



Autumn/Winter 2021

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EU legislation: Minimum Energy Efficiency Performance Standards in Housing

December 15th, the European Commission published the revised Energy Performance Buildings Directive (EPBD):

<https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/default/files/proposal-recast-energy-performance-buildings-directive.pdf>

The revised directive sets out how Europe can achieve a zero-emission and fully decarbonised building stock by 2050. The proposed measures shall increase the rate of renovation, particularly for the worst-performing buildings in each Member State. It facilitates more targeted financing to investments in the building sector, complementing other EU instruments supporting vulnerable

consumers and fighting energy poverty. In line with the "Renovation Wave", this proposal introduces EU-wide minimum energy performance standards for worst performing buildings and leaves Member States the scope to set their own standards in addition. The proposal includes a definition of zero-emission buildings and deep renovations and introduces 'renovation passports'. The EPBD foresees that fossil-fuel powered boilers will not be eligible for public support as of 2027.



The directive is of crucial importance to our work at national and EU level as it will have direct impact on energy labelling, renovation strategies and – and this is new – minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) for housing. In particular, public and non-residential buildings will have to be renovated and improved to at least energy performance level F at the latest by 2027, and to at least level E by 2030 at the latest. Residential buildings should be renovated from G to at least F by 2030, and to at least E by 2033.



About the costs for tenants and landlords, the European Commission states:

“By targeting the obstacles to renovation, EPBD proposal aims to lower costs for these home owners and tenants. It does so by focussing on buildings where renovation is the most cost-effective and brings the greatest savings on energy consumption, CO2 price, taxes and

tariffs. A home in energy class G consumes on average about 10 times more energy than a nearly-zero energy building or a zero-emissions building. Upgrading these buildings through renovation to energy class F will trigger between 4.6-6.2 Mtoe a year in energy savings across the EU. An upgrade to energy class E will trigger about 2/3 more energy savings. Under the Commission's proposal, the renovation from level G to F on the Energy Performance Certificate scale would apply to about 30 million building units. The Commission is helping to mobilise the finance for the upfront investment costs for these units, with up to €150 billion from the EU budget available to implement the minimum energy performance standards, between now and 2030.”

Euractive, the largest European news portal, interviewed IUT's head of EU liaison office **Barbara Steenbergen** on the topic.

Please read the interview here:

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy/interview/barbara-steenberge-green-deal-cannot-be-paid-by-the-most-vulnerable-tenants/>

How to drive change in cities for affordable housing

Urban Future is the largest event for urban change makers in Europe. But how to become a change maker? This is the question that has been in the driver's seat for the Urban Future right from the start.



Urban Future Conference Helsingborg, June 1-3, 2022

Urban Future has grown into Europe's largest conference for CityChangers, with a community of over 30,000 passionate urban change-makers that is constantly growing. The Urban Future conferences give first-hand experience and knowledge to find out "how" changing cities is done by

practitioners. Urban Future's brainchild, CityChangers.org, is a place for urban change agents to exchange ideas, share experiences and learn from each other. **Barbara Steenbergen**, Head of EU liaison office, has been asked to contribute with an action guide how to solve the housing affordability crisis. Please read the action guide here:

<https://citychangers.org/how-to-solve-the-housing-affordability-crisis/>

Affordable Housing Initiative – event with the Urban Intergroup of the European Parliament

The URBAN Intergroup co-organised with the Housing Partnership of the Urban Agenda for the EU an online seminar on "the Affordable Housing Initiative – Co-creation of liveable neighbourhoods with cities and citizens" on Friday, September 17th.



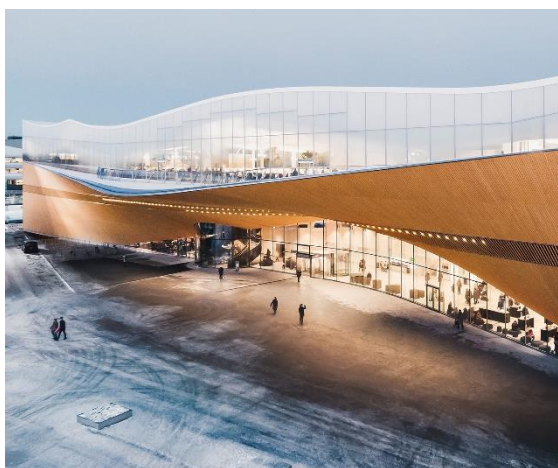
IUT was requested to present the European Responsible Housing Initiative.

Please read the full conference report including slides here:

<http://urban-intergroup.eu/category/activities/>

A taste of Helsinki- preparing for the the International Social Housing Festival - meet the ERHIN JURY!

The capital of Finland will be hosting the third International Social Housing Festival on 14-17 June 2022, following the previous successful editions in Lyon (2019) and Amsterdam (2017).



