



Ms. Ulrika Hall

Chair of the Social Protection Committee of the EU

Cc:

M. Rudi Van Dam

Chair of the Indicators Sub-Group (ISG)

Brussels, June 7th June 2017

Re: Monitoring the access to social housing within the European Pillar of Social Rights

Dear Ms. Hall,

Housing Europe, the European Federation of Public, Cooperative and Social Housing, has welcomed the proposal of the European Commission to set up a framework of social rights and principles which are meant to help EU member states converge on social matters. In particular the paragraph 19 on affordable housing eventually acknowledges the importance for Member States to promote access to social housing as part of a modern social protection system. This is indeed a step towards the vision that we share of a Europe that provides “access to decent and affordable housing for all in communities which are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable and where everyone is enabled to reach their full potential”¹.

However we would like to point two elements which we hope will be taken into account by the Social Protection Committee and the EPSCO council.

Firstly, the interpretation of housing needs (point a. of paragraph 19) should remain as broad as possible and a competence of national, regional and local authorities (as provided by the protocol 26 of the TFEU on the Services of General Economic Interest). It should indeed reflect the nature and evolution of the housing markets (and housing market failures) as well as the evolution of the socio economic situation of households in those specific housing markets.

Secondly, the proposed Social Scoreboard should include indicators in relation to paragraph 19 in particular point a. As you know, Eurostat indicators on housing affordability as well as OECD database on affordable housing (<http://www.oecd.org/social/affordable-housing-database.htm>) provide examples of what could be used to monitor the progress of Member States in this field. More generally the integration of the work done under the Social Protection Performance

¹ « Housing for all » campaign of Housing Europe : <http://www.housingeurope.eu/resource-530/housing-for-all>
The European Federation for Public, Cooperative and Social Housing



Monitoring (SPPM) (in particular the part on affordable housing) is necessary. Eventually, Eurostat has recently developed indicators to monitor the implementation in the EU of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Some of them do include housing related dimensions (in particular affordability)² and are worth considering for the Social Scoreboard.

As our Observatory is preparing the latest edition of the State of Housing report, which will compile many data on affordable housing, we would be happy to have the opportunity to exchange with you on what indicators can be most relevant.

We remain at your disposal for any further information on our activities

Yours sincerely

Sorcha Edwards

Secretary-General
Housing Europe

² <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/276524/7736915/EU-SDG-indicator-set-with-cover-note-170531.pdf>