

**Question for written answer
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Maria Ohisalo (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Fiscal guidance on interest-subsidised loans for affordable housing as part of the public debt

Eurostat recommended Finland in 2022 for interest-subsidized loans on housing construction to be included in the statistical calculation of the public debt. The Finnish Statistics Authority followed the recommendation, significantly increasing the debt ratio.

The intersection of affordable housing and public debt is crucial, as member states aim to address the investment gap and shortage of affordable and social housing without exceeding fiscal limits. High public debt often restricts the governments' ability to invest in affordable housing.

Eurostat's instructions regarding inclusion of subsidized loans in debt calculations are unclear and discourage investments. If all member states adopt Eurostat's recommendations like Finland, the debt ratios would be artificially inflated to unbearable levels, preