

## **PES GROUP PARTICIPATORY LAB**

### **Affordable. Social. Sustainable. Local solutions for housing**

**Tuesday, 11 October 2022**

Today the European Union is facing one of the worst housing crises in its history.

It's high time the EU takes decisive action to make the right to housing for all a reality. Local and regional authorities together with housing providers and private landlords can implement European and national policies to the realities on the ground. There is no single answer for housing in Europe, but we think that subsidiarity is paramount to achieving a transition towards affordable, sustainable and social housing.

The PES Group participatory lab "Affordable. Social. Sustainable. Local solutions for housing", held as part of the 2022 European Week of Regions and Cities, aimed at discussing this problem with young elected politicians, experts, and citizens committed from all over Europe.

This brainstorming resulted in the creation of a Declaration handed to Nicolas Schmit, European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights and Vasco Alves Cordeiro, President of the European Committee of the Regions.

This declaration calls for decisive EU action to make the right to housing for all a reality and sets out 15 concrete proposals on different aspects of housing policy, including social housing, sustainable housing, emergency housing, and youth & housing.

The full text of the declaration "WANTED – New EU Housing Strategy!" is available [here](#).

Christophe Rouillon, President of the PES Group at the European Committee of the Regions and Mayor of Coulaines, France, said: "We are facing a dramatic housing crisis affecting millions of people in villages, towns and regions across Europe. Housing is a human right. We need to urgently harness all the resources of the Union to make this right a reality. In addition to the considerable European funding that already exists, we need to set Member States binding objectives to finance the construction and renovation of quality and energy-efficient housing. With the revenue from the European tax on super-profits, we will be able to support the most vulnerable members of society."

Nicolas Schmit, European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, stated that "Everybody has the right to affordable housing, a place to feel safe and secure. Europe must redouble its efforts when it comes to investing in social housing before it is too late and we see even greater numbers of people with nowhere to call 'home'."