Oodi Helsinki- venue of the ERHIN awards ceremony June 15/16, 2022

The time to welcome the international housing community –

housing practitioners, policymakers, architects, researchers and tenants – to take part in this critical conversation, ask questions and find answers together has come and the calls for events are now open.

November 16th, an information session with Helsinki Mayor **Juhana Vartiainen**, social innovators in the housing sector that lead on inspiring projects in the city and organisers of the previous editions of the Festival were recorded, together with **Barbara Steenbergen**, Chair of the ERHIN Jury.

Please watch the video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xBaLHaMKzdc>

The Festival will also host the ceremony of the 4th European Responsible Housing Awards <https://www.responsiblehousing.eu/> for which calls for projects is open.



Please take a look at the brand new interactive page “**meet the ERHIN Jury**” with our experts:

<https://www.responsiblehousing.eu/blank-page-5>

IUT at UNECE Geneva

The UNECE Ministerial Meeting on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management took place at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, on 6 and 7 October 2021, as part of the eighty-second session of the Committee on Housing, Urban Development and Land Management (6-8 October 2021). The Ministerial Meeting launched the study “#Housing2030: Improving Housing Affordability in the UNECE Region” developed by UNECE in cooperation with Housing Europe and UN-Habitat; and endorsed a regional action plan for the UNECE region “Place and Life in the ECE - A Regional Action Plan 2030: Tackling challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, climate and housing emergencies in region, city, neighbourhood and homes”.



© UNECE: IUT at the Palais des Nations, Geneva

IUT’s head of EU office **Barbara Steenbergen** was speaking at the SDG 11 roundtable, on the problem of financialisation of housing markets and the Covid Crisis, (<https://fr.metrotime.be/monde/cel-a-coute-de-plus-en-plus-cher-de-se-loger-en-europe-et-la-crise-sanitaire-amplifie-le-probleme>), underlining the need to stop renovations by implementing the principle of housing cost neutrality and the establishment of solidarity funds to help people paying their rents.

Full report available here:

<https://unece.org/housing/events/infocus-sdg11-2021>

European Sustainable Energy Week- conference with BEUC and IUT on inclusive energy transition



Achieving 55% emission reductions by 2030 will only be feasible if a coherent policy framework across sectors is put in place to enable consumers to actively take part in the energy transition and to ensure that no one is left behind, by embedding inclusiveness in its design and implementation.

The Fit for 55 Package should therefore provide measures to keep energy bills affordable and tackle energy poverty; ensure inclusiveness in an increasingly digitalised and complex market; empower a wide range of consumers to participate in the transition towards a net zero society. In a conference with the European Energy regulators October 22, the Energy Ombudsmen, Energy Cities, and the European Commission, BEUC director **Monique Goyens** and IUT's **Barbara**

Steenbergen were presenting the claims of the consumers for a fair energy transition:

<https://eusew.eu/extended-programme-sessions/consumer-centric-energy-transition-ensuring-inclusiveness>

Video available here:

https://www.ceer.eu/web/portal/ceer-beuc-neon_eusew_event_#

Perspectives on Freja Forum 2021

November 12-14th , Freja Forum celebrated 15 years in Brussels! The first Freja network was created in the 1990s during the war in the former Yugoslavia. The work was based on women from different non-profit organizations coming together to share knowledge and ideas about democracy, equality and reconciliation and to discuss women's specific situation during and after the war. Freja Forum is inspired by the Swedish Almedalen week and wants to be a platform open to everyone to discuss democracy, gender equality and strengthen civil society. In 2017, Freja Forum was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.



For the anniversary, Freja invited some of the women and men who have participated in the work during the past 15 years. Participants at Freja Forum come from North Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Turkey, Sweden, Belgium, UK, Kosovo, Montenegro, Spain and many other countries.



<https://www.frejaforum.com/2021/04/16/freja-forum-2021/>

IUT board member **Hans Eklund**, colleagues from the Swedish union of Tenants (SUT) and **Barbara Steenbergen** were happy to contribute to this special session organized by **Margareta Eklund** and **her great team**.

Please watch the video here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVAwhgY0k3U>

IUT's reply to the short term rental consultation of the European Commission

Prepared by the IUT board, the IUT EXCOM, Housing Policy Working group and the IUT Short Term Rental Taskforce with **Martin Hofverberg**, **Johan Mirtop** (SUT), **Luis Mendes** (Lisbon Tenants Association AIL) and **Barbara Steenbergen**, IUT contributed to the recent consultation of the EU Commission.



https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13108-Tourist-services-short-term-rental-initiative_en

Main issue of concern is to set up a system of legal scrutiny for the cities heavily affected by touristification in order to prosecute illegal listings and

to fight the massive extraction from regular rental housing to the short term rental market lead by professional investors. The voluntary agreement between the European Commission and the main STR-providers about data exchange is too weak to prevent further speculation and hotelification. IUT, together with many large in cities in Europe, demands a sharper response of the EC. Further legislative actions are expected in 2022, and the IUT will continue their lobby in this crucial field.

