

EASTER 2026 NEWS



HOUSING POLICY NEWS

Affordable Housing Act: Build Europe responds to call for evidence and contributes to the consultation

On 27 and 29 March, Build Europe submitted its response to the European Commission's call for evidence and detailed questionnaire on the forthcoming Affordable Housing Act, a key initiative under the European Affordable Housing Plan expected in Q4 2026.

In its contribution, Build Europe emphasised that housing affordability must primarily be understood as a structural supply and investment challenge rather than a market failure. Across Member States, persistent price pressures and shortages are closely linked to constraints affecting housing delivery, including land scarcity, complex and lengthy permitting procedures, regulatory fragmentation and evolving financing conditions. These factors continue to limit the



capacity of the sector to deliver housing at scale. Build Europe therefore stressed that increasing housing supply should remain the central policy priority. It called for more predictable and efficient regulatory frameworks, including streamlined and digitalised permitting systems, improved land mobilisation, stronger support for brownfield redevelopment and better conditions to attract and sustain private investment. Ensuring legal certainty for long-term investment decisions was also highlighted as essential.

Build Europe underlined the key role of private residential developers in the housing delivery chain and stressed the importance of preserving a level playing field across all actors involved in affordable housing provision. Open and non-discriminatory access to land, funding and support mechanisms is seen as critical to mobilising the full capacity of the sector.

In its response to the detailed questionnaire, Build Europe further noted that the identification of “housing stress areas” should primarily serve as an analytical tool and should not automatically trigger restrictive regulatory measures. Instead, policy responses should focus on removing structural barriers, simplifying and coordinating administrative procedures and improving overall delivery conditions. Finally, Build Europe cautioned against policy approaches that could inadvertently constrain housing supply or undermine development feasibility. It advocated for measures that support long-term housing production and ensure that all actors, public, cooperative and private, can contribute on equal terms.

The Affordable Housing Act aims to support public authorities in identifying areas under housing stress and enabling targeted and proportionate measures, including in relation to short-term rentals, while contributing to increased housing supply. Build Europe will continue to engage actively in the legislative process as the Commission prepares this initiative.

Build Europe’s response to the call for evidence can be found [here](#). Build Europe’s feedbacks to call for evidence and detailed questionnaire on the Affordable Housing Act can be found [here](#). The contributions sent by our Irish Member, IHBA, and our French Member, FPI, can be found [here](#).

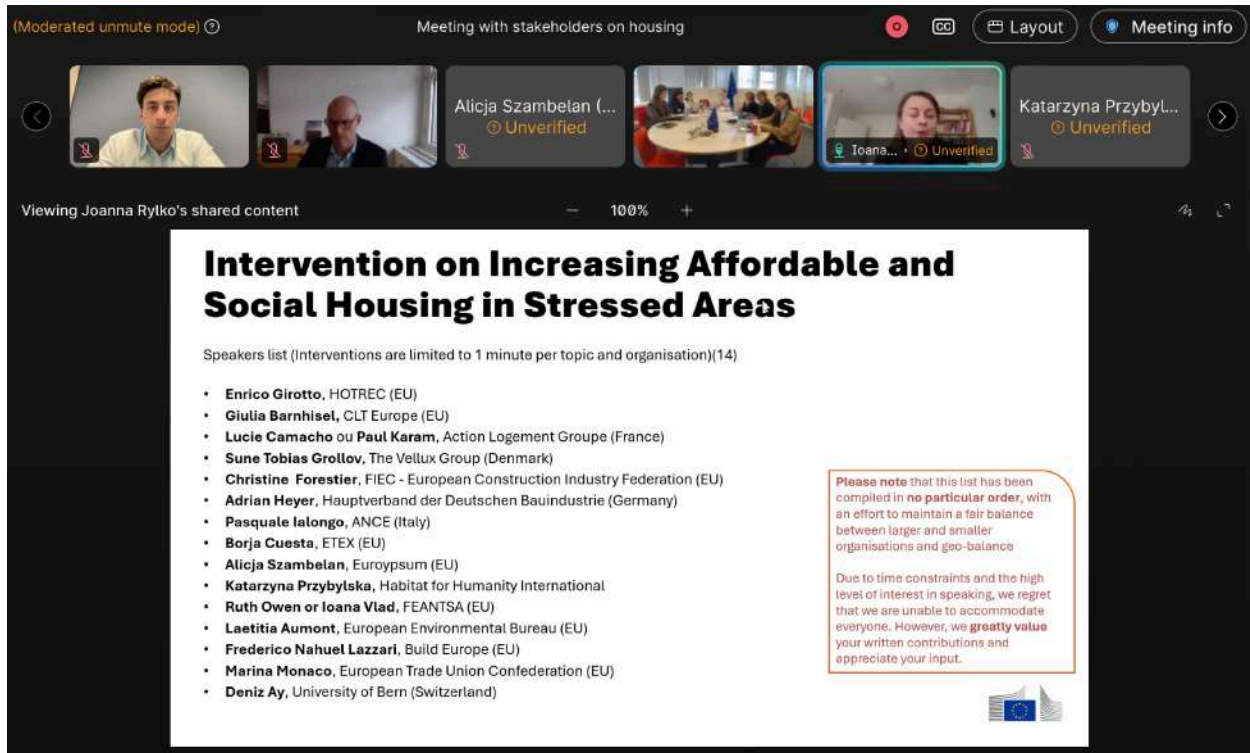
Build Europe contributes to Commission workshop on the European Affordable Housing Plan

