



The European Federation of
Public, Cooperative and Social Housing

Versailles, 3 July 2014

City of Tomorrow 2014

Kurt Eliasson Opening Speech

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

It is a privilege to welcome all of you here today on behalf of CECODHAS Housing Europe to the Second Power House Nearly Zero Challenge Symposium *'The City of Tomorrow and the Role of Affordable and Social Housing providers'*

We are very happy and proud to be here as partners of Solar Decathlon Europe initiative that helps to pave the way for the housing sector in the future.

I would like to thank:

- The Solar Decathlon team lead by Jerome Matt for coordinating this impressive mobilisation of young architects which we can see evidence of all around us today;
- Our French Member L'Union Sociale pour l'Habita represented here on this panel by the President Jean Louis Dumond;

All of the speakers who have taken the time to share their expertise and experience with us today from around Europe,
With particular note of



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- Director-general for Housing and Building, Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations in the Netherlands Mr Mark Frequin
- The Minister responsible for housing from the Region of Brussels in Belgium, Christos Doulkeridis

! The Brussels minister responsible for Energy may also join but this is to be confirmed!

- Mr Morten Kabell - Environmental Mayor of Copenhagen, Denmark
- Mr Marcos Muro Nájera from the Basque Country, Spain
- I would like to thank also the CECODHAS Housing Europe Jury with a special thanks to Javier Serra Advisor at the Directorate for Architecture, Housing and Planning in the Ministry of Infrastructures of the Spanish Government, Spain – Javier played a key role also in establishing our link with the last edition of the Solar Decathlon Europe in Madrid in 2012.
- The Jury have been working hard to select the project to receive this year's award which will be presented this afternoon.

Our collaboration with the Solar Decathlon Europe 2014 is not coincidence. We've decided to team up with this prestigious and important international competition. We are eager to get more ideas



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on how to improve and expand our work and this is the place to see these ideas come to life.

Future-proofed housing will be central for true social resilience in our post carbon cities. The resilience of communities to adapt to and withstand institutional, environmental and economic changes. To achieve this, buildings need to be designed into the energy infrastructure with energy efficiency and energy production in mind.

Together with communities and cities we have to be there, present and active, ready to help to make that happen.

With our flagship European project, POWER HOUSE Europe being recognised as ground-breaking at EU level regarding the nearly Zero Energy Challenge and with our Copenhagen Offer from 2009 we have a solid ground to cultivate our re-placement as drivers of the energy transition. Of course, there is still a lot of work to be done and an even closer cooperation between us is required. The new tools we will have in place will make this work easier.

Our sector is defined by its social mission however we should make it clear that our sector is innovative and can be the leader of a fair and sustainable energy transition which bring all of our society along with it. This is the value of our presence in Versailles and our collaboration with the Solar Decathlon Europe this year.

I look forward to an inspirational session here today.

Kurt Eliasson

President of CECODHAS Housing Europe