

# Annual Report 2014

## *An E-Yearbook*



# Contents

1. Foreword by President, Marc Calon
2. Foreword by Secretary General, Sorch Edwards
3. Main policy themes of the year
4. Annual calendar of activities
5. EU & Housing
6. European Projects & Policy Work
7. What to expect in 2015
8. Housing Europe Internal Developments
9. Photostory
10. Housing Europe in the Press
11. Resources & Figures
12. We are our people
13. Our members- A family that is growing

# ‘We must bring people’s daily concerns to policy makers’



**Marc Calon** has been elected President of Housing Europe at the General Assembly on July 4th in Versailles, France.

*‘If people do not have a degree of certainty about their future, of having a roof over their head, an income, assurance of safety in their neighborhood there is no confidence and no sustainable growth.*

*Current trends of reduced employment stability, evictions and ghettoization in our cities are detrimental for our societal development. We must make the link between people’s every day concerns and policy makers at national and EU levels.’*

# Promoting responsible housing

*‘With the backdrop of the on-going recession and growing inequalities resulting in part from irresponsible practices in the financial and housing sectors this initiative which puts a spotlight on*

*best practice from the non-for-profit, public, social and cooperative sector is of huge importance.’*



**Sorcha Edwards** has been appointed Secretary General of Housing Europe in March 2014.

# Main policy themes of the year

## 1. European Elections 2014

- Housing Europe suggested ‘**9 paths to better homes for a better Europe**’ in its European **manifesto** based on 3 main pillars:
  - Greater well-being for Europeans
  - Long-term social investment
  - Responsible housing market
- Members have successfully adapted it at national level

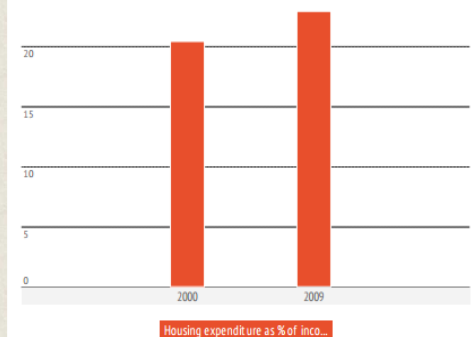
It is important, because...

 **120 million**  
Europeans at risk of poverty

 **33.8%**  
Europeans feel that they are facing disproportionate housing costs

 **52 million**  
People in the EU unable to keep their homes adequately warm

Growing housing costs



#HousingEP14

# Main policy themes of the year

## 2. Energy Efficiency

- We have made the case that the **affordable housing sector is among the leaders** in energy efficiency
  - Strategic partnership with **Solar Decathlon Europe 2014** in Versailles showcased innovative best practices
  - Communication over **our position** for the **EU 2030 Energy & Climate Objectives** ahead of *Paris 2015*



# Main policy themes of the year

## 3. Social Innovation for Housing

- The **ERHIN** project showcased the importance of **Responsible Housing** by producing concrete outcomes:
  1. CSR Code of Conduct for housing providers
  2. European Declaration signed by housing stakeholders
  3. European Responsible Housing Awards (70 examples from 12 countries)
- The ground is set for the European Responsible Housing Campaign 2015





# Main policy themes of the year

## 4. Housing Finance

- The issue of **sustainable housing finance** was introduced at the **Housing Ministers meeting in December 2013 in Brussels.**

2014 was among our priorities leading to the **joint international conference with Finance Watch** that identified the tools needed to lead **from bubbles to resilience.**



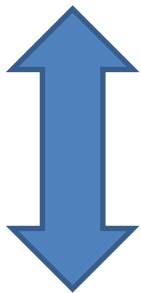


# Political developments at EU level to keep in mind

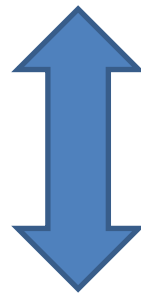


- European Elections 2014
  - New MEPs, New URBAN Intergroup, New European Commission
- European Fund for Strategic Investments (Juncker Plan) of 315 bn €
- EU 2030 Energy & Climate Targets Review
- EU Urban Agenda implementation
- EU Homelessness Strategy
- Structural Funds 2014-2020