On 30 March 2026, Build Europe participated and spoke at an online stakeholder workshop organised by the European Commission as part of the implementation of the European Affordable Housing Plan. The meeting gathered a wide range of stakeholders to provide input on the forthcoming Affordable Housing Act and on measures to simplify housing-related legislation.

Discussions were structured around three main pillars: identifying areas under housing stress, protecting housing affordability, and increasing the supply of affordable and social housing, followed by a dedicated session on simplification. The Commission highlighted the scale of the housing crisis across Europe, pointing to rising prices, declining building permits and the underuse of existing housing stock, with around 20% of dwellings estimated to be unoccupied. A strong focus of the exchanges was placed on the need to increase housing supply. Many participants stressed that structural imbalances between supply and demand are at the core of the affordability crisis, calling for faster permitting procedures, more flexible planning rules and improved access to land. The digitalisation of building permits, the reuse of existing buildings, and the conversion of underused spaces such as offices were repeatedly identified as key solutions to accelerate delivery. The workshop also addressed the role of demand-side pressures, including short-term rentals, and the need for proportionate and evidence-based measures. At the same time, stakeholders highlighted the importance of maintaining a balanced approach that prioritises long-term structural solutions, particularly increasing housing supply and investment capacity.

In this context, Federico Nahuel Lazzari, Secretary-General of Build Europe, contributed to the discussion by emphasising the need to remove regulatory and administrative barriers that constrain housing delivery, and to ensure that EU initiatives support a more efficient, predictable, and investment-friendly framework for the sector. Mr Lazzari also underlined the importance of aligning simplification efforts with broader EU legislation affecting construction, including environmental and planning rules, which can significantly impact permitting timelines and project feasibility. The workshop forms part of the ongoing consultation process feeding into the Affordable Housing Act, with further stakeholder input expected in the coming months.

More information can be found [here](#).



(Moderated unmute mode) Meeting with stakeholders on housing

Viewing Joanna Rylko's shared content 100%

Intervention on Increasing Affordable and Social Housing in Stressed Areas

Speakers list (Interventions are limited to 1 minute per topic and organisation)(14)

