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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

UK Government Rejects Vital EU Support to Food Banks

The UK Government has shown itself to be in a state of denial regarding the food crisis that many families across the UK are currently facing. The **European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) in the UK** have called on the Government to reverse its decision to refuse up to £22million of EU funding from the [European Aid for the Most Deprived fund](#). At a time when demand at food banks across the UK is increasing rapidly, this money could have made a real difference to those trying to help people that are most in need.

Evidence from the [Trussell Trust](#), which supports food banks across the UK, showed that the number of people going to food banks had tripled in the six months to September 2013. More people are turning to food banks for support because of cuts and delays in welfare benefits, and because of stagnating real wages. The European Aid for the Most Deprived would have provided much needed support to ensure that more people were able to access food banks in times of dire need.

Peter Kelly, spokesperson for EAPN UK, said:

'The UK Government appears to be blind to the desperate need that thousands of families are now facing. We need decent benefits and living wages to address this need, but instead we get benefit cuts and stagnating pay. Food banks would be unnecessary if there was an adequate welfare system, but sadly that is not the case. The UK Government needs to take responsibility and accept this vital support from the EU for those most in need.'

ENDS

For further comment contact:

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Notes for Editors

1. EAPN UK is an alliance of the anti-poverty networks and organisations in the UK working together on European social policy issues. EAPN works to put the fight against poverty and social exclusion on the political agenda at the European level. For further details visit www.eapn.eu