Subject: Student housing shortage

Students face a hike in accommodation costs this academic year as rents come close to hitting a 15-year high.

The average rental price in Greece is EUR 9.1 per square metre, with significant increases in cities. For instance, the Triandria-Doxa area has seen a 14% increase, while in some parts of Athens there has been a 16% increase, in Patras 20% and in Rio 28%.

Sadly, high rental costs are often the deciding factor for students and their families when it comes to making choices that will have an impact on the student’s future career.

The shortage in student halls in Greece is an ever-worsening problem, with less than 1 in 10 students being offered a room and halls not being kept in good condition and lacking security guards.

Education is a key driver of social mobility, which is why model higher education establishments worldwide offer their students suitable accommodation that is close to their premises. Student halls located near the premises of higher education establishments:

– add value to student life, contributing to a better education experience, innovation and, ultimately, to students having a successful career;
– reduce commuting time for students, while helping to ease traffic;
– foster educational/leisure/sports activities near campuses.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission say what EU investment instruments could be used to help Greece build suitable student halls, if the country so wishes?
2. Otherwise, is there an EU instrument for granting interest-free loans for student housing?

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