

# MANIFESTATION

Thursday 3 October 2019

from 8.30 to 10.00

Brussels    Financial Tower Avenue du Jardin Botanique 50

on the occasion of the European Conference on  
**ACCESS TO SOCIAL ASSISTANCE AND  
RIGHTS FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE**

The Front Commun SDF/Gemeenschappelijk Daklozenfront (Common Homeless Front) has been invited to participate in this conference but has declined.

- **There is a grave risk that the Belgian reference address may be exported to other EU countries.**  
In Belgium, having an address is a precondition for being issued an identity card, which is the main gateway to rights. The reference address is intended for people without a fixed address. Since its inception the reference address for homeless people has never worked properly. There have always been homeless people who didn't receive a reference address and thus have no access to an identity card. And there will always be. This is due to a number of factors: inconsistencies in and interpretability of the law, judicial insecurity and inequality, autonomy of the communes and additional conditions imposed, the hunt for people experiencing poverty and the fight against terrorism.

- **This conference is another step in the direction of the transformation of the Belgian homeless person into the European homeless person.**

In Belgium a homeless person is a person experiencing poverty who is not in possession of a proper home. It is a person who cannot afford to pay for the rent. For having access to a minimum income and to a reference address a homeless person may be in a variety of living situations including temporarily staying with acquaintances, what the majority resort to.

For Europe a homeless person is simply a person who lives in public places and who needs psychological help.

- **The authorities focus on the visible symptoms, and not on the causes of homelessness.** Policy actions focus on problematic homelessness in public places. There is no adequate policy to tackle the causes of homelessness, namely the lack of affordable housing and of an adequate income. The result of these shortsighted policies is that more and more people become homeless. The authorities are in fact fabricating homeless people.

**WE DEMAND THAT IN THE WHOLE OF THE EU ACCESS TO RIGHTS AND TO IDENTITY CARD BE LINKED TO THE REGISTRATION IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER WITHOUT THE PRECONDITION OF HAVING AN ADDRESS.**

Front Commun SDF/Gemeenschappelijk Daklozenfront

[www.frontsdf.be](http://www.frontsdf.be)

<http://daklozenaktiekomitee.wordpress.com>