

# The European Citizens' Initiative Right to Housing! Now and Forever

Housing has become a luxury. We demand it as a right! We want to change EU laws with the help of 1.2 million people. You are one of them! Sign now at [www.right-to-housing.eu](http://www.right-to-housing.eu)

We, the citizens of Europe, demand access to housing that is affordable, sustainable and fair.

We see and feel it every day: workers who can no longer afford the city they build, young people who cannot leave their parents' home, tenants pushed out of their neighbourhoods after renovation, empty buildings while people sleep on the street.

**Europe doesn't have a housing crisis, Europe has an affordable housing crisis.**

The current housing market is putting profit over people and the planet. Europe's buildings are empty, broken, and expensive. But it doesn't have to be this way. The buildings exist, and so do the approaches to make them affordable.

**Europe is already built. Let's use what we have!**

## **Buildings are empty**

Buildings are vacant while people need homes. There are many reasons: from empty offices, to holiday rentals.  
→ 47.5 million homes stand empty across Europe. (FEANTSA, 2025)

## **Let's fill them!**

We want to fix that and make empty buildings accessible.

We demand a European register that counts every vacant home and office across Europe, so no building disappears from view. We demand faster building permits to convert them into housing, and that vacant buildings go first to non-profit providers such as cooperatives, community land trusts and social housing operators, rather than back to speculators.

## **Buildings are broken**

Buildings are in a bad condition. When they get renovated, prices go up and people lose their homes.  
→ 75% of buildings in Europe are not renovated. (European Commission, 2023)

## **Let's fix them!**

We want to fix that, make renovation the norm and ensure people can stay.

We demand that renovation becomes faster, easier and cheaper, through tax reductions, fair risk assessment and valuing the energy embedded in existing buildings. Renovation too often leads to renovation: public money pays for the works, rents go up, and people are priced out. We demand that no one loses their home when EU money is used for renovation.

## **Buildings are expensive**

Housing costs are too high and even affordable housing doesn't stay affordable long term.  
→ 28% rental and 60% buying price increase since 2010. (Eurostat, 2025)

## **Let's free them!**

We want to fix that and create affordable housing, now and forever.

We demand to forbid short-term rentals where housing is needed most, penalise homes held empty and close Golden Visa programs and money laundering loopholes. Housing is a right and must not be traded like stock. We demand that when public money is used to create housing, these homes stay affordable forever and don't get privatised.



**Sign now:** Scan the QR code or sign online at [www.right-to-housing.eu](http://www.right-to-housing.eu). It takes two minutes, and it is free and secure!

**Share it:** Send it to your friends, family and colleagues. Every signature brings us closer to our shared goal!

**Get involved:** Organise with us and bring this initiative to your street, your school, your city, or your workplace!

## **What is a European Citizens' Initiative?**

A European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) allows EU citizens to propose a law and organise a pan-European initiative to put a topic on the political agenda.

Instead of voting for a political party or one politician, citizens can show support for a topic which matters to them.

The initiative has up to twelve months to reach at least one million statements of support – better more – from at least seven EU countries. If it reaches the necessary support, the EU Commission must act – either by proposing the legislation or by explaining why not.

**This is democracy at work: your signature counts exactly as much as anyone else's – a banker's, a minister's, a nurse's, a neighbour's.**

## **Who is behind this initiative?**

This initiative is organised by people and organisations from across Europe. It was initiated by the non-profit HouseEurope! and is driven by a growing group of co-organisers.

It is an open coalition – any person, group or democratic party is invited to join this European Citizens' Initiative.

Right to Housing! Now and Forever  
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