampelune

Emmaus Movement Solidarity

Support Emmaus Piadena to renovate its sales room!



Companions at Piadena pose in front of the warehouse under renovation. - Credit: Emmaus Piadena

The Piadena group needs €20,000 to complete the renovation work on its warehouse! The roof, which contained asbestos, was damaged by a storm in the summer of 2023, putting the community and customers at risk.

The community is taking advantage of this much-needed work to make the warehouse more functional and increase its storage area. The furniture stored there could not be protected as it was exposed to rain and adverse weather conditions.

The work has started and they have built a wall, as part of the first phase towards waterproofing the building. With your support, the community could install windows and a large door! This renovation project falls under the European Solidarity Programme remit and was approved by the Emmaus Europe regional board.

Emmaus Piadena is passionately committed to welcoming and supporting people in difficulty. Currently, the community is home to 12 companions and an Afghan family composed of three households, with a total of 11 people,

including a baby just over a year old. After fleeing the Taliban regime, this family arrived in Italy by means of a humanitarian corridor organised by the Sant'Egidio community.

The group's day-to-day work, focused on collecting, recycling and reusing second-hand materials, reflects the fundamental values of the Emmaus Movement. Emmaus Piadena also manages the 'Ri-Usò' centre in Cremona, making a significant contribution to promoting sustainable development.

On a political and social level, Emmaus Piadena plays an active role in the community and local networks, organising and taking part in initiatives that promote the principles of peace, solidarity and environmental protection.

You can provide financial support for the Piadena project and the green transition fund! You can send your donation to Emmaus Europe, making sure to state "Piadena Project" or "Green Transition Fund" in the description. Find out more in our solidarity booklet, or by contacting [Emmanuel!](#)

DOWNLOAD THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY PROGRAMME 2024

Solidarity transport – a wide range of needs

All the Emmaus groups in Eastern Europe are looking for one - or even two - lorry consignments to ensure they can sustain their activities until the end of 2024. If your community throws away a lot of furniture in good condition, please contact [Emmanuel](#), to see if it is possible to arrange for this material solidarity to be transported to one of the groups in Poland, Romania or Latvia!



To find out more, please take a look at our transport guide:

DOWNLOAD THE TRANSPORT GUIDE

This way of pooling donations in Europe enables us to extend the life cycle of furniture, crockery and other articles donated to communities by our supporters! It also helps us to reduce the number of articles - in good condition - that would otherwise be thrown away, because customers are not interested in buying them. A large sideboard is often worth more in Romania than in France!

For more information, please contact [Emmanuel](#).

Sharing practices: dinner's ready!

19 November 2024 3pm-5pm (French time) - online meeting

There's still time to sign up! If you'd like to join us for an [exchange of practices on food and culinary delights](#), click on the link below to register. We look forward to seeing you on 19 November!

SIGN UP

This exchange of practices is open to all members of the movement. Interpretation will be provided in French and English.