- Enrico Girotto, HOTREC (EU)
- Giulia Barnhisel, CLT Europe (EU)
- Lucie Camacho ou Paul Karam, Action Logement Groupe (France)
- Sune Tobias Grollov, The Vellux Group (Denmark)
- Christine Forestier, FIEC - European Construction Industry Federation (EU)
- Adrian Heyer, Hauptverband der Deutschen Bauindustrie (Germany)
- Pasquale Ialongo, ANCE (Italy)
- Borja Cuesta, ETEX (EU)
- Alicja Szambelan, Euroypsum (EU)
- Katarzyna Przybylska, Habitat for Humanity International
- Ruth Owen or Ioana Vlad, FEANTSA (EU)
- Laetitia Aumont, European Environmental Bureau (EU)
- Frederico Nahuel Lazzari, Build Europe (EU)
- Marina Monaco, European Trade Union Confederation (EU)
- Deniz Ay, University of Bern (Switzerland)

Please note that this list has been compiled in **no particular order**, with an effort to maintain a fair balance between larger and smaller organisations and geo-balance

Due to time constraints and the high level of interest in speaking, we regret that we are unable to accommodate everyone. However, we **greatly value** your written contributions and appreciate your input.

Build Europe steps up outreach ahead of EU Housing Ministerial Conference

In view of the upcoming EU Informal Ministerial Conference on Housing in May, Build Europe has launched a proactive outreach initiative to engage national authorities and shape the policy debate around the European Affordable Housing Act.

As part of this effort, joint letters co-signed with UPSI-BVS have been sent to key Belgian ministers, highlighting the need to strengthen housing supply conditions and ensure a level playing field between all housing delivery actors. The letters stress that housing affordability is primarily a structural supply challenge and call for policy frameworks that enable both public and private actors to deliver at scale.

Build Europe will soon share co-sign letter with its Members and encourage them to replicate this initiative at national level by co-signing and sending similar letters to their respective authorities, in order to amplify a consistent European message ahead of the ministerial discussions. The co-signed letters sent to Belgian minister can be found [here](#).

MEPs adopt first housing report to tackle the EU’s housing crisis: tax incentives, renovation and less red tape

On 10 March 2026, the European Parliament adopted in plenary its first-ever report on the EU housing crisis, marking a significant step in placing housing high on the European policy agenda. The resolution sets out a broad range of recommendations aimed at increasing housing supply, improving affordability and accelerating both construction and renovation across Member States. In its recommendations, the Parliament highlights the scale and urgency of the housing crisis, noting that millions of Europeans are affected by rising costs and limited availability. It calls for stronger EU support to boost housing delivery, with a particular focus on incentive-based tax measures to support low- and middle-income households. These include facilitating access for first-time buyers and encouraging the development of affordable long-term rental housing.

The report also places strong emphasis on renovation, calling for dedicated funding to improve the energy performance of buildings, tackle energy poverty and ensure high standards in terms of energy efficiency, insulation and indoor air quality. At the same time, MEPs stress the need to significantly reduce administrative burden in the sector. They advocate for a “housing simplification package”, including streamlined and digitalised permitting procedures and a target to process building permits within 60 days, in order to accelerate housing delivery. In addition, the Parliament underlines the importance of mobilising investment by better coordinating EU funding instruments and redirecting unused resources towards housing projects, while strengthening the competitiveness and capacity of the construction and renovation ecosystem. At this stage, the European Commission’s Task Force on Housing is expected to take these recommendations into account as part of its ongoing preparatory work on the European Affordable Housing Plan and the forthcoming Affordable Housing Act. While no formal follow-up mechanism has been announced, the plenary resolution provides clear political guidance that is likely to inform the Commission’s upcoming initiatives in the course of 2026.

Ahead of the plenary vote, Build Europe actively engaged with Members of the European Parliament sitting in the Housing Committee. On 4 March, the Association shared its key messages and priorities, welcoming that several of its core positions were reflected in the draft report, notably the recognition that housing affordability is a structural challenge linked to insufficient supply, regulatory complexity and lengthy permitting procedures. Build Europe also reiterated the importance of ensuring open and non-discriminatory access to support schemes

under the European Affordable Housing Plan, allowing all actors, including private developers, to contribute on equal terms. At the same time, Build Europe cautioned against policy approaches that could unintentionally constrain housing supply. It underlined that affordability obligations imposed at project level, without addressing underlying economic conditions, risk reducing development activity. The Association also stressed the need to clearly distinguish between speculative practices and the role of professional developers, who operate under strict financial and regulatory constraints to deliver housing projects.

