



EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia
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Email: tiesibsargs@tiesibsargs.lv

Vienna, 19 December 2012
Ref: 2012-outgoing-001554

Dear Mr Jansons,

I am writing in reply to your letter of 30 November this year (No. 1-5/298) in which you report about the risk of poverty in Latvia, in particular for recipients of old-age pension and unemployed persons. The information contained in your letter is deeply worrying and we have been following the developments in Latvia and in other Member States with grave concern.

There are, however, considerable limits to our competences in the area of social rights due to the scope of our multiannual Framework, determining the thematic areas of activity in which the Fundamental Rights Agency is allowed to work. We will, however, also in our future work, take into account the content of your letter in our research and projects as far as possible.

So far, our Agency has worked on issues of poverty, social exclusion and marginalisation only in regard to Roma minorities across the European Union on the basis of a specific European Commission request. In addition, we addressed such issues when reporting on the situation of persons with disabilities and persons belonging to vulnerable groups, such as asylum seekers, irregular migrants, etc.

The impact of the economic crisis across the European Union, which affects vulnerable groups even more in particular Member States, is of concern and closely monitored by EU institutions such as the



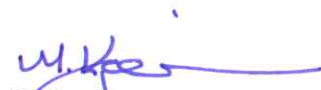
Morten Kjaerum, Director

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
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European Foundation on Working and Living Conditions (Eurofound) located in Dublin, especially in regard to the unemployed and pensioners.

Yours sincerely,



Morten Kjaerum
Director



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