Europe Housing Forum 2021 – 4 days, 800 experts

The largest housing conference at European level “Europe Housing Forum” gathered more than 800 participants from the sector, November 16-19th

<https://europehousingforum.eu/>

Sessions at the forum ranged from roundtables to panels and workshops with housing experts, policymakers, business leaders, urban planners, donor agencies and youth organizations. The forum was organized by Habitat for Humanity International with input from more than a dozen partner organizations such as UN-HABITAT, the United

Nations Economic Commission for Europe, or UNECE, European Investment Bank, Housing Europe, the city of Vienna, Cities Alliance, and the International Union of Tenants.

In a roundtable “How energy efficiency renovations should address energy poverty in the COVID recovery in Europe”, November 18th, the panellists **Ciarán Cuffe** MEP from Ireland, **Stefan Moser**, European Commission DG Energy **Hennadiy Zubko**, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for construction and housing of the Ukraine, **Ruth Owen**, FEANTSA and **Barbara Steenbergen**, IUT debated on future initiatives at European and national level, moderated by **Knut Hoeller**, Housing Initiative for Eastern Europe.



City of Barcelona invites IUT to their yearly international forum on housing



<https://www.fhar.barcelona/en>

In the Round Table “Urban and Housing Pandemic Challenges”, **Florian Schmidt**, Councilor of Berlin, **Lucía Martín**, Councilor of Barcelona City Council, **Ian Brossat**, Deputy Mayor of Paris and **Barbara Steenbergen**, International Union of Tenants IUT (online) debated about the best experiences or initiatives led by different European cities in order to face the impacts and challenges of the Pandemic on the Urban and Housing Policies.



Watch the debate here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRALzjcnrGE>

Conference in Barcelonas cultural center El Born:

Against Dispossession-Housing Unionism and the Cooperative Movement

Innovative and creative capacity are not the prerogative of the public administrations and it will be hard for them to make the shift towards more emancipatory policies without a social and cultural transformation. Tenants' unions have been around for over a century and are the main players in the fight for access to housing, building alternatives to the private market, such as cooperatives and fighting against gentrification.

Carme Arcarazo, spokesperson of the Tenant Union of Barcelona and **Barbara Steenbergen** from IUT were invited to debate December 2nd about how to set up tenant unions and strengthen the housing activist movement. The cooperation with El Born was set up after the successful struggle against the criminalization

of housing activists in Barcelona (see previous IUT report from Brussels), internationally supported by the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, **Balakrishnan Rajagopal**.

<https://elbornculturaimemoria.barcelona.cat/en/activitat/referencies-the-struggles-for-the-right-to-housing/>

Watch the video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvPp6JIEDzw>

Conference on the Future of Europe- Galway University Ireland cooperates with IUT

The “Future of Europe” event on Housing, being hosted by the National University of Ireland Galway on 9th December, in association with European Movement Ireland and the Irish Housing Agency seeks to open a space for debate to address Europe’s challenges and priorities, and it is important that housing is treated as one of the important issues for Europe’s young and not so young citizens.



<https://www.nuigalway.ie/chlrp/news/conference-on-the-future-of-europe--housing-event.html>

One of the key questions being addressed of presenters, amongst them **Kim van Sparrentak** MEP, **Sharon Donnery**, Deputy Governor Central Bank of Ireland and Member of Governing Council of the European Central Bank, **Michaela Kauer**, Brussels Office of City of Vienna, and **Barbara Steenbergen**, International Union of Tenants, is “what your ideal Europe would look like in the next 10-20 years”. Will everyone in Europe be able to access decent and affordable housing? How much will we pay for our homes? Will our housing systems contribute to climate change, or will we have sustainable and energy efficient homes? Will our communities be inclusive of all? Will we have segregation based on income, identity, disability, nationality or connectivity? Will our students and young people be able to access good quality affordable housing if they chose to study or work in another Member State? What does the commitment in the EU Charter of

Fundamental Rights “to ensure a decent existence for all those who lack sufficient resources” really mean? How does the European Pillar of Social Rights actually inform EU policies?

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Panellists Conference on the Future of Europe with the Galway University school of Law

Of course, the answers to these questions will be national as well as European. In our cooperation, we develop and share better solutions, working together as Europeans- for a better housing future of Europe. A full report of **Professor Padraic Kenna**, Director of the Centre for Housing Law, Rights and Policy and the young professionals of the Galway School of Law will be published soon.