

# The European Citizens' Initiative 'Housing for All' has been launched



## **The dramatic shortage of affordable and social housing in Europe requires better EU legislation.**

“Affordable and social housing is a human right. This human right is threatened by speculation and financial investors. In many cities housing is no longer affordable for broad groups of society. People who keep the cities running can no longer afford to live there”, says Karin Zauner-Lohmeyer – the spokeswoman of the European Citizens' Initiative 'Housing for All' at the press conference which launched the initiative on 27 March in Vienna. “There is a huge lack of investment in affordable and social housing. Speculation in property leads to enormous price increases. Housing prices and land prices are exploding in most European cities. There is no end in sight.”

## **Non-application of the Maastricht criteria**

For Karin Zauner-Lohmeyer, housing is a public responsibility. “The capital market will never provide affordable and social housing for broad groups of society”, she stresses. Although housing is an issue of the member states, EU legislation influences subsidised and public housing projects immensely. The “Maastricht Criteria” and the current state aid regulations block investments in affordable and social housing.

## **Five demands to the EU legislators**

“Therefore, the European citizens' initiative 'Housing for All' demands that European legislators improve the legal and financial framework for social and affordable housing to ensure housing for all citizens in Europe”, says Zauner-Lohmeyer. The ECI “Housing for All” includes five demands:

1. Easier access for all to social and affordable housing,
2. Not-applying the Maastricht criteria to public investment in social and affordable housing,
3. Better access to EU funding for non-profit and sustainable housing developers,
4. Social, competition-based rules for short-term rentals and
5. The compilation of statistics on housing needs in Europe.

## **More than one million signatures within one year**

This citizens initiative was initiated by seven citizens coming from Austria, Spain, Germany, Sweden, Cyprus, Portugal and Croatia. Throughout the next 12 months signatures will be collected in the whole of Europe. A certain threshold has to be reached in at least 7 Member States. If this target is reached, the European Commission and the European Parliament have to deal with our initiative. It can be signed online: [housingforall.eu](https://housingforall.eu) and on paper through all our European partners. More information: [office@housingforall.eu](mailto:office@housingforall.eu) Download the press information: <https://housingforall.blog/presse>