



Build Better Lives community calls on Commissioner Jørgensen to ensure decent, affordable and energy efficient homes for all

Think about that: they are choosing between eating or feeling warm - Dan Jørgensen

27th November 2024, Brussels - With the confirmation of Dan Jørgensen as the EU Commissioner for Energy and Housing, the campaign Build Better Lives that unites 92 civil society organisations comprised of housing, health, social and environmental NGOs, trade unions and youth movements, are making a [joint open call](#), calling on Commissioner Jørgensen to take full advantage of his new portfolio and support an ambitious and socially just implementation of the EPBD and deliver a EU housing plan that provides affordable, accessible and energy-efficient housing for all.

As Dan Jørgensen mentioned in his hearing in front of the European Parliament, 47 million people in the EU were freezing last winter, approximately [10.6% of the population](#). This is being compounded by rising house prices and rents, due to a lack of supply of affordable, decent housing. Moreover, 75% of buildings in Europe are deemed inefficient, which means that most of the people in the EU live in unfit housing.

“There is now a major opportunity to address the issues of housing, energy poverty and climate change simultaneously by repurposing and renovating vacant spaces, insulating the leakiest buildings and phasing out fossil fuels for renewable heating and cooling.

Commissioner Jørgensen and the European Commission need to put in motion a legislative and enabling framework that prioritises the provision of affordable, energy efficient homes for

all, for the sake of energy, social and climate justice.” - Mónica Vidal, Senior Campaigner at CAN Europe

“We can all agree that 47 million Europeans living in energy poverty is 47 million too many. The EU has a mandate to act and must end this scandalous situation. We look to Commissioner Jørgensen to build a plan and pick up the right tools to make it happen.” -

Laia Segura, Right to Energy and Climate Justice Campaigner at Friends of the Earth Europe

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Notes to the Editor

[Build Better Lives](#) is an initiative that seeks to unite social, housing, climate and youth movements together to promote the need for more energy efficient buildings that can benefit millions of people’s lives throughout Europe.

Better buildings create safer, healthier and more comfortable environments for work, play and life - thus building better lives. More energy efficient buildings reduce our energy consumption, which lowers our energy bills along with greenhouse gas emissions. But this all starts with an ambitious and forward-thinking policy.

More information on the Build Better Lives campaign can be found here:

<https://buildbetterlives.eu/>

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