

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001799/26
to the Commission
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)
(4 May 2026)**

Subject: Meeting students' needs for free and safe student halls

As many as 17 cities with a university have no student halls and the cost of a small flat is over two thirds of an average salary. Student housing and rent prices in Europe have gone through the roof.

By continuing the policy pursued by SYRIZA, the Nea Dimokratia Government is mocking students and working-class families as it brags about building student accommodation through public-private partnerships (PPPs). It is abolishing free housing and further commercialising the right to housing.

This policy is underpinned by the priorities of the EU, which see the right to housing as an opportunity for big construction groups and real estate companies to profit. It is the people who are footing the bill through PPP payments. Meanwhile, working-class families are paying double, since student accommodation will be granted for a fee.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. What view does it take of the fact that the promotion of PPPs does away with free student housing, so that big construction groups can secure huge amounts of money for the construction, reconstruction, maintenance and operation of student halls, with prime pieces of public property being exploited, while workers pay double for student homes by repaying the PPPs through unfair taxation on the one hand and on the other by paying 'rent' for the student accommodation in question?
2. How does it view the fair demands of students and working-class families for safe and free student halls for those studying in cities other than those in which they live?

Submitted: 4.5.2026

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(22 June 2026)**

The Commission is aware of the challenges students face to find affordable housing and works closely with national, regional and local authorities to help tackle the issues.

In respect of the principle of subsidiarity, the main responsibility for housing — including how project financing takes place — remains within the remit of these authorities.

The European Affordable Housing Plan (EAHP)⁽¹⁾ specifically refers to improving access to housing for young people, students, apprentices and trainees.

Actions of the EAHP aim to support the development of more student housing by mobilising investments, and helping students, trainees and apprentices find housing on the private rental market.

In addition, the Commission intends to launch a pilot scheme under Erasmus+ programme to increase availability of affordable and innovative housing solutions for mobile students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Furthermore, the Commission will work with Member States to encourage the use of European Social Fund+ to further support affordable housing solutions for disadvantaged students. The European Housing Alliance will also help the relevant stakeholders to help ameliorating student housing.

Support for projects — including those involving public-private partnerships — through EU funding must comply with the rules governing these programmes.

Student housing will remain central in shaping EU recommendations and funding programmes. The Commission is committed to continue its work on student welfare, addressing especially equal access to higher education, student housing and living conditions, and health.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52025DC1025>.