



Summer 2019

◆◆◆The European Responsible Housing Awards 2019 Lyon ◆◆◆ Lukas Siebenkotten new President of German Tenants Union◆◆◆ EU Parliament starts work ◆◆◆Milano arch week and Eindhoven urban academy ◆◆◆ IUT debates energy renovation with EU-Commissioners Oettinger and Cañete

The European Responsible Housing Awards in Lyon- a firework of exemplary housing policies and projects



Lyon, France | June 6th, 2019

EUROPEAN RESPONSIBLE HOUSING AWARDS

deadline for entries: February 15th, 2019



The ceremony of the **ERHIN Awards 2019**, organized by IUT Brussels, Delphis and Housing Europe, took place on the 6th of June during the International Social Housing Festival (ISHF): “Our Planet, our Cities, our Homes, Ourselves”, in Lyon, 4th – 8th of June, 2019.¹



IUT board member **Anne Viita** (r.) with the winners from Barcelona, represented by housing councillor **Josep Montaner** (m.)

More than 200 participants from all over Europe, the finalists, European Key stakeholders and representatives from the Region of Grand Lyon attended the ceremony in the University of Lyon to meet the winners of the 5 awards categories and the special prize for innovation which were revealed² in this 2019 ERHIN edition, moderated by IUT’s **Barbara Steenbergen** supported by **Ilaria D’Auria**. Please find all the finalists in the **handbook** of the ERHIN Awards³.

¹ <https://www.ishf2019.com/events/responsible-housing-award/>

² <https://www.iut.nu/news-events/erhin-awards-winners/>

³ <https://www.iut.nu/news-events/european-responsible-housing-awards-handbook-now-published/>

This year, the ERHIN jury received a record-breaking number of 87 submissions from 16 countries and deciding on five winners and finalists based on the Responsible Housing Code of Conduct⁴ was no easy task for the Jury with IUT members from **Czech Republic (Lenka Tarabová), Finland (Anne Viita), France (Eddie Jacquemart), Germany (Heike Zuhse) , Norway (Christan Hellevang) and the Netherlands (Paulus Jansen).**



Dutch winners from Moerwijkzicht Breda were happy with the price handed over by IUT board member **Paulus Jansen**

The quality of the projects was so outstanding that the jury members decided to create another category for innovation during the jury meeting in Brussels on March 21st.

In the ceremony in Lyon the winners have received trophies designed by the artist **Ibrahim Adam**, a refugee from Soudan⁵. The idea was to design the trophies as typical traditional Soudanese homes to connect them at the idea of a “hut”- a timely shelter, but not a home.

The ideas of the trophies was important because it emphasizes the social aspect behind this initiative. Changing demographic

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<http://www.responsiblehousing.eu/en/Responsible-Housing-CSR-Code-of-Conduct/Code-of-Conduct/>

5 <https://aa-e.org/fr/artiste/ibrahim-adam/>

trends, a rise in inequality and populism, increasing consequences of climate change, concerns over structural safety, are changing the political, social, infrastructural and environmental landscapes, including housing. Housing and how (and, indeed, where) we live will be a decisive factor in the shaping of our future, and so remains fundamental. The aim of the ERHIN initiative is that the exemplary and innovative ideas and best practices that are already happening on-the-ground will be a part of these future debates and developments.



IUT board member **Lenka Tarabová** (r.) with the winning team of Villeneuve St. Georges

ERHIN videos and press reviews

The winners were asked to produce a **video** about their projects in **Barcelona, Villeneuve St. Georges, Breda, Berlin and Torino**. Please watch them here:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLiSIXg3Q3z_bM6jWaK88eMRBOZfF-u3b6

Please read a selection of **press articles** about the ERHIN awards winners 2019:

Place-based anti-speculation housing policies, **Barcelona** and La Borda (Spain):

https://elpais.com/ccaa/2019/06/06/catalunya/1559826898_895783.html

The Kaleidoscope Project, **Villeneuve-St. Georges** (France):

<http://www.leparisien.fr/val-de-marne-94/villeneuve-saint-georges-l-office-hlm-recompense-par-un-prix-europeen-06-06-2019-8088075.php>

Moerwijkzicht, **Breda** (The Netherlands):
<https://www.bredavandaag.nl/nieuws/algemeen/289146/europese-prijs-alwel-voor-duurzaam-renovatieproject-moerwijkzicht>