Finally, the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats has claimed strong influence over the report, presenting it as a major political achievement that places housing at the centre of the EU agenda. According to the group, the text reflects a progressive vision that recognises housing as a fundamental right and calls for increased EU action to support cities and regions in addressing affordability challenges. The Socialists also point to recent institutional developments, including the creation of a dedicated Commissioner for housing and the launch of the European Affordable Housing Plan, as evidence of a broader shift towards a more coordinated European approach.

The final text of the resolution can be accessed [here](#). The letters sent to the MEPs can be found [here](#). More information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Policy report highlights urgency of Europe's housing crisis

A recent policy report published by The Parliament Magazine highlights the growing scale and urgency of Europe's housing crisis, describing it as a major social, economic and political challenge across the EU. The publication is not an official European Parliament document but a monthly EU politics, policy and culture magazine published by Dod's Group. Its print edition is widely distributed among EU policymakers, including Members of the European Parliament, senior European Commission officials, Permanent Representations and key stakeholders in the Brussels policy community. The report notes that housing affordability has reached a critical point, with a significant share of Europeans struggling to pay rent or mortgages and facing increasing difficulties in accessing adequate housing. It underlines that the crisis is driven by a structural imbalance between supply and demand, compounded by rising construction costs, demographic pressures and regulatory constraints. In many Member States, housing production has not kept pace with demand, leading to sustained price increases and reduced affordability, particularly in urban areas.

The publication also stresses the broader economic and societal implications of the crisis. High housing costs are affecting labour mobility, limiting access to employment opportunities and reducing disposable income, while contributing to growing inequalities and social tensions across Europe. In terms of solutions, the report points to the need for a comprehensive and coordinated policy response. Key recommendations include increasing housing supply, simplifying permitting procedures, mobilising both public and private investment and improving the regulatory environment for construction and renovation. Greater coordination at EU level is also identified as essential to support Member States in addressing housing challenges effectively.

Overall, the report reinforces the growing consensus that tackling Europe's housing crisis requires structural reforms and long-term investment strategies, with a strong focus on enabling housing delivery at scale.

More information can be found [here](#).

Study highlights long-term impact of shocks on housing affordability

A recent academic study published in January 2026 examines housing market dynamics over six centuries, offering a long-term perspective on how major shocks such as wars and epidemics affect housing affordability and price cycles. Based on data from Stockholm between 1420 and 2021, the study identifies 42 housing cycles and shows that affordability stress is a recurring feature of the market, occurring in 13 distinct cycles. These episodes tend to be longer and more pronounced than typical market fluctuations, often linked to periods where housing prices diverge from income trends. A key finding is that systemic shocks influence housing markets primarily through income rather than prices. In particular, during wars, affordability pressures tend to arise from declining incomes rather than rapid price increases, while housing prices themselves often adjust more slowly. This suggests that affordability indicators may provide earlier signals of stress than price movements alone. The study also finds that housing cycles coinciding with major events such as wars or epidemics tend to have lower price peaks and stronger corrections, reflecting broader economic disruptions. More generally, the results highlight the strong sensitivity of housing markets to external shocks and the importance of demand-side factors, especially income dynamics, in shaping housing affordability over time. The

analysis provides historical context for current housing debates, underlining that affordability challenges are not new, but tend to intensify during periods of economic and social disruption. More information can be found [here](#).

Build Europe participates in debate on balancing tourism and housing in European cities

On 5 March, Build Europe took part in a high-level discussion in Brussels bringing together policymakers, urban planners and industry representatives to address the growing challenge of balancing tourism development with housing needs in European cities. Frank Hovorka represented Build Europe in the debate, contributing to discussions on how to reconcile urban attractiveness with long-term housing sustainability.

