Dear friends,

This month sees reuse and solidarity moving forward together, as they always do at Emmaus. Our top story is an inspiring partnership in Toulouse (France): the Emmaus companions are training the urban area's waste collection workers about sorting bulky waste, so that items are kept and reused rather than thrown away. A strong endorsement of their know-how, and a model to be replicated.

In Brussels, the European Commission presented an update to the legislation on public procurement. The legislation seeks to provide a framework for the procurement of goods by States and their public institutions. We are closely monitoring this issue to promote the position of the social and solidarity economy and reuse.

As for solidarity, we are asking you to help Otaharin (Bosnia-Herzegovina) to buy a people carrier: the vehicle will be used to take the children to school, ensure that they attend school, and guarantee a safe journey to and from school.

And finally, there's just a few days left for you to register for the webinar on the new Migration and Asylum Pact.

Enjoy reading the newsletter!

The Emmaus Europe team

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Emmaus stories

Emmaus companions provide reuse training for council workers

For the second consecutive year, two companions from Emmaus Toulouse (Southern France) have been training council workers about reuse: the partnership offers multiple benefits.

Anaïs Revollat-Veuillet, the manager of the three Emmaus Toulouse sites, answered our questions.

Can you tell us the story of this partnership?

In 2023, *Toulouse Métropole* decided to set up a collection system that set aside bulky waste so that items that could be reused could be salvaged, rather than sending them directly for waste disposal. Emmaus Toulouse got involved as a reuse partner as part of this initiative.

The aim is to divert as many items as possible from waste disposal and give them a new lease of life. The items are collected from households, recycling hubs or are bulky waste items left in the street. For Emmaus Toulouse this partnership is an opportunity to access extra goods in addition to those we collect from households.

However, the Toulouse council waste collection workers must be able to identify items that can be reused in order for this scheme to be worthwhile. We therefore offered them training to pass on our reuse experience and know-how.

The training got underway in 2025, and we have trained 46 council waste collection workers in the first year. *Read more...*



Photo taken during a training session on repairing domestic appliances | © Emmaus Toulouse

European action

Could public procurement be a lever for the second-hand sector?



© Emmaus Europe, 2025

The European Commission published a **proposal for a public procurement act** for the EU Member States on 9 September 2026. In a nutshell, the act seeks **to provide a framework for public procurement by Member States and their public institutions** (councils, hospitals, schools, etc). It notably lays out the criteria to be used when procuring goods.

There is already a legal framework for public procurement, but it comprises three pieces of legislation that give States significant leeway in how they apply them. **In this case, the European Commission is proposing a regulation** that will be directly applicable to all the Member States as soon as it comes into force. The Public Procurement Act therefore constitutes a major change!

Public procurement could be an **important lever** for social economy organisations. Indeed, the legislation could direct some or all of public procurement towards employment access schemes or second-hand goods. This would help conserve the environment by limiting the purchase of new goods that have required resource extraction, as well as reducing the amount of waste produced.

In addition, considerable sums of money are potentially at stake for our Emmaus groups. A few facts and figures about public procurement:

- €233 billion in France in 2024,
- 35% of annual public spending in Germany,
- 14% of European GDP, roughly **€2,200 billion every year.**

The European Commission has launched a **public consultation** as part of the upcoming discussions about the proposed act. It ends on 30 November 2026. RREUSE (the European network of reuse social enterprises), of which EE is a member, will take part in the consultation.

Our joint advocacy has resulted in us getting two key points added to the European Commission's proposal. Firstly, public institutions can choose to purchase based on the **best price-quality ratio**, rather than the lowest price as before. Secondly, the development of a **social and circular economy** is reiterated as being a key EU objective. Its stakeholders, including our groups, are therefore **recognised as key partners** in the efforts to bring about this change of model.

However, we must keep emphasising these points so that they are not withdrawn from the final draft of the legislation, as this is what some political and economic stakeholders want. Indeed, a delicate balance remains: all the aspects that support the social economy and reuse remain incentives and are non-compulsory provisions.

Please contact Lily Manrique if you have any feedback.

Solidarity

Ensure a safe journey to and from school in Bosnia-Herzegovina



Every year, Emmaus Europe approves the projects submitted by Emmaus groups, and then makes an appeal to the movement to fund them. Your donation therefore provides an Emmaus group in Europe with practical help. This year, Emmaus Europe approved three projects, and they were presented in the 2026 European Solidarity Appeal booklet.

This month, we are taking an in-depth look at Otaharin located in Bijeljina in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Otaharin is a trial member group and has had links with the Emmaus Movement for several years. The group supports a marginalised community in Bijeljina. The community comprises around 115 people, of whom 75 are children. Most of them attend school, and Otaharin is tasked with tracking the children's progress and mediating with the local school.

Currently, the road leading to the school is very hazardous, and no transport is available to take the children to school.

As a result, Emmaus Europe has approved a funding application submitted by Otaharin to buy a people carrier to transport the children to school, in this way achieving two goals: ensure that they attend school, and guarantee a safe journey to and from school.

Your donation will help purchase the much-needed people carrier, which will cost **€15,000.**

If you wish to support the project, please send your donation by cheque or bank transfer to Emmaus Europe, marked '**Otaharin – *Van scolaire***' or contact Emmanuel for any additional information.

The association also welcomes around 60 children a month to a day centre, and is also developing a market gardening initiative, employing some members of the community, as well as generating a small income stream.



Your group can make a difference and ensure that children travel safely to and from school | © Claire Robert

Download the 2026 European Solidarity Appeal booklet

Agenda

Webinar on the European Pact on Migration and Asylum and the Return Regulation

Emmaus Europe is holding a webinar on the European Migration and Asylum Pact and the Return Regulation on **25 November from 10:30 to 12:30** (UTC+1 - Paris).

The webinar aims to help you gain an understanding of this new EU legislation that is devastating for the human rights of migrants and refugees: filtering at the borders, watering down the right of asylum, "return hubs", child detention, and increasing the length of periods in detention.

These new laws may also have a direct impact on the lives of our groups: rise in the number of Orders to Leave the Territory issued to our companions, house arrests and other forms of detention, risk of searches on private premises, etc.

The intention is to **organise ourselves in order to inform those affected** who live in Emmaus communities, and **take action at the movement's national and European levels** so as to limit the damage and document the application of this legislation.

French, English, Spanish and Italian interpreting will be provided.



Please register here

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