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## EU Pillar of Social Rights Nantes Pledge

Eurocities Event at the European Parliament in Brussels on 21 February 2019

### Principle 19. Housing and assistance for the homeless

**Access to social housing or housing assistance of good quality shall be provided for those in need. / Vulnerable people have the right to appropriate assistance and protection against forced eviction / Adequate shelter and services shall be provided to the homeless in order to promote their social inclusion.**

In the Nantes urban area, the principle of living together cohesively is a reality and a constant goal: each inhabitant should be able to enjoy housing that meets their needs and should lay claim to a proper pathway to residency without being excluded from town centres and services. (Goals: To build 5,000 new housing units per year / To put forward a housing offering of which 25% is made up of social housing and 25% is made up of specially affordable housing units that can be bought / To meet specific requirements through diversification of the housing offering / To offer housing to the traveller community).

Nevertheless, for certain households, the capacity to obtain accommodation, or mobility in housing, is a limited prospect or a blocked pathway. Supporting these households in their path to obtaining housing and staying in it is a priority. Nantes Métropole would like to reaffirm its principle of including everyone in the city: the diversity of population groups, households and generations, and the variety of buildings and their purposes (housing, activities, facilities and so forth) are pillars of social cohesion.

Against a backdrop of demographic and economic dynamism, and increasing precarity among occupants due to the economic crisis, tension in the housing market makes it difficult for certain inhabitants to get a foothold in the supply of accommodation. In addition to this issue, there is the need to integrate migrants: arrivals from Eastern Europe, especially those who are unsettled, asylum seekers and climate refugees are all examples of migrants who make demands on the housing market but do not get the required responses, stimulating and severely straining the accommodation sector.

**Priority is given to housing first** . This is about improving conditions for obtaining accommodation and for staying in the stock of ordinary housing for the most fragile households or for meeting specific needs and streamlining the flow of households towards independent housing. The ordinary housing supply should satisfy most situations and make the procedure for leaving accommodation more fluid. Yet certain needs cannot be covered by independent housing units. These requirements should be met too. **The city of Nantes and the Nantes Métropole urban area have undertaken to improve conditions to make it quicker to apply the “Logement d’abord” policy for social housing: 2019-2025 goal of 300 places in conventional social housing, 100 places in transition centres, 50 places in hospitality residences and 150 places in the “Un chez soi d’abord” housing scheme for people with mental health problems.**



**The Igloo project is a concrete illustration of the fight against homelessness:** Igloo helps households in a highly precarious situation—who are homeless or living in inadequate housing—to take part in the construction of their home while enjoying measures to facilitate their social and professional integration. Such construction involves small-scale blocks (six housing units) that bring together families and people on their own. The collective project for social integration helps develop people's ability to take up a pathway of professional certification and helps apply the principle of living together cohesively to fight isolation. The first Igloo development benefited from European funds and the new operations have been introduced by the city with a budget of one million euros per programme.

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