The discussion took place in a context of continued growth in tourism across Europe, with EU tourist accommodation reaching 3.1 billion overnight stays in 2025, an increase compared to the previous year. Participants highlighted that this trend, while economically beneficial, is placing increasing pressure on local housing markets, particularly in major urban and tourist destinations. Debates underlined the need for better coordination between housing and tourism policies, as well as improved data and governance frameworks to manage short-term rentals and their impact on housing supply. Ensuring that tourism growth does not exacerbate housing shortages was identified as a key priority, alongside the need to maintain vibrant and inclusive urban environments.

Build Europe emphasised the importance of increasing housing supply and ensuring that regulatory frameworks support both sustainable urban development and access to affordable housing. The exchange confirmed the growing recognition at EU level that housing policy must be considered alongside broader economic activities, including tourism, to deliver balanced and resilient cities.

More information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Bank financing and housing delivery: Build Europe responds to the Commission’s call for evidence on competitiveness in the Single Banking Market

On 6 March, Build Europe’s Financial Working Group held a dedicated meeting to discuss the impact of financial regulation on housing delivery and affordability. Exchanges focused on current lending conditions, the evolution of prudential rules and their implications for access to finance for both developers and homebuyers.

Following the discussion, Build Europe prepared and submitted a response to the European Commission call for evidence on competitiveness in the Single Banking Market. The contribution highlights the importance of ensuring that financial regulation supports, rather than constrains, investment in housing supply and renovation. In particular, Build Europe underlined that current regulatory developments may affect lending capacity and increase financing costs, at a time when Europe faces a significant housing shortage. The response calls for a more proportionate and risk-based approach to prudential rules, taking into account the specific characteristics of real estate financing and the need to maintain adequate credit flows to the sector. Build Europe will follow-up with DG FISMA in the coming weeks.

Build Europe’s response to the call for evidence can be found [here](#).

Build Europe responds to Commission consultation on revised State aid rules (GBER)

On 31 March, Build Europe submitted its response to the European Commission’s public consultation on the revision of the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER), contributing to ongoing efforts to adapt State aid rules to current housing challenges.

In its contribution, Build Europe welcomed the Commission’s intention to strengthen support for social and affordable housing, including through improved provisions for energy-efficiency measures. Build Europe considers these developments a positive step towards facilitating investment in the sector. At the same time, Build Europe stressed the importance of ensuring that support schemes remain open, transparent and non-discriminatory. In particular, it underlined that all operators capable of delivering housing, including private developers, should be able to access public support on equal terms. This is seen as essential to mobilise the full

capacity of the sector and effectively address the housing shortage across Europe. The response also calls for greater clarity regarding the application of Article 56 of the GBER, to ensure that aid for energy-efficiency measures in social and affordable housing is accessible under equal conditions to all eligible providers, in line with internal market principles and consistent with the revised SGEI framework.

Build Europe's position was supported by two major European real estate investor organisations: the European Public Real Estate Association (EPRA), which represents listed real estate companies, and the INREV. Their endorsement reflects a broad alignment across the real estate sector on the need for a level playing field and effective State aid rules to support housing investment.

More information can be found [here](#).

EIB podcast explores solutions to Europe's affordable housing challenge

In March 2026, the European Investment Bank released a new episode of its Invested by Europe podcast focusing on the structural drivers of the housing crisis and the conditions needed to deliver more affordable housing across the EU. The episode highlights that housing affordability is not only linked to construction costs, but primarily to income levels, meaning that a large share of the population struggles to access housing in market-driven systems. In many countries, between 40% and 70% of households may be eligible for some form of affordable housing support. A key message is that increasing supply requires a combination of clear and stable regulatory frameworks, long-term financing and effective urban planning. The discussion underlines the importance of public authorities in setting the right rules and providing land, while also mobilising private investment and alternative models such as cooperatives. The podcast also stresses that failing to address housing shortages has wider economic and environmental consequences, including urban sprawl, higher infrastructure costs and increased emissions. Among the solutions identified are long-term funding mechanisms, the reuse of underutilised land and buildings, and mixed-use developments that can support project viability.

