



Brussels, 15 June 2009

Dear Member of European Parliament,

On behalf of the **European Housing Forum** (EHF), we would like to congratulate you on your election to the European Parliament. At these crucial times for the EU and its citizens, we hope that housing issues and the right to housing will remain high on the political agenda throughout the next five years.

With this letter we would briefly like to explain to you what the European Housing Forum is about and how we are looking forward to working together with you on housing related issues. Also, we would like to invite you to our **welcome reception**, which will take place on International Tenants' Day/UN-HABITAT day October 5, 2009.

#### **About the European Housing Forum (EHF)**

The EHF was created in 1997, following the adoption of a resolution on the social aspect of housing by the European Parliament. It currently has 11 members, all of which are major European or global organizations working in the area of housing. The member organizations represent housing consumers such as tenants, home owners, and people who are homeless or inadequately housed; housing providers such as social and public housing associations and private developers, and housing professionals such as chartered surveyors, real estate managers, and researchers specialized in housing issues.

The Forum follows all relevant developments in the EU and is a key partner of the European Housing Ministers who meet annually on issues of common concern. The Forum applies common initiatives to the European institutions and promotes the importance of the housing sector in Europe.

#### **The Urban-Housing Intergroup of the European Parliament**

Throughout the last Parliamentary legislature, the Forum and its members have worked together with the Parliamentary **Urban-Housing Intergroup** on many occasions. We would like to stress the key role this Intergroup has played and strongly advocate its continuance for the next five years.

If housing and urban development are themes of interest to you, we ask you to **actively pursue** the setting-up of this intergroup.

#### **European Housing Forum welcome reception to the new European Parliament**

On Monday 5 October 2009, we would like to invite you for a welcome reception where you will be able to meet with us and with other MEPs with an interest in housing.

During this day, which is International Tenants' Day as well as UN-HABITAT day, there will also be an afternoon conference of the International Union of Tenants on "**Tackling the financial crisis with a new deal for affordable housing and social urban development**" in the European Parliament. The conference will be followed by a EHF welcome reception. The reception will also take in place in the European Parliament and will start at 5 pm. More information will follow in due course. We hope to meet you there.

If you are interested to know more about the EHF, the Urban-Housing Intergroup or the welcome reception, please contact Barbara Steenbergen at [barbara.steenbergen@iut.nu](mailto:barbara.steenbergen@iut.nu), 0032 (0)2 513 07 84 or Sander Scheurwater at [sscheurwater@rics.org](mailto:sscheurwater@rics.org) or 0032 (0)2 739 42 28.

Sincerely yours,

The Members of the European Housing Forum  
(To be found on the other side of this page)

## The Members of the European Housing Forum are:



Barbara Steenbergen  
*International Union of Tenants (IUT)*  
Head of Liaison Office to the EU  
Co-chair European Housing forum



Sander Scheurwater – EU Public Affairs Manager  
*Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)*  
EU Public Affairs Project Manager  
Co-chair European Housing Forum



David Orr – President  
*The European Liaison Committee for Social Housing*



Paul Bevan – Secretary General  
*Eurocities*



FEANTSA

Freek Spinnewijn - Director  
*European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless*



Thierry de L'Escaille – Secretary General  
*European Network of Real Estate Owners and Managers*



Laurent Ghekiere - Représentant auprès de l'UE  
*International Network of Francophone Social Housing Providers*



Laurent Wille - Managing Director  
*European Union of Developers and House Builders*



Peter Boelhouwer – Chairman  
*European Network for Housing Research*