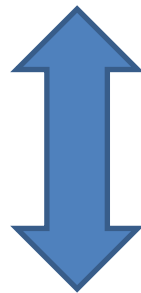
# Linking Projects with Policy Work



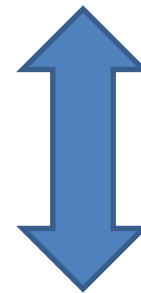
- Showcasing nZEC best practices of across Europe
- Creating partnerships
- Producing evidence to support the case for energy efficiency in affordable housing



- Ageing & quality of life at home, gathering examples beyond just policy
- Providing proof needed for the added value of ICT use in social housing for the elderly
- 'Connected flats'



- Tackling social exclusion of elderly & disabled
- Better understanding of the needs of these groups
- Gathering best practices from Central Europe



- Promoting CSR in affordable housing
- Building partnerships with tenants & other stakeholders
- Producing European Declaration, Code of Conduct, ERHIN Awards



- Cooperation of social services workers & housing staff
- Producing training pack
- Presenting low cost realistic solutions to EU social inclusion challenges

# What to expect in 2015

- **Paris 2015 (COP21)**
  - Climate agreement/ Update of our 'Copenhagen Offer'
- Review of **'Almunia Package'**
  - Change of state aid rules?
- **TTIP** (Trade Agreement EU-US)
  - Potential Impact for the housing sector
- Parliamentary **Report** on EU **Economic Governance** (AGS, CSRs)
- Implementation of **EU Urban Agenda**



# 2014 Highlights



## July

Housing Europe meets Solar Decathlon Europe 2014 in Versailles, France.

President of the Jury, Georges Bullion is handing over the Award for the best Social Housing project

## October

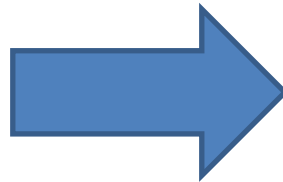
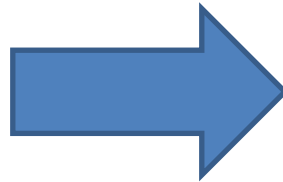
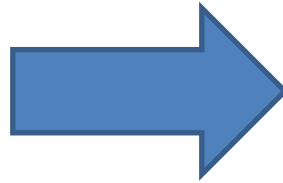
1<sup>st</sup> phase of the ERHIN project was concluded in Brussels with the European Responsible Housing Awards Ceremony. Housing Europe & the IUT have signed the European Declaration and more than 30 stakeholders have undersigned the Code of Conduct.



## November

Housing Europe has organized in cooperation with Finance Watch an international conference on the issue of Housing Finance. Representatives from all major EU Institutions as well as housing associations & all other relevant interest groups exchanged views.

# A year in transition





# In pictures...



# In figures...

 **> 30,000**

Unique website visitors

 **1,436**


Twitter Followers

 **8**

Press Releases

 **4**

Position Papers

 Brand new version of weekly newsletter



# We are our people

## Brussels Team

**Sorcha Edwards**  
*Secretary General*

**Julien Dijol**  
*Policy Coordinator*

**Alice Pittini**  
*Research Coordinator*

**Alessandro Cesale**  
*Project Officer*

**Michalis Goudis**  
*Communications Officer*

**Igor Kiss**  
*Research Assistant*



## Board of Directors

**Marc Calon**  
*President*

**Pierre Pribetich**  
*Vice-President*

**Christian Lieberknecht**  
*Vice-President*

**Andres Jaadla**

**Marco Corradi**

**Bent Madsen**

**Marten Lilja**

**Daniel Biard**

**John McPeake**

## Working Committees

*Energy & Construction*  
**Chair: Johanna Ode**

*Economic & Financial Affairs*  
**Chair: Gene Clayton**

*Social Affairs*  
**Chair: João Carvalhosa**

*Urban Affairs*  
**Chair: Özgür Öner**

*European Social Housing Observatory*  
**Chair: Laurent Ghekiere**





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