



**October 2016**

## **IUT Brussels moves to a new office in town - Avenue des Rogations 28**

After eight years in Rue du Luxembourg, Saturday September 24 the IUT liaison office to the EU moved to its new premises **Avenue des Rogations 28, B-1200 Brussels.**

Our new office space is at the ground floor of a classic Brussels townhouse in the eclectic architectural style inspired by Art Nouveau.

This is where from now you can send your letters, invitations, publications and - why not - postcards!

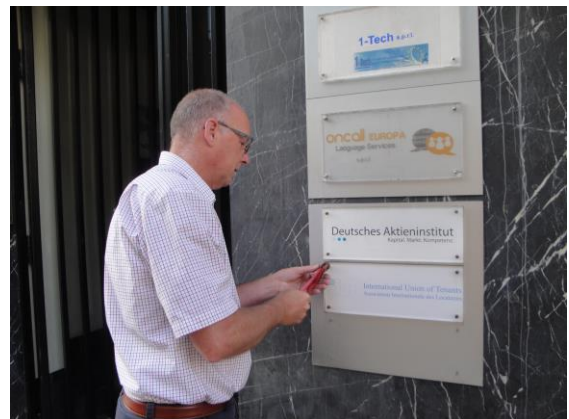
The housewarming party will take place in the afternoon of **November 23**, following the European Responsible Housing Awards ceremony 2016. You are cordially invited!



IUT Brussels staff's leaving the old office at Rue du Luxembourg 23



First visitor: Barbara Steenbergen with Felix von Grünberg (DMB) at new office, Avenue des Rogations 28



Helping hands: Frans Steenbergen as part of the IUT mover's team

## **European Responsible Housing Awards: Jury meeting and final ceremony date- November 23**

The Jury of the European responsible housing awards met in Brussels on 5 July to shortlist the candidate projects in the different categories. Impact, innovation and replicability were the main criteria in the selection. **Responsible landlords** are

those who provide *more than a roof* over people's head. The selected practices answer in different ways today's challenges like demographic change, urban sprawl, immigration, the energy transitions and residents' participation.



European responsible housing awards jury meeting at German-speaking community rep. in Brussels

As chair of the Jury, the IUT ensured the correct and efficient execution of the selection procedure.

Six hours of intensive discussion led to the selection of five projects in 4 categories. The **winners** will be announced during a ceremony which will be held on **23 November** at the **Committee of the Regions** in Brussels.<sup>1</sup> This will also be the occasion to discuss with Commission's officials the proposal for a new European pillar of social rights. **So... don't miss the event and register here<sup>2</sup>!**

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.housingeurope.eu/event-788/european-responsible-housing-awards-2016>

<sup>2</sup> [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSezR0BVFIpGfPhrqG8veEdCyJpNmj5W\\_xM4Cwh9Y\\_AoV69wxmQ/viewform?c=0&w=1](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSezR0BVFIpGfPhrqG8veEdCyJpNmj5W_xM4Cwh9Y_AoV69wxmQ/viewform?c=0&w=1)



Join us at the Awards Ceremony on November 23<sup>rd</sup>

At the Committee of the Regions in Brussels

Register now online!

## Deep renovations: make them affordable! IUT applies for Horizon 2020 programme

As part of **Horizon 2020** "secure, clean and efficient energy" programme,<sup>3</sup> the IUT joined a consortium which worked 9 months on the project proposal before giving birth to the "**MASH**" project. IUT policy officer **Davide Lanzillotti** negotiated with the 12 project partners located from United Kingdom to Italy to finalize the application for the EU grant.

**MASH** is about building a European stakeholder community on the topic of deep renovations, with the aim of discussing the obstacles, decision making processes and costs in order to find solutions which could be acceptable for all interested parties.

<sup>3</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/secure-clean-and-efficient-energy>



The MASH team in place

Affordability, especially for low income tenants, is a key objective of the proposal. The task is not easy, but the consortium members are very motivated. **Housing Europe** is a key partner in the project. If the proposal is accepted by the European Commission, the IUT will mobilize its network of national and regional associations to voice tenants' concerns and expectations with regard to deep renovation.

### **IUT president Sven Bergensträhle at the international Housing Europe conference**

The big challenges of the future housing markets were discussed at an international housing conference of Housing Europe with the support of the UNECE economic committee for housing and land management and the Slovak EU presidency in Geneva. IUT president **Sven Bergensträhle** delivered a speech on the tenant's approach of a progressive housing policy, highlighting the need for participative models and bottom up approaches as well as the need for rent stabilization.