Also, in March, the European Investment Bank published its EIB at a Glance 2026 report, providing an overview of its activities and impact in the previous year. The report shows that the EIB Group reached €100 billion in financing in 2025, supporting projects across the EU and

beyond. A large share of this investment was directed towards climate action and environmental sustainability (€57 billion), as well as energy security (€33 billion) and sustainable cities and regions (€20.6 billion). The EIB also continued to support social infrastructure, including housing, health and education, with €10.3 billion invested in these areas. In parallel, the European Investment Fund contributed €16 billion to innovation and small and medium-sized enterprises. More information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

EPRA analysis highlights a decade of volatility in Europe’s listed real estate market

A recent analysis by the European Public Real Estate Association examines how the European listed real estate market has evolved over the past decade, pointing to a period marked by significant volatility and major external shocks. The sector experienced strong growth between 2015 and early 2020, with returns reaching 39%, before being hit by a sharp decline of 41% during the initial phase of the COVID-19 crisis. This was followed by a rapid recovery, with a 68% rebound in the months after the pandemic low. However, the market faced renewed pressure between 2022 and 2023, with a further decline of 45% linked to rising inflation and tightening monetary policy. Despite these fluctuations, the total return of the listed real estate sector reached around 27% over the full period since 2015, and 28% in the post-COVID phase (2020–2025), reflecting a capacity to recover over time. The analysis highlights the strong sensitivity of the sector to macroeconomic conditions, including interest rates, inflation and geopolitical developments. It also underlines the increasingly financialised nature of real estate markets, where performance is closely linked to broader capital market dynamics. These findings confirm that, while listed real estate remains an important investment channel in Europe, its performance is increasingly shaped by global economic cycles and policy developments.

More information can be found [here](#).

Commission study explores role of wealth taxation in the EU

On 15 April, the European Commission published a new study examining wealth taxation in the EU, including net wealth, capital and exit taxes, as part of ongoing reflections on fair and efficient

tax systems. The study provides a comprehensive overview of how wealth-related taxes are designed and applied across Member States, highlighting significant differences in approaches and levels of taxation. It underlines that taxation of wealth remains largely a national competence, resulting in a fragmented landscape that can create complexity, legal uncertainty and potential distortions within the single market.

The analysis also looks at the effectiveness and economic impact of different forms of wealth taxation. It notes that such taxes can play a role in addressing wealth inequalities and supporting public finances, but also points to potential trade-offs, including administrative complexity, risks of tax avoidance and possible effects on investment decisions. The study therefore emphasises the importance of careful design, taking into account both efficiency and fairness considerations. More information can be found [here](#).

ENVIRONMENTAL & TECHNICAL NEWS

Build Europe contributes to consultations on the EU Taxonomy framework for sustainable investment

On 13 April, Build Europe submitted its responses to two European Commission calls for evidence on the review of the EU Taxonomy Climate and Environmental Delegated Acts, contributing to ongoing efforts to improve the framework for sustainable investment in the construction sector.

In its feedback on the Climate Delegated Act, Build Europe welcomed the objective of aligning the Taxonomy with the revised Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. However, it raised concerns about the introduction of the zero-emission building (ZEB) standard as the main benchmark for new construction. The Association noted that definitions and calculation methodologies for ZEB are not yet fully operational across Member States, creating uncertainty and potential disruption for ongoing projects. It therefore called for clear transitional provisions and a more gradual implementation to ensure legal certainty and maintain investment flows. Build Europe also highlighted inconsistencies between different criteria within the framework, in particular between the requirements for substantial contribution and “do no significant harm” (DNSH), warning that overly stringent or unclear thresholds could discourage the use of the Taxonomy by developers and investors.

Regarding the Environmental Delegated Act, Build Europe supported the ambition to strengthen circular economy and biodiversity criteria, while underlining important challenges in their practical implementation. The Association pointed to the difficulty of meeting high waste recovery thresholds across all markets and raised concerns about new requirements related to digital tracking of building materials, which depend on tools that are not yet widely available.

In addition, Build Europe stressed the need for proportionate and workable DNSH criteria, particularly in relation to circularity and biodiversity. It called for a gradual, phased approach to increasing requirements, clearer methodologies and the recognition of existing assessments carried out under national permitting procedures, in order to avoid duplication and reduce administrative burden.

