



## PRESS RELEASE

04 October 2022

Organisation funded by public charity

### THE FONDATION ABBÉ PIERRE

*The Court of Accounts ensures, during its audits of organisations making public appeals for donations, that the funds collected are in line with these organisations' stated objectives. Depending on the case, the Court either certifies the compliance of these appeals or issues a declaration of non-compliance.*

**Created in 1990, the “Fondation Abbé Pierre pour le logement des défavorisés” is a member of the Emmaüs movement, which brings together the organisations affiliated to the Emmaüs France federation. Its links - organic and financial - with the latter constitute a particular feature in the landscape of foundations, a source of strengths but also of complexities. Over 90% of its funding comes from the public (donations, gifts, bequests, corporate sponsorship) and it has collected over €40 million, including sponsorship. The foundation was audited by the Court of Auditors in 2006 on the employment accounts from 1999 to 2003, which did not give rise to any major criticism. In the report published today, the Court audited the financial years 2015-2016 to 2019-2020, which took place in the context of the health crisis, in which the foundation was heavily involved in helping to stem its impact on the housing of disadvantaged persons.**

#### **The Fondation Abbé Pierre carries out its social mission to protect the poorly housed**

Benefiting from an unwavering reputation inherited from the fight led by its founder, the Fondation Abbé Pierre is dedicated to an ambitious stated purpose, as the housing issue mobilises processes that are long and complex to implement. Recognised as a public-interest organisation since 1992, it has developed day care and boarding facilities, the financial arrangements for which - largely benefiting from public aid - have been taken over by other stakeholders in the sector. The foundation certifies structures that respect its charter for each type of accommodation and has thus created a network that it runs. Initially designed to build and rehabilitate housing, its programmes have gradually been extended to the fight against fuel poverty and unhealthy living conditions. Almost five hundred partners in a network led by the foundation's nine regional agencies are responsible for construction and rehabilitation. Owners of run-down co-ownerships in difficulty were also included in the scope of the population supported by the foundation and, on the occasion of the health crisis, it extended its scope to

include access to hygiene, health and food, with a broad conception of its mission which, if it were to continue, should be more clearly reflected in its statutes.

### **Nevertheless, the internal audits necessary for its own protection are insufficient**

The Court points out that the foundation is weakened by the lack of attention it pays to support functions and risk prevention. It also notes a certain inertia in taking into account the recommendations regularly made by the Don en confiance (Donate with Confidence) Charter Committee and its auditor on these subjects. Internal audits are insufficient, with the risk of placing the institution in an insecure situation. In addition, the obligations attached to its membership of the Emmaüs France Federation sometimes place it in a difficult legal situation, whether it be the management of improperly-worded legacies, the joint collection organised with Emmaüs Solidarity or the aid granted to the Emmaüs France Federation for living quarters for the companions. Finally, it has been slow to realise the need for a system to prevent and deal with conflicts of interest. At the end of 2014, its search for innovative solutions led it to create, together with private investors, a solidarity investment company, SOLIFAP, with the intention of having a company capable of providing support to partner non-profit organisations in project engineering. However, the Court notes an incomplete separation of these two entities, which is required by the laws and regulations. Finally, SOLIFAP acquires real estate from the foundation with little guidance. The foundation has undertaken to review the positioning of SOLIFAP and the procedure for transferring property belonging to it to this company.

### **The Fondation Abbé Pierre has stepped up its advocacy work**

The foundation's advocacy mission is consubstantial with its vocation. One of its vehicles is the annual report on the state of poor housing (RML), which has a considerable audience. The proportion of resources devoted to this mission has increased significantly in recent years and should be made clear to donors. This could lead the foundation to reflect strategically on the balance it intends to strike between operational and advocacy activities. Moreover, the Court indicates that the foundation has transmitted legislative proposals to parliamentarians without having, until December 2021, requested its registration in the directory of interest representatives kept by the High Authority for Transparency in Public Life (HATVP).

At the end of this audit, the Court notes that the expenditure incurred by the foundation complies both with the objectives set out in the public calls for donations and with the objectives pursued by the foundation itself.

**[Read the report](#)**

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