Sven Bergensträhle (left) pointing on the necessity to implement rent control and tenure neutral policies

### **EU Housing partnership meetings in Bratislava and Geneva**

The scope of work and the first timelines of the EU housing partnership have been discussed in the last two meetings in July and September. IUT, represented by **Jan Laurier** and Barbara Steenbergen underlined the necessity to start with the recommendations on the reform of the EU state aid rules for social housing as a new construction boom is needed to meet the rapidly increasing demand. This view is supported by the majority of the partnership. Three working groups were set up, state aid (rapporteur: city of Vienna), finance (rapporteur: Scottish cities alliance) and general housing policy (rappoteurs: Housing Europe, Slovakia and IUT). IUT will especially contribute with input on tenure security, tenant's participation and rent stabilization mechanisms.

## Extraordinary EP Urban intergroup meeting in Brussels

On 6 September the Urban intergroup of the European Parliament hold an extraordinary meeting in Brussels to present the “**European Cities Report**”, a research document jointly produced by the European Commission and UN-Habitat.<sup>4</sup>



From left to right: Lewis Dijkstra (DG Regio), Jan Olbrycht (MEP and Urban Intergroup Chair), and Paulius Kulikauskas (UN-Habitat Europe).

The meeting was chaired by Mr **Jan Olbrycht** (MEP). **Paulius Kulikauskas**, Chief of Office for Europe at **UN-Habitat**, highlighted the link between **Sustainable Development Goal No 11** i.e. “sustainable cities” and the **EU urban agenda**, to which IUT is actively contributing within the framework of the **EU housing partnership**. **Lewis Dijkstra**, deputy head of economic analysis at DG REGIO, explained that the report is not representing member states’ views or inputs, but rather showing European cities in a global perspective. During his presentation he drew attention

<sup>4</sup> <http://urban-intergroup.eu/2016/09/presentation-of-the-state-of-european-cities-report-meeting-in-brussels-on-september-6th/>

to facts which IUT is highlighting in its public statements, notably that urban poverty and exclusion rates are increasing in Europe and that «**housing in European cities is expensive, small and crowded**». Furthermore, in most of the capital cities, it is difficult to find affordable housing. This is the case particularly in Amsterdam, Copenhagen, London, Paris and Stockholm.

## IUT is now full member of EESC Liaison Group - CSO

The International Union of Tenants has been nominated as full member of the EESC civil society liaison group.<sup>5</sup> The latter makes a link between civil society organisations and the European economic and social committee with the aim of **strengthening the representation of civil society** within the institution. The IUT attended the yearly meeting of the group which took place on 7 September. Among the topics in the working programme is the **European pillar of social rights**. **Daide Lanzillotti** (IUT policy officer) contributed to the discussion and circulated the **IUT answer** to the EC consultation on the matter.

## EU parliament on tenant’s self-generation of renewable energies for heating and cooling

The European Parliament decided on a new initiative report on heating and

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.liaison-group>

cooling. The modernisation of the heating and cooling technology as part of the EU's energy market design should be cost effective as well as sustainable by fostering the use of renewable energies. The report underlines the necessity to find tailored solutions for tenants and "stresses the need for a favourable framework for tenants and those living in multi-dwelling buildings, to enable them as well to benefit from the self-generation and consumption of renewable heating and cooling, and energy efficiency measures, thereby tackling the challenges of split incentives and, on occasion, impeding tenancy rules."<sup>6</sup>

IUT and BEUC, the European Consumer's organisation, had a first meeting on the lobby follow up, especially pointing on the few German examples for self-generation in big housing estates, the so called "Mieterstrom".

### Delegation of Austrian Trade Union for construction workers in The Hague

The Austrian trade union for the construction workers, "Bau-Holz" invited Barbara Steenbergen for a delegation's visit in the Dutch ministry for housing. The head of the trade union, **Josef Muchitsch**, chaired an open debate on the different approaches in housing policy in the two countries with **Victor Schaap**, deputy director of the Housing Market

department. Whereas Austria intends to set up a massive program for new affordable housing construction, the Netherlands are planning to privatize the social housing stock further on and liberalize the market framework. The delegation criticised the negative impacts of reducing the social rental market as well for the construction industry and the tenants, not able to find affordable alternatives in their neighbourhood, not to mention those households unable to buy their flat.

The delegation also visited the **Socio-economic council of the Netherlands**, advisory body of the Dutch government and Parliament.



Construction worker's trade union in The Hague, Josef Muchitsch (3<sup>rd</sup> from the right).

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<sup>6</sup><http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2016-0334+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>