Nettelbeckplatz, **Berlin** (Germany):
<https://1892.de/bauen/aktuelle-neubauprojekte/>
<https://bbu.de/nachricht/44992>

Power to the people, **Torino** (Italy):
<https://www.atc.torino.it/articolo/1979>



The ERHIN awards winners, together with the jury and the ERHIN-team

Lukas Siebenkotten new president of DMB-unanimous vote of the German Tenants' Day in Cologne

The 550 delegates of the General Assembly of the German Union of Tenants (Deutscher Mieterbund), June 13-15 voted in an unanimous vote for **Lukas Siebenkotten**, since 2008 general director of DMB, as new DMB-President. Siebenkotten is the successor of **Dr. Franz-Georg Rips**, who became honorary president of DMB as a lifetime achievement award. **Rips** was general director of DMB from 1995 and President from 2007-2019. Under the leadership of **Rips** and **Siebenkotten**, the German Tenant Union counts 3 million members, with more than 320 tenant associations all over Germany giving legal advice to tenants. Together with their

umbrella organization DMB they are securing a social rent law and campaign for affordable housing, democratic urban renewal and a fair level playing field with the landlords. **DMB-President Lukas Siebenkotten**: "We will continue increasing our political power of impact, and fight for social justice as well as climate protection in line with affordable rents."



Dr. Franz-Georg Rips and **Lukas Siebenkotten**

The delegates also voted for a new board of the DMB of 11 members. **Rolf Gaßmann**, IUT board member, was reelected. **Heidrun Clausen**, longstanding board member of IUT and DMB, did not volunteer anymore and received cordial farewell greetings from the General Assembly.



IUT Vicepresident **Jan Laurier** (NL)



CNL-President **Eddie Jacquemart** (F)

IUT was represented by Vice President **Jan Laurier** and IUT board member and CNL President **Eddie Jacquemart** as well as **Barbara Steenbergen**.

In their speeches addressing the delegates in German, **Laurier** and **Jacquemart** highlighted the necessity to fight for housing as a fundamental right. Today, it is regarded as a commodity and traded by international investors at stock markets. Millions of tenants live in precarious housing circumstances, and their situation will be aggravated if there is no fundamental change for a social and affordable housing policy. Both speakers underlined the excellent cooperation between IUT and DMB as active and reliable board member and the strong need of common lobbying for tenant's rights at national, european and international level.

The German chancellor **Dr. Angela Merkel** held a good-humoured speech at Deutscher Mietertag, also reflecting the DMB criticism towards her government. "I was thinking about accepting your invitation as I knew you will not spare me- but it is important that we continue our dialogue", she addressed the delegates. Housing policy is priority now- we need to get markets back on track and we need to ensure that every Euro budgeted for social housing will also be spend. Private investors, who feel obliged to the common

welfare, have to contribute. The chancellor also announced regulative law measures against exorbitant rents and an initiative to mobilise more building ground.



Chancellor **Dr. Angela Merkel** at Mietertag

General Assembly of the Zürich Tenant's Union

IUT was invited to speak at the General Assembly of the Tenants Union of Zürich, May 23.⁶

Barbara Steenbergen presented as key not speaker new political initiatives to control rents and the remunicipalisation of housing and building ground in Berlin, Barcelona and Vienna, as well as the European Citizens Initiative "Housing for all". Tenants in Zürich and entire Switzerland face tough times because of investors driving prices and rent hikes. Even the pension funds of Credit Suisse is exacerbating the housing crisis by demolishing blocks with relatively affordable rents for new constructions, evicting pensioners.⁷ The 150 participants elected the

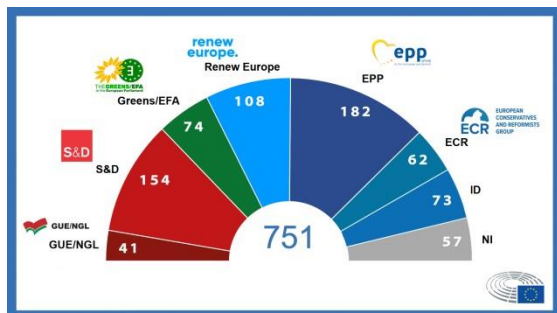
⁶ <https://www.mieterverband.ch/mv-zh/events/2019-events/gv19-mvzh.html>

⁷ <https://www.blick.ch/news/schweiz/zuerich/neubauplaene-im-brunaupark-cs-pensionskasse-kuendigt-240-zuercher-mietern-id15241955.html>

new board of the Zürich tenant union chaired by president **Carmen Wettstein**.

