



# International Union of Tenants

## Association Internationale des Locataires

- Consultative status with UN Economic and Social Council
- Participatory Status with Council of Europe

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### PRESS RELEASE

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#### **IUT Comments on the European Commission's First EU Affordable Housing Plan Draft.**

Marie Linder, President of the International Union of Tenants (IUT) welcomes the announcement of the **First EU Affordable Housing Plan Draft** during the European Parliament's plenary session in Strasbourg.

The document marks an important step of Europe to fight the housing crisis and represents a step forward in finding viable solutions.

Marie Linder, President of IUT commented: *"This plan is a long-awaited step towards tackling Europe's housing crisis. But ambition must be matched with enforceable measures – such as binding quotas for social and affordable housing – to ensure that no one is left behind."*

We particularly note the Commission's emphasis on **promoting social and affordable housing** and addressing the broader challenges of housing accessibility and affordability across Europe. This focus highlights the measures for European, national, regional and local authorities to secure more security of tenure and overcome the difficulties tenants are facing in Europe and beyond.

The IUT also welcomes the plan's references to **improving the quality and sustainability of housing** and to measures aimed at **ensuring renovations and upgrades do not increase housing costs for tenants and cause rent increases**.

At the same time, we underline the need for social safeguards for tenants. The plan's reliance on **private investors** and the possibility of **public funds flowing to profit-driven private actors** require **strong conditionalities** to ensure long-term affordability and avoid speculation.

Clear and enforceable **rent caps, minimum holding periods of social and affordable housing**, and **open-ended rental contracts** must accompany any private-sector involvement. As presented, these conditionalities appear insufficient and will need massive improvements during implementation.

The IUT stands ready to work constructively with EU, national and regional authorities to ensure that tenants' rights and housing affordability remain at the core of Europe's housing policies.

Marie Linder, President of IUT: *"The Commission's plan is a milestone for Europe, but its success depends on inclusive implementation. Tenants and tenant organisations must have a seat at the table to ensure that housing policies truly serve people – not just markets. Together, we can turn this plan into real homes for millions across Europe."*

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