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30 June 2017

EUROPEAN HOUSE BUILDERS AND DEVELOPERS: EUROPEAN COMMISSION SHOULD RESIST CALLS TO MODIFY STATE AID RULES

BRUSSELS, 30 June 2017: The European Union of House Builders and Developers, UEPC, is calling on the European Commission to resist pressure to modify the current state aid rules, which are working well, in the light of its response to a recent European Parliament question on social housing.

As the EU is striving for a more competitive economy, UEPC considers that there is a need for a level playing field between public and private developers in the housing market.

Filiep Loosveldt, Managing Director of UEPC, commented that: *“In Europe, we have two types of social housing systems: closed systems where social housing can only be provided by a limited number of public or semi-public social companies, and open systems where private for-profit developers can also contribute to social housing. If the State aid rules were to change so that prior notification of state aid was no longer required, for example to help a wider group of persons, then this should only apply to open systems at national or regional level. Prior notification should be maintained in closed systems, so that the European Commission continues to guard against unfair competition in European housing markets.”*

“State aid must be equally available to all market actors involved, and this irrespective of their public, semi-public or private status” Mr Loosveldt concluded.

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Note to Editors:

The European Union of House Builders and Developers (UEPC) is the umbrella organisation for national federations of Developers and House Builders. UEPC is a European association representing more than 30,000 developers and house builders affiliated to the federations of 9 states. The main aim of UEPC is to support and defend the interests of developers and house builders in Europe. The UEPC works with its members to promote practical and commercially deliverable policy approaches to achieving a sustainable built environment, including issues of resource efficiency.

Commissioner Vestager set out the European Commission’s response to a Parliamentary Question from MEP Agnes Jongerius (S&D) (E-001712/2017) which is available here:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getAllAnswers.do?reference=E-2017-001712&language=FR>

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