Overall, Build Europe emphasised that the EU Taxonomy should remain a practical and effective tool to support the transition of the construction sector, ensuring that sustainability objectives are aligned with market realities and do not hinder housing delivery or investment.

Build Europe's (and members') feedbacks can be found [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

Build Europe engages with Commission on soil sealing guidance

On 9 March, Build Europe sent a communication to the European Commission Directorate-General for Environment to provide feedback on the draft guidance on soil sealing and land take, following the stakeholder workshop held earlier this year.

In its message, Build Europe welcomed the alignment of the draft guidance with the definitions set out in the Soil Monitoring Law, in particular regarding land take, soil sealing and soil removal. At the same time, Build Europe highlighted the need for greater clarity on the practical interpretation of the “settlement area” indicator.

Build Europe noted that the treatment of non-sealed soils within settlement areas, such as gardens or urban parks, remains unclear, especially in the context of the “no net land take” objective. Clarifying that these areas should be distinguished from sealed soil would help ensure a consistent application across Member States. The Association also pointed to the link with Article 8 of the Nature Restoration Regulation, which requires the preservation and expansion of urban green areas, and stressed the importance of avoiding diverging national interpretations. Build Europe underlined that clearer guidance would support a coherent implementation of land take monitoring, urban greening objectives and housing development policies in practice.



A bilateral meeting between Build Europe and the European Commission on this topic is scheduled for 28 April.

The Commission presents the Industrial Accelerator Act to strengthen European industry

On 4 March, the European Commission presented its proposal for the Industrial Accelerator Act, a flagship initiative aimed at strengthening Europe’s industrial base, supporting clean technologies and reinforcing the EU’s economic security. The proposal seeks to boost European manufacturing capacity while accelerating the green transition, notably by introducing targeted “Made in EU” and low-carbon requirements in public procurement and public support schemes. These measures are designed to stimulate demand for European-produced goods in strategic sectors such as steel, cement, aluminium, automotive and net-zero technologies.

A central objective of the initiative is to create favourable conditions for industrial investment and job creation in Europe. By linking public funding more closely to European production, the Commission aims to strengthen domestic value chains, enhance resilience and ensure that public spending contributes more directly to economic activity within the EU. In addition, the proposal includes measures to simplify and accelerate permitting procedures for industrial projects. Member States will be required to establish streamlined and digitalised permitting systems, with the aim of reducing administrative burden and speeding up the deployment of manufacturing capacity across the EU.

Overall, the Industrial Accelerator Act reflects a more assertive EU industrial policy approach, combining investment incentives, regulatory simplification and targeted support measures to strengthen competitiveness and support the transition to a low-carbon economy.

More information can be found [here](#).

Commission presents measures to boost clean energy investment and reduce costs

On 10 March 2026, the European Commission presented a set of initiatives aimed at strengthening Europe’s energy independence, accelerating the transition to clean energy and reducing energy costs for households and businesses.

The package focuses on mobilising investment in domestically produced clean energy solutions, addressing the gap between available private capital and the funding needed to support the energy transition. It also includes measures to enhance the resilience of the EU’s energy system and reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels, in a context of continued geopolitical uncertainty. In addition, the Commission introduced actions to make energy more affordable, including enabling citizens to produce and share renewable energy and tackling energy poverty. The initiatives also outline a strategy for developing small modular reactors (SMRs), with the objective of establishing a European industrial value chain and deploying the first projects in the early 2030s. Overall, the measures are part of the broader EU strategy to strengthen competitiveness, improve energy security and support the transition to a more sustainable and affordable energy system. More information can be found [here](#).

New European Bauhaus initiative supports small municipalities

In early 2026, a new initiative under the New European Bauhaus was launched to support small municipalities across Europe in developing projects aligned with sustainability, inclusion and quality of life. Targeting local authorities in rural areas and towns with fewer than 20,000 inhabitants, the programme aimed to empower smaller communities to implement tangible transformations in the built environment. The “NEB Boost for Small Municipalities” provided financial support and increased visibility for small-scale projects, including the construction, renovation or adaptation of buildings and public spaces. These initiatives were designed to contribute to broader EU objectives such as climate neutrality, circularity, cultural heritage preservation and affordable housing. The European Committee of the Regions played an active role in promoting the initiative, highlighting the importance of enabling local authorities with more limited administrative and financial capacity to take part in the New European Bauhaus.

