

JOINT DECLARATION

on the conclusions of the Roundtable “How to Build Better” – Delivering Affordable, Safe, and Sustainable Housing in Europe

European Parliament, Brussels – 21 April 2026

The participants of the Roundtable, hosted by MEP Nikolina Brnjac, in cooperation with the European Council of Engineers Chambers (ECEC) and the European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE)

I. On the Context and Urgency of the Housing Crisis

1. Express deep concern regarding the escalating housing crisis in the Union, noting that housing prices have increased by over 60% since 2013, significantly outpacing household income growth.
2. Highlight the critical supply shortage, evidenced by a 22% decline in building permits since 2021, and emphasize the gap of 650,000 additional units required annually to meet demand.
3. Note with alarm that more than 1 million people remain homeless across Europe and that approximately 20% of the existing housing stock is currently underutilised, representing a significant latent resource.
4. Acknowledge the strategic importance of the European Affordable Housing Plan as a framework to mobilise the estimated €150 billion in annual investment required over the next decade.

II. Housing as a Strategic Priority and Critical Infrastructure

5. Maintain the position that housing must be treated as a strategic European priority, comparable to energy or transport systems, requiring long-term planning and coordinated governance.
6. Reaffirm the "No Trade-Offs" principle, stressing that affordability must not be achieved at the expense of safety, resilience, or sustainability; these four dimensions must be delivered as an integrated whole.
7. Call for strengthened political commitment to remove administrative and regulatory barriers that currently hinder the large-scale implementation of housing policies.

III. The Engineering Contribution and Technical Solutions

8. Welcome the practical roadmap presented by ECEC and ECCE as outlined in the Policy Paper [“A European Engineering Vision for Affordable, Safe and Sustainable Housing”](#), which establishes engineers as key enablers of delivery, bridging the gap between high-level policy and on-the-ground implementation.

9. Underline the necessity of implementing industrialised and modular construction methods as key tools to accelerate delivery, enhance quality, and reduce costs.

10. Support the prioritisation of adaptive reuse of the underutilised building stock to optimize resources, minimize environmental impact, and provide immediate housing solutions.

IV. Strategic Recommendations and Way Forward

11. Recommend the establishment of a European Housing Resilience Framework to integrate safety, climate risks, and long-term performance into housing policies.

12. Urge the simplification and acceleration of planning and permitting procedures, alongside the harmonization of technical standards across Member States to improve sectoral efficiency.

13. Stress the importance of a structured partnership between policymakers and the engineering community to ensure that all measures are technically sound, buildable, and scalable.

V. Joint Commitment

14. The participants reaffirm their commitment to advancing a coordinated European approach to housing, strengthening cooperation between institutions and technical experts to deliver high-quality, safe, and affordable housing for all citizens without delay.



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Nina Drazin Lovrec
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The European Council of Engineers Chambers (ECEC) is the umbrella organisation of European Engineers Chambers. It represents the professional interest of Chartered Engineers on European level. Its members are national Chambers or other legally established public bodies representing authorized Chartered Engineers. Currently the ECEC represents 17 Chambers and over 300.000 highly qualified European Chartered Engineers who are members in these Chambers.
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Platonas Stylianou
ECCE President



The European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE) established in 1985, is the voice of civil engineers in Europe, representing professional bodies from 25 member countries. It was founded on the belief that civil engineers working together can significantly contribute to advancing the built environment and protecting the natural one. ECCE promotes the highest technical and ethical standards, advises European and national institutions, and works to harmonize regulations and standards across Europe. Active in areas such as sustainability, education, ethics, and safety, ECCE supports civil engineers in building a better, safer and more resilient future for all.
<http://www.ecceengineers.eu/>