



JEAN MARIE BEAUPUY - DEPUTE EUROPEEN
PRESIDENT DE L'INTERGROUPE URBAN LOGEMENT

For the attention of

- EU Member States Ministers in charge of cohesion policy
- EU Member States Ministers in charge of housing policy
- EU Member States Ministers in charge of Energy policy
- José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission

Obj. Eligibility of ERDF for energy efficiency and renewable operations in affordable housing

Brussels, April 2nd 2009

Dear Ms/Mr,

The adoption today by the European Parliament (EP) of the proposal of new article 7 of the ERDF regulation related to the energy efficiency and use of renewable energy in housing for low-income households is a step that Urban-Housing Intergroup of the EP strongly welcomes. This measure that we have been calling for many years now will not only be a great contribution to the economic recovery of the EU, but also to the improvement of our fellow citizens' environment and therefore their quality of life. On this issue, both the European Parliament and the Council have been working in close cooperation and have shown that the EU was able to deliver rapid answers to the citizen's needs, especially in time of crisis. We would like therefore to thank you for your commitment to find a rapid and good compromise on the European Commission proposal.

The Urban-Housing Intergroup is now committed to make sure that this new rule will be used and efficiently implemented. This will require a certain number of conditions such as the mobilization of institutional actors at all levels, the reinforcement of the capacities of local actors and better information towards citizens in order to show the European added-value. Since it will be up to the Member States and the Managing Authorities to make use of this opportunity, you will have a key role to play. Member States will indeed have to decide about the implementation rules for this new measure in a way that meet the objective of reducing the energy consumption in

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existing housing and thus contributing to the fight against climate breakdown, to the decrease of energy charges for the most vulnerable households, and to the support of the economy by developing green skills and rising up the demand for green technologies.

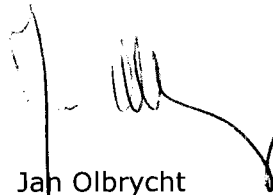
The Urban Housing Intergroup asks you to develop the necessary frame in the coming weeks for a swift and efficient implementation of this new opportunity. We believe that it cannot be done without an improved governance of the funds and reinforced partnership with intermediary and community-based organisations, as well as key local stakeholders such as housing providers for low income households or private sector.

You can count on the full support of our Intergroup to help you in this matter.

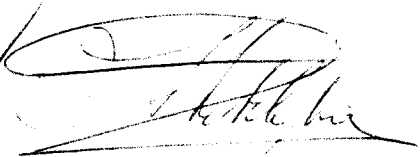
Yours sincerely,



Jean Marie BEAUPUY



Jan Olbrycht



Alain Hutchinson



Lambert Van Nistelrooij



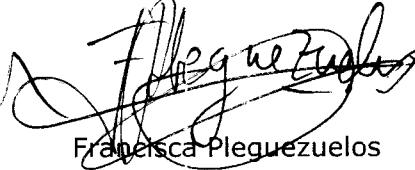
Gisela Kallenbach



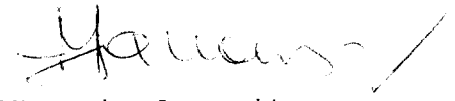
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