

Question for written answer E-001090/2021/rev.1
to the Council
Rule 138
Jordi Cañas (Renew)

Subject: Initiative against homelessness in the EU and the 'Housing First' approach

The number of homeless people in the EU has risen 70% over the last decade.¹ Approaches such as Housing First have been shown to allocate resources more efficiently than traditional services², as well as reduce homelessness and support the integration of homeless people into the labour market. For this reason, the European Parliament resolution of 21 January 2021 on access to decent and affordable housing for all called on Member States to implement this principle.³

In spite of this, public investment in housing continues to fall and the investment gap in affordable housing stands at around EUR 57 billion per year.⁴

In the light of the above, the interest shown by the Portuguese Presidency in establishing a cooperation platform to strengthen the EU's role in the fight against homelessness is more than welcome.⁵

1. How does the Council intend to boost the fight against homelessness, particularly in the light of approaches such as Housing First?
2. Does the Council intend to consider drawing up Council recommendations that include the objective of promoting access to decent and affordable housing?

¹ European Parliament (2020): <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20201119STO92006/how-parliament-wants-to-end-homelessness-in-the-eu>

² Angela Ly and Eric Latimer (2015), Housing First Impact on Costs and Associated Cost offsets: a review of the literature, *Can J Psychiatry*, Nov. 60 (11) 475-487.

³ Paragraph 13 of the European Parliament resolution of 21 January 2021 on access to decent and affordable housing for all (2019/2187 (INI)).

⁴ 2018 figures. Housing Europe: <https://www.housingeurope.eu/resource-1323/the-state-of-housing-in-the-eu-2019>.

⁵ Programme for the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union: <https://www.2021portugal.eu/media/rohpiqqf/portuguese-presidency-en.pdf>