

Construction 2050 Alliance: A Key Partner in Addressing Europe's Housing and Sustainability Challenges

Brussels, 31/10/2024

Dear President von der Leyen,

The Construction 2050 Alliance would like to express its support for the directions outlined in your political guidelines for the 2024-2029 European Commission mandate, and its appreciation for the attention the Commission has directed towards our sector. Your focus on tackling the housing crisis and advancing the twin transitions —green and digital— resonates deeply with the construction sector. We are equally encouraged by your appointment of Dan Jørgensen as Commissioner-designate for Energy and Housing, with a clear mission to boost housing supply, reduce construction costs, and advance affordable, sustainable, social and energy-efficient housing across the Union by exploring further the nexus between energy, housing and construction.

The construction sector is well-positioned to be a key partner in delivering on these priorities. As an industry that contributes significantly to Europe's economy, employing 18 million people and representing almost 10% of EU GDP thanks to its 5 million companies, 94% of them being SMEs and micro enterprises, we are committed to enabling the transformation that Europe needs to achieve its ambitious climate and housing targets.

We would like to emphasise three key areas in which our sector can play an essential role:

- 1. Competitiveness and Job Creation:** The mission of strengthening Europe's social fairness while promoting economic growth aligns with the values and the essence of the construction industry. By investing in upskilling our workforce and promoting vocational training, we can help address the labour shortages currently affecting the sector, particularly in areas like green and digital skills. This is vital for Europe to maintain its competitive edge in a fast-changing global market, and to allow the construction industry to keep on being a pillar of employment and innovation. We welcome the proposed European Strategy for Housing Construction and your determination to support housing supply. Our sector is determined to cooperate with your Commission to deliver on this objective.
- 2. Affordable and Energy-Efficient Housing:** Your call for a European Affordable Housing Plan and the integration of housing with energy policy are timely and crucial. The construction sector has the full potential and is ready to contribute by building affordable homes and retrofitting poorly performing buildings meet high energy-efficiency standards. This aligns perfectly with the goals of the European Green Deal and the need to lower household energy bills while reducing carbon emissions. As mentioned in the mission letter to Commissioner-designate Dan Jørgensen, we fully support the plan to work with the European Investment Bank to mobilise and improve access to public and private financing for affordable housing.
- 3. Sustainability and Innovation:** The construction sector is at the forefront of innovative solutions that not only enhance housing affordability and make infrastructure more resilient but also drive Europe's clean energy transition. Through sustainable construction practices, the use of

low-carbon solutions, and circular economy approaches, we are an enabling sector to help Europe meet its climate neutrality targets by 2050. Sustainable and energy efficient construction helps Europe to decarbonise its buildings. Furthermore, all segments of our sector have embarked in a decarbonisation pathway. We are eager to work alongside the European Commission to accelerate the uptake of green technologies and contribute to the Clean Industrial Deal that could support the decarbonisation of energy-intensive sectors by delivering quicker and easier access to decarbonised energies at a competitive price.

We believe that the construction sector's contribution to tackle the housing crisis will be instrumental in achieving a better quality of life for European citizens, while also fostering resilience in local communities and contributing to the EU's broader economic, social and environmental objectives.

The Construction 2050 Alliance stands ready and looks forward to collaborating closely with the European Commission and Commissioner-designate Jørgensen to achieve these shared goals. Together, we can build a more inclusive, sustainable, and prosperous Europe.

Yours sincerely,

Construction 2050 Alliance



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Disclaimer: This document represents the overall view of the Construction 2050 Alliance and not the position of each individual member.

The Construction 2050 Alliance is a partnership established in 2020 made of more than 50 European organizations representing the actors of the built environment working together to advance the needs and priorities of the wider construction and built-environment sector at the EU level.