

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002099/24
to the Commission
Daniel Buda (PPE)
(16 October 2024)**

Subject: Housing crisis in the European Union

The lack of affordable housing is a common problem not just in Romania, but also throughout Europe. On 11 September, the Romanian National Institute of Statistics published the number of dwellings becoming available in the first half of the year: around 26 000, which was around 6 000 fewer than in the first half of 2023.

Some 70 900 dwellings were built in Romania in 2023, bringing the total number of dwellings to almost 10 million, according to data from the National Institute of Statistics, against the backdrop of an ageing population and a demographically-shrinking population.

Young people are those most affected by the lack of housing. It means they are forced to stay in their parents' home longer than they would like. The age at which young people leave their parents' home is a good indication of how difficult it is for them to get a foothold in the property market.

Croats, Slovaks, Greeks, Spaniards and Italians leave their parents' home the latest, while the inhabitants of the Nordic states leave the earliest.

1. What steps will the Commission take to deal with this crisis, which is having a profound impact on the development and lives of young Europeans?
2. What cohesion policy mechanisms could help in this endeavour?

Submitted: 16.10.2024

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(24 January 2025)**

To address the housing crisis and promote more affordable and sustainable housing in the EU, the Commission will launch the first-ever European Affordable Housing Plan.

The plan will offer technical assistance to cities and Member States, focus on investment and skills needed and support the construction sector.

To promote investments in affordable and sustainable housing, the Commission will set up, together with the European Investment Bank, a pan-European investment platform.

The Commission will work closely with international financial institutions, national promotional banks and institutions and other stakeholders in this work.

The European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) can support Member States in implementing principle 19 of the European Pillar of Social Rights 'Housing and assistance for homeless people'.

While ESF+ actions can include integrated support services for access to housing, including social housing, the ERDF focuses on the provision and improvement of physical housing infrastructure, including through energy efficiency measures.

Moreover, Cohesion policy offers possibilities to use ESF+ and ERDF for housing initiatives in an integrated manner, addressing both the infrastructure and services dimensions.

Young people often struggle to afford housing. ESF+ provides targeted support for the youth through programs combining housing assistance with employment or education opportunities, addressing multiple needs to foster independence.

The existing EU legislative framework, notably initiatives of the Fit for 55 package, sets policies and measures contributing to affordable and sustainable housing. Its implementation is key and will be a priority.
