



Doc. 15566
23 June 2022

Analysis and guidelines to guarantee the right to housing and to decent housing

Motion for a resolution

tabled by Mr Antón GÓMEZ-REINO and other members of the Assembly

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

The absence of the right to housing is a problem that cannot be postponed, as pointed out in 2020 by Dunja Mijatovic, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, who called on governments to adopt “decisive measures” to curb the “ever-larger number of people” who have no access to stable housing.

According to the last Eurostat report, “one in four Europeans experience serious difficulties to pay housing costs, which amount to more than 40% of their disposable income” (well above the recommended 25%) and more than 50% of young people aged between 18 and 34 are compelled to live with their parents in countries such as Ireland, Cyprus, Slovenia, Poland, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece, Hungary or the Slovak Republic. On the contrary, the limitations set to the rental market in high-demand areas of France and Germany show that it is possible to regulate the market in order to support tenants.

As a result of the prevailing real-state model, based on house ownership and the absence of public policies to guarantee the right to housing, the stock of social housing in many countries of Europe is quite simply insufficient. Countries such as Slovenia, Germany, Italy, Hungary, Spain, the Slovak Republic, Bulgaria, Portugal, Romania or Croatia have less than 1,9 social housing per each 100 inhabitants.

Concerning the right to decent housing, FEANTSA (European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless) reports that the number of homeless people has increased in most European countries. Bearing in mind the different situations and shortages in the field of housing and the right to decent housing, the Council of Europe and its member States must monitor, promote and commit themselves to drafting a set of general guidelines of good practices regarding such a basic human right as the access to decent housing.

Signed (see overleaf)



Signed¹:

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
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