Constituent meeting of the new European Parliament - EU-top jobs

In their first meeting after the European Elections July 3rd, the parliament elected **David Sassoli** from the Italian Partito Democratico (Group of Socialists and Democrats S&D) for the next 2,5 year term as new president of the European Parliament. In the second voting round, he received 345 of 667 valid votes. The largest group in the EP, European Peoples Party (EPP), did not nominate a candidate. The chair of EPP, the German **Manfred Weber** (CSU), who was also in the race as president of the European Commission, is supposed to take over the EP presidency from Sassoli in the second term.



The new groups in the EP: Chair of S&D is **Iratxe Sanchez** (Spain); **Ska Keller** (Germany) and Philippe **Lamberts** (Belgium) chair the Greens/European Free Alliance, the Confederal group of the European Left/Nordic Green left (GUE/NGL is chaired by **Manon Aubry** (France) and **Martin Schirdewan** (Germany). The liberal group, now renamed "Renew Europe", is chaired by **Dacian Cioloş** (Romania), the far-right group, renamed to "Identity and Democracy (ID)" by **Marco Zanni** (Italy). The eurosceptic, anti-federalist European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR)

are chaired by **Ryszard Legutko** (Poland) and **Raffaele Fitto** (Italy).

July 16th, **Ursula von der Leyen**, after having been nominated by the EU-council, was elected president of the EU Commission. Von der Leyen (CDU) is Germanys former minister of defence. She is set to take office on 1 November 2019 for a five-year term. In the secret ballot in the EP, 383 members voted in favour, 327 against, and 22 abstained. The majority was narrow, as the EU council cancelled the principle of the "Spitzenkandidaten" by surprisingly presenting von der Leyen as alternative to **Frans Timmermans** (NL), **Manfred Weber** (Germany), **Ska Keller** (Germany) and **Margrethe Vestager** (Denmark).

Next steps: The Commission President-elect will now send official letters to the member states' heads of state or government inviting them to propose their candidates for members of the Commission. Hearings of the nominees in Parliament's competent committees are scheduled to take place from 30 September to 8 October. The full college of Commissioners then needs to be elected by Parliament, most likely in its late October session in Strasbourg.

Milano Arch Week: About a city – rethinking cities

IUT Brussels team **Ilaria D' Auria** and **Barbara Steenbergen** were invited to speak at the event, "About a city" in Milano (Italy). From the 23rd to the 26th May at the Foundation Giangiacomo Feltrinelli⁸, a progressive Italian think tank, talks, debates, lectures,

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<https://www.facebook.com/FondazioneFeltrinelli/?ref=search>

workshops, theater performances, with guests from all over the world took place.⁹ The event was also part of the Milano architectural week.



The debate was dedicated to rethinking cities, beginning with Milano, a big city undergoing the phenomenon of gentrification and in continuous transformation, especially regarding the suburbs.

IUT was asked to point out the role of the tenant unions in the transformation of the big European metropolis and to present the IUT input in the action plan of the EU partnership for affordable housing.¹⁰

D’Auria and **Steenbergen** explained the several aspects of the work of the European liaison office of IUT in the panel discussion on “Commonscapes”. The debate focused on building the city as a pact to think about the forms of responsibility, co-responsibility and legal-political innovation necessary for the collective construction of urban futures. **Steenbergen** highlighted in the debate with officials from the city of Milano and a private developer the need of tenant’s and resident’s participation in urban planning, urban

⁹ <http://fondazionefeltrinelli.it/aboutacity2019/>

¹⁰ https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/system/files/ged/final_action_plan_euua_housing_partnership_december_2018_1.pdf

renewal of quarters and planning and modernisation of buildings- as the main stakeholders, tenants make cities, but in most cases they don’t play a significant role in planning processes. Therefore it is necessary to find new democratic forms of co-management and co-creation, as pointed out in the EU action plan.



