

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000993/25
to the Commission
Daniel Buda (PPE)
(7 March 2025)

Subject: Measures to prevent social exclusion owing to the housing crisis

The housing crisis in the European Union is having a profound impact on social exclusion, and is particularly affecting vulnerable groups such as the elderly, young people and persons with disabilities. The lack of access to adequate and affordable housing is exacerbating social and economic inequalities.

A European Parliament report has stressed that investment in the social housing sector is key to combating social exclusion and spatial segregation. It highlights the fact that Europe is facing a severe housing crisis particularly affecting homeless people and those living in inadequate housing conditions. The report stresses the need for cohesive policies at EU level to ensure that all citizens are able to access decent and affordable housing.

A World Bank study also looks at the phenomenon of social exclusion in a housing context, highlighting that the lack of stable and adequate housing can lead to marginalisation and limit access to economic and social opportunities. The study highlights the importance of pursuing integrated policies that address both housing needs and other aspects of social inclusion.

What measures will the Commission adopt to prevent social exclusion owing to the housing crisis, especially for vulnerable groups, and what funding will be allocated for this?

Submitted: 7.3.2025

Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(27 May 2025)

The Commission shares the concern of the Honourable Member about the impact of the housing crisis particularly affecting vulnerable people.

To help tackle it, the Commission will put forward a European Affordable Housing Plan (EAHP) to support national, regional and local authorities to address structural drivers of the housing crisis and to add value at the European level while respecting the subsidiarity and proportionality principles.

EU funds and programmes have already played an important role in implementing policies, reforms, and realising investments to ensure social, affordable and sustainable housing: i) The Recovery and Resilience Facility, the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund+, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the InvestEU programme are among the major EU instruments to support relevant projects and investments ⁽¹⁾. ii) The Commission published a toolkit on the use of EU funds for investments in social housing and associated services ⁽²⁾. iii)

In April 2025, the Commission put forward a legislative proposal to enhance the mid-term review process of cohesion policy programmes and to allow Member States and regions to double the planned investments in affordable housing for their 2021-2027 programmes.

iv) The Commission is working with the European Investment Bank, as well as international financial institutions, national promotional banks and other stakeholders, to establish a pan-European investment platform for affordable and sustainable housing. v) The forthcoming Anti-Poverty Strategy will lay down a complementary approach on addressing social exclusion.

The Commission reaffirms that in the context of the EAHP, it will carefully consider the matters described by the Honourable Member.

⁽¹⁾ Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRP) include measures worth at least an estimated EUR 21.3 billion that contribute to social housing and other social infrastructure for social inclusion purposes alone. In addition, the RRP also cover measures promoting affordable housing. EUR 10.4 billion in total investment is planned, involving an EU budget contribution of EUR 7.5 billion from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Cohesion Fund (CF) and Just Transition Fund (JTF). In particular, the ERDF focuses on the provision and improvement of physical housing infrastructure, including through energy efficiency measures. The InvestEU programme earmarked EUR 2.8 billion for the Social Investments and skills window (including other priorities such as microfinance, social finance and social impact) and EUR 9.9 billion for the sustainable infrastructure window. The European Social Fund+ (ESF+) can support Member States in facilitating access to housing and promoting integrated services, in line with the European Pillar of Social Rights. An exact amount indicating the amount of the ESF+ funds allocated only to housing-related actions cannot be determined.

⁽²⁾ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/042f7559-fd3f-11ee-a251-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.