

Programme

# High-level Conference on Affordable and Sustainable Housing

29 – 30 September 2025



**Danish  
Presidency**  
Council of the  
European Union

## Monday 29 September 2025

- 9:00**      **Arrival and registration**
- 10:00**      **Opening speech by Minister for Social Affairs and Housing, Sophie Hæstorp Andersen**
- 10:15**      **Keynote speech by Commissioner for Energy and Housing, Dan Jørgensen**
- 10:30**      **EESC: For a European Affordable Housing Plan – the contribution of civil society**  
 John Comer, Rapporteur | Thomas Kattnig, Co-rapporteur  
 Presentation of exploratory opinion.
- 10:45**      **Panel-discussion: A European plan for a European crisis?**  
 Irene Tinagli, Chair of HOUS Special Committee, European Parliament | Matthew Baldwin, Head of Housing Task Force, European Commission | Bent Madsen, Board Member, Housing Europe | Andreas Ibel, President, Build Europe  
 Housing is on the European agenda, but is it a European crisis? What are the causes? And what is the added value in solutions at the Union level? This session brings together representatives from European institutions and stakeholders to discuss the potential in European initiatives.
- 11:30**      **Coffee break**
- 12:00**      **Panel-discussion: How can cities deliver affordable and sustainable housing?**  
 Lars Weiss, Lord Mayor of Copenhagen | Karin Wanngård, Mayor of Stockholm | Tobia Zevi, Deputy Mayor of Rome for Heritage and Housing | Claus Mathisen, Co-CEO, Urban Partners | Jacques Baudrier, Deputy Mayor of Paris | Jordi Valls, Deputy Mayor of Barcelona | Tanguy Desrousseaux, Director of Housing, Cities and Regions, European Investment Bank | Mark Watts, Director, C40  
 Cities are engines of growth, but only if people can afford to live in them. To succeed at delivering affordable and sustainable housing at scale, cities are asking for stronger coordination with EU and national levels, including on policies and access to funding and financing. This session will explore how cities are taking the lead and what they need to scale up solutions.

*(main programme continues on page 3)*

- 13:00 Lunch**
- 14:30 What is affordable housing?**  
**Marie Hyland, Research Officer, Eurofound**
- Presentation of background paper: Discussion of approaches to measurement and highlighting the challenges faced by different groups.
- 14:50 Sustainability vs. affordability: Do we need to square a circle?**  
**Oliver Rapf, Executive Director, Buildings Performance Institute Europe**
- The presentation will discuss affordable housing in the light of sustainability challenges and address opportunities and perceived contradictions.
- 15:10 Scaling affordable low-carbon housing**  
**Hanane Hafraoui, Lead Programme Management Officer, UNEP**
- How self-built and informal housing can be transformed into low-carbon, resilient and affordable living spaces.
- 15:30 What is the state of housing?**  
**Marco Corradi, President, Housing Europe | Alice Pittini, Director of Observatory, Housing Europe**
- An early look at Housing Europe's State of Housing Report 2025.
- 16:00 Coffee break**
- 16:30 Site visit: Refshaleøen and CPH Village**
- A guided boat tour by City and Port covering the harbour's past, present and future. We disembark at CPH Village, a living lab for modular and affordable housing for young urban residents.
- 19:00 Dinner at Aamanns**  
 Address: Refshalevej 163A, 1432 Copenhagen.

*High-level side event – by invitation only*  
*Co-hosted by the City of Copenhagen, and supported by C40 Cities.*



- 13:30 Roundtable lunch at Copenhagen City Hall**
- This closed-door dialogue will bring together city leaders, national governments, and European institutions to tackle the pressing challenge of how to deliver more affordable and sustainable housing, with the aim of strengthening cooperation across all levels of government and identifying key areas for further action.
- 15:30 Site visit and reception**
- A guided tour with a focus on social housing and sustainable urban development. Led by Lars Jensen, Chief City Architect of Copenhagen, and Monica Magnussen, Head of Meet Copenhagen City. Participants will experience the city from an electric boat and visit the North Harbour. Following the tour, participants will be invited to an informal reception at the Danish Architecture Center.

Tuesday 30 September 2025

**9:00 Welcome**

**9:15 Resilient financing for social and affordable housing**

Michelle Norris, Director, Geary Institute for Public Policy | Gerry Muscat, Managerial Advisor, Housing, Cities and Regions Department, European Investment Bank | Barbora Raková, Housing Policy Expert, State Investment Promoting Fund of the Czech Republic

What are the main ingredients that make social and affordable housing systems financially resilient, how can Member States kick-start them, and is policy transfer from established systems a way forward? This session explores experiences from Ireland, Czechia, and Denmark.

**10:45 Coffee break**

**11:15 Sustainable construction: From climate goals to climate action**

Helle Redder Momsen, Nordic Sustainable Construction | Sébastien Matty, CEO, GA Smart Building | Stéphan de Faÿ, CEO, French Off-Site Association | Mette Mechlenborg, Head of Division, Aalborg University

This session presents practical cases from across Europe on sustainable construction and renovation, including whole life carbon regulation, industrialised off-site methods as well as urban and housing transformation where right-sizing serves as a principle.

**12:45 Closing speeches**

Andreas Færgemann, Housing and Tourism Counsellor | Matthew Baldwin, Head of Housing Task Force, European Commission

**13:15 Lunch**

**14:15 Optional external site-visit organised by VELUX: Achieving affordable, sustainable, and healthy housing**

Join this site visit in Copenhagen to see how affordability, CO<sub>2</sub> reduction, energy efficiency and indoor climate considerations can be successfully integrated, achieving high-quality living conditions while also advancing climate and energy goals. Return to Eigtveds Pakhus at 16:30.



eu2025.dk