



UDRUGA STANARA HRVATSKE
ZAGREB, TRG BANA JOSIPA JELAČIĆA 15
Tel./fax: 01/ 4817 983
E-mail: udruga-stanara-hrvatske@zg.hinet.hr
www.ush.hr



INTERNATIONAL TENANTS' DAY
06th October 2008

Every year, the first Monday in October is being celebrated as the International Tenants' Day, designated by the United Nations. This year, it is on 06th October – and it is an excellent opportunity to recall and outline some of the existing housing problems in Croatia.

After the 1991-1995 Serbo-Croat conflict, majority of Croatian housing facilities were destroyed and needed to be renewed; they are still being rebuilt today. New generations have come of age and they need a place to reside in.

The ongoing tendency now has been the inflow of the population into bigger cities, that consequently increases also the need for dwelling units.

For each citizen, housing is an equally important need as is his/her job. Without a place to live – it is difficult to plan a family; without a family – there are no new generations coming. How to solve these housing needs?

Is the free uncontrolled market of housing construction and apartment selling, that has been going on now, the only solution?

As numerous construction firms emerge, so they disappear at the same rate, often leaving buyers-its customers without protection.

There is an absence of renting apartments fond, and renting is certainly better solution than building with the purpose to be sold at the market. One should have in mind that the Republic of Croatia is, under its Constitution, not only a democratic but also a welfare state. Therefore, it should also care for dwelling of those who are not in a position to buy an apartment.

Unfortunately, one has to establish the fact that political parties, no matter if ruling or in opposition, do not consider the housing problem area to be as important as it – in its reality – is. There is no special seriously-viewed strategy to tackle it, except for some vague declarations or sporadic irrelevant results.

As the housing necessities will be growing from one year to the next, we hope the housing issue will soon come to the agenda – not only to be discussed about, but also to find an adequate and applicable in reality solution. This is an imminence that simply cannot be neglected.

Finally, being a member of the UN, the Republic of Croatia has the obligation to take care of its citizens' housing.

In Zagreb, 02nd October 2008

Croatian Union of Tenants
Marijan Babic
President
Mobile: +385 98 274 018