



CONFERENCE

Building Tomorrow: Addressing Europe's Construction Sector Challenges - Social Partners & Civil Society's Inputs

24 June 2025, 14:30–18:00 | EESC, JDE 62

Europe faces a significant **housing crisis**, with over 10.6% of urban and 6.2% of rural residents burdened by high housing costs. Substantial **investment in social and affordable housing** is needed, but securing funding is challenging. The **EU construction industry** is also affected, with a negative impact on the sector's employment and small enterprises. Integrating **energy-efficient renovations** and **sustainable practices** requires coordination with urban development and public infrastructure planning. A **coordinated EU-wide approach** to affordable housing is necessary, including state-aid regulation reforms and a strategic focus on housing in the next MFF. Addressing these challenges requires a concerted effort from EU institutions, national governments and local stakeholders.

For many years, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) has consistently advocated for **affordable, accessible, sustainable and decent housing**, emphasising the necessity of investing in social and affordable housing. The EESC has supported the Renovation Wave Strategy and the European Bauhaus initiative, continuously advocating for housing policies that align with climate goals, particularly focusing on energy-efficient renovations and sustainable construction methods.

In the mission letter from Ursula von der Leyen to Dan Jorgensen, Commissioner for Energy and Housing, it is outlined that, as part of the **European Affordable Housing Plan**, the Commissioner will be responsible for developing a **European Strategy for Housing Construction** aimed at increasing housing supply. His focus will include implementing measures to reduce building costs, enhance the skills of the labour force, boost productivity and improve the environmental performance of the construction sector.

This conference will concentrate on tackling the primary issues of providing affordable housing for European citizens, addressing labour force challenges in the construction sector, and revising public procurement directives.

PROGRAMME

Moderated by **Laurențiu Plosceanu**, Vice-President of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

14:30 – 14:40 | OPENING

- **Oliver Röppe**, President of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

14:40 – 15:40 | SESSION 1 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Moderator: Baiba Miltoviča, President of the Section for Transport, Energy, Infrastructure and the Information Society, EESC

- **Katharina Knapton-Vierlich**, European Commission, DG GROW.H.1 Construction
- **Joël Schons**, Chair of the Working group on Housing of the European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC)
- **Josef Muchitsch**, Federal Chairman of GBH Austria and Vice-Chair of the European Federation of Building Workers and Woodworkers' Building Committee (EFBWW)

Debate

15:45 – 16:45 | SESSION 2 LABOUR SHORTAGES

Moderator: Giulia Barbucci, EESC member

- **Cosmin Boiangiu**, Executive Director, European Labour Authority (ELA)
- **David Dion**, Acting Director, Directorate E, and Head of Unit, E.1 - Labour Mobility, Public Employment Services, ELA (tbc)
- **Angela Martina**, Chair of Sub-Commission on Vocational Training of the European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC)
- **Nina Kreutzman**, Chair of the Building Committee of the European Federation of Building Workers and Woodworkers' Building Committee (EFBWW)

Debate

16:50 – 17:50 | SESSION 3 REVISION OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT DIRECTIVES & ABUSIVE SUBCONTRACTING

Moderator: Pietro Francesco De Lotto, President of the Consultative Commission on Industrial Change (CCMI), EESC

- **Jean-Yves Muylle**, European Commission, DG Internal Market, Industry and SMEs, Unit D2 – Public Procurement
- **MEP Johan Danielsson**, Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament (Sweden) (tbc)
- **Domenico Campogrande**, Director General of the European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC)
- **Gianni De Vlaminck**, European Federation of Building Workers and Woodworkers' Building Committee (EFBWW)

17:50 – 18:00 | CLOSING

- **Domenico Campogrande**, Director General of the European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC)
- **Nina Kreutzman**, Chair of the Building Committee of the European Federation of Building Workers and Woodworkers' Building Committee (EFBWW)
- **Baiba Miltoviča**, President of the Section for Transport, Energy, Infrastructure and the Information Society, EESC

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