

Let's build rent flats – an article from „Gazeta Krakowska”

Interview with Magnus Hammar, Secretary – General of International Union of Tenants (IUT)
by Katarzyna Janiszewska

Have You heard earlier about our housing problems?

I know situation very good, I am in Cracow for a forth time. When I was here last time, in 2002, I heard about the same problems. I had hope that something has changed during those years. I see that the city center is very clean, beautiful - but tenants problems remain unresolved.

Do other countries in Europe have the same problems?

The majority of East European countries have the same problems, but I have to admit that Poland is the only country where the property of the pre – war rent houses owners was gave back to them. In all other countries tenants who was living in the private stock could buy theirs flats for affordable prices.

Will IUT help us to resolve this problem?

This is the matter of politics. If the government will express a good will and will not be afraid to take the social responsibility on its shoulders – then will be able to resolve all the troubles. There should be a limited date for retaking the property. In other countries this date passed few years ago. In Sweden, Germany, Netherlands – there are existing strong organizations of tenants and owners. Thanks to such a balance there is a field for discussion and for negotiations.

What is the urgent thing to do in Cracow?

To start the rent housing. Such housing needs the proper law system, regulating this kind of housing and providing the safeness of tenure and rent. Young and elder people have their particular needs, mostly those people choose the rent flats. People like to move from country to country, from town to town. Such flexibility enlarges the possibility of employment.

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