Fondazione Feltrinelli Headquarters Milano, a “laical cathedral”

In the City Forum, IUT was invited to talk about access to an affordable housing. **Ilaria D’Auria** presented the IUT priorities for the European Parliament 2019-2024¹¹ and explained that the work with the European institutions is necessary to represent and lobby for the rights of tenants.

EU hosts high level event on energy efficiency in buildings

During the EU Sustainable Energy Week in Brussels, June 19, the European Commission hosted the conference “Policy meets property: a combined perspective on energy efficiency in buildings.”¹²

During this event, opened by two EU commissioners, IUT’s head of EU office

¹¹ [file:///C:/Users/IUT/Downloads/IUT-Priorities-for-the-European-Parliament-2019-2024FINAL%20\(10\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/IUT/Downloads/IUT-Priorities-for-the-European-Parliament-2019-2024FINAL%20(10).pdf)

¹² <https://eusew.eu/policy-meets-property-combined-perspective-energy-efficiency-buildings>

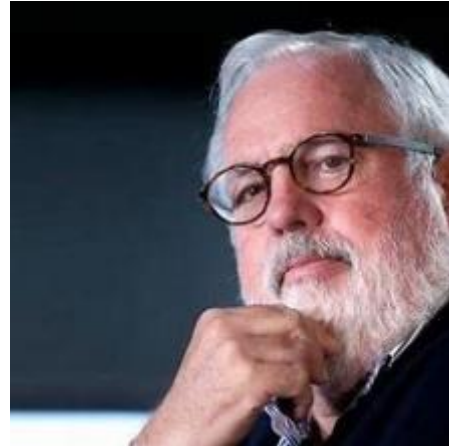
Barbara Steenbergen presented IUT's view on how to achieve affordable solutions for the energy efficient renovation of buildings, based on gross rent neutral solutions and full tenant participation. "Of course IUT is in favour of climate protection and energy efficiency - but tenants still have to afford their rents". In 21 European states the costs for energy renovation can be passed on to the rents- therefore there has to be a guarantee that higher rents are balanced by energy savings at least at the same amount. Steenbergen mentioned good practices from the European Responsible Housing Initiative as well as the Dutch covenant for energy savings, not only guaranteeing gross rent neutrality, but even a positive balance for tenants after energy renovation. Also the Swedish model, where energy costs are included in the rents, prevents energy poverty and massive rent increases. The aim of the event was to better understand the goals set by EU policies for buildings, to highlight challenges and to discuss solutions, with respect to the long-term EU objectives and a focus on energy efficiency.



Commissioner **Oettinger**

The event, co-organised by the ZIA (German Property Federation) was a unique opportunity to present the IUT view to high-level decision makers as well as to a large audience in the Berlaymont. Indeed, the agenda combined keynotes as well as a panel

discussion with high-level representatives from the building sector. **Commissioners Miguel Arias Cañete** and **Günther H. Oettinger** held speeches on relevant goals achieved and the future climate policy at EU level.



Commissioner **Cañete**

Academy of urbanism meets in Eindhoven- young planners debating liveability and affordability

21st of July, the British Academy of urbanism met in Eindhoven to discuss affordable housing solutions.¹³ The Academy of Urbanism is a politically independent, not-for-profit organisation for urban leaders, thinkers and practitioners.

Towns and cities across the world are struggling with the same crisis of housing affordability. Urban areas are now the focus for economic growth, but this brings problems of gentrification and affordability. This is particularly true in booming high-tech cities like Eindhoven trying to attract young talent, while securing an ample supply of quality

¹³ <https://congress.academyofurbanism.org.uk/a-place-to-call-home-3/>

affordable housing and community facilities. Urbanists have a responsibility to address the social and economic inequalities driven by globalisation that has left large sections of population relying exclusively on the diminishing supply of affordable and social housing. Barbara Steenbergen was invited to contribute to a workshop on liveability and affordability with young urbanists as well as to the final panel discussion chaired by **Lord Richard Best**, chair of the all-party housing commission in the British Parliament and longstanding CEO of United Kingdom's National Housing Federation and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. **Steenbergen** was asked to bring in the tenants view in the debate with big housing developers in UK and the Netherlands and explain recent initiatives at European level.



Debate with international urban planners in the former Philips "LAB-C", Eindhoven

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