



CECODHAS Round Table
Thursday, 30 March 2006, from 14.30 to 17.00

**“The European Economy and Social Housing:
How the sector can support the fulfilment of the Lisbon agenda”**

**With the support of the Urban/housing intergroup of the European
Parliament**

Place: European Parliament, P7C050, entrance Altiero Spinelli building

Objectives of the round table:

Housing is not within the competence of Europe; nevertheless, European policies influence the political and economic framework in which they develop. In addition, housing policies can contribute to the success of the Lisbon agenda. As emphasised in the Kok report setting out a revised Lisbon strategy in 2005, the housing market has two main implications for the Lisbon agenda:

- Employment mobility is connected to the housing market and, according to the report, it is necessary to facilitate access to home ownership to increase the residential mobility of Europeans and thus their occupational mobility. In its 2004 integrated guidelines, the Commission proposed a specific guideline "to break down the barriers to regional mobility by appropriate measures in housing and transport policies" and gave some recommendations on this topic to several countries.
- The European financial market is not open enough and is a brake to growth, the mortgage market remains national and is responsible for a lot of the financial markets' inflexibility; an internal mortgage market would reduce the costs of access to home ownership and would encourage consumption.

In the national reform plans proposed by Member States to implement the "growth and employment" strategy, 13 countries have indicated the direction of their housing policies, proof that there are many connections with the economic objectives.

The round table must open the debate on these questions:

- Is employment mobility encouraged by increasing access to home ownership?
- Is it realistic to imagine a unified mortgage market?
- What are the implications of the maximum budget deficit rules for public sector housing policies and how should long-term investments be entered in the accounts?
- What are the impacts of housing policies on social cohesion and the fight against exclusion?

- How should the principle of subsidiarity be implemented when European economic recommendations strongly affect the direction social housing policies should take?

Draft agenda

Opening: Angelo Grasso, President of CECODHAS

Introduction : analysis of the national reform plans and the European economic context from the point of view of social housing policies by **Laurent Ghekière**, Representative of the Union sociale de l'habitat,

Moderated by Giuseppe Roma, General Secretary of CENSIS, an Italian economic research institute

Speakers at the round table:

- **Michel Delebarre**, President of the Committee of the Regions
- **Sophia in'T Veld**, MEP, ALDE
- **Pierre Jonckheer**, MEP, Green (tbc)
- **Roger Briesch**, Vice-President of the European Economic and Social Committee, Employees group
- **Jan Host Schmidt**, Director DG ECON, European Commission, in charge of Lisbon

Conclusions:

- **Angelo Grasso**, President of CECODHAS

Interpreting: EN, FR, IT, DE



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Venue: European Parliament, Brussels
Entrance Altiero Spinelli Building, Room: **P7C050**
Date: 30 March 2006, from 14.30 to 17.00

Registration form

Surname:	First Name:
Organisation:	Position:
E-mail:	Phone number:
Address:	Fax number:

Will participate to the CECODHAS round-table

☞ If you do not have a permanent pass to access the European Parliament, the following information is compulsory:

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To be returned to: by e-mail to sabine.spada@cecodhas.org or
by fax: 00 32 2 534 58 52 before March 21st