

## **Europe's construction companies publish their recommendations for future plans on sustainable and affordable housing**

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On Monday 16 December, the *European Construction Industry Federation* (FIEC) published its expectations of the European Commission's future plans for sustainable and affordable housing.

*"It focuses in particular on: - mobilising private and public investment; - relaxing the prudential rules imposed by Basel III, in order to mobilise private investment; - improving access to mortgage loans for households and young people; - a simplified regulatory and administrative environment for construction companies, with clear rules that can speed up the building process, reduce construction costs and create overall affordability; - greater support to research and innovation and digitalisation".* In addition, all the players involved must continue to work on improving the attractiveness of the sector to combat the shortage of skilled labour.

The latest FIEC figures show *"the residential construction sector has been declining significantly in several EU Member States. Overall, new construction and renovation of housing fell by 2.6% in 2023 and is expected to fall another 5.7% in 2024. Low investment in new housing and renovation, driven by high costs, is affecting demand across the EU."*, writes FIEC.

Construction costs reached record levels after the pandemic and as a result of the war in Ukraine, emphasises FIEC, which also points to *"a heavy regulatory environment"* for housing production.

Link to the document: <https://aeur.eu/f/etv> (Original version in French by Solenn Paulic)