The call for applications closed on 22 March 2026, with selected projects expected to receive both financial support and communication assistance to help scale up and showcase their impact at European level.

More information can be found [here](#).

NEWS FROM BUILD EUROPE MEMBERS' AND OTHER COUNTRIES

Cyprus – Build Europe highlights supply challenge at housing conference

On 17 March, at the Real Estate, Property Development & Construction Conference in Cyprus, Filiep Loosveldt, Managing Director of Build Europe, stressed that Europe faces a delivery system failure rather than a market failure. He underlined that closing the housing supply gap by building more homes is key, and that residential developers stand ready to work with policymakers to deliver affordable housing. The event was organised and attended by Yiannis Misirlis, President of the Cyprus Property Developers Association.

More information can be found [here](#).

France – Pôle Habitat FFB appoints new president and sets ambitious 2030 target

On 2 April, the 2026 National Convention of Pôle Habitat FFB focused on reviving the housing sector under the theme “Objectif Relance !”. During the event, Laurent Beaugiraud took office as the new president, setting an ambitious objective of delivering 2 million homes by 2030, against the backdrop of a deep housing crisis and persistently high construction costs.

More information can be found [here](#).

France - New housing plan and tax measures to boost supply

On 10 April, Pascal Boulanger, President of the Fédération des Promoteurs Immobiliers (FPI), published an op-ed warning against a prolonged slowdown in the housing sector. He argued that the current wait-and-see climate risks leading to a “year of inaction” driven by political uncertainty, stressing that, unlike in the past, the sector now urgently needs regulatory action, especially simplification measures, to support construction and restore supply. President Boulanger also highlighted the urgency of tackling the housing crisis, noting that recent measures are only a first step and calling for further reforms to enable more building permits and accelerate delivery.

More information can be found [here](#).

Germany – 17th Housing Construction Day to address building needs

The 17th Housing Construction Day took place in Berlin, bringing together political and industry leaders to discuss the housing market and construction sector. A key moment was the presentation of the study “Housing Construction in Germany: Demand and Simplification”, providing updated data on housing needs, construction activity and costs, and outlining ways to boost supply. The event was attended by high-level representatives, including Federal Housing Minister Verena Hubertz, alongside members of CDU/CSU, SPD, Bündnis 90/Die Grünen and Die Linke. The sector was also represented by BFW’s Martin Dornieden.

More information can be found [here](#).

UK – HBF Policy Conference highlights housing ambitions and challenges

On 24 March, the HBF Policy Conference brought together key stakeholders from across the UK housing sector to discuss affordability and delivery challenges. Build Europe attended the

event. The conference, led by Neil Jefferson and Stewart Baseley, highlighted the UK’s ambitious objective to deliver 1.5 million homes, while underlining the significant challenges facing the sector. Discussions emphasised that housing pressures are driven by structural constraints, including viability issues, regulatory complexity and infrastructure bottlenecks.

More information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

UK – Housing market hit by geopolitical uncertainty

The UK housing market is slowing as the Iran war drives up energy costs and mortgage rates, weakening demand. Deals are collapsing and lenders are pulling cheaper products, discouraging buyers. Many sellers are cutting prices but remain “trapped” in a subdued market, with uncertainty continuing to weigh on activity.

More information can be found [here](#).

Build Europe’s upcoming activities

- 20 April 2026: Monitoring Committee meeting
- 21 April 2026: IHBA Housebuilding Summit (Dublin, Ireland)
- 30 April 2026: High-Level Construction Forum (Brussels)
- 11-12 May 2026: Informal Ministerial Conference on Housing (Lefkosia, Cyprus)
- 27-29 May 2026: Build Europe Congress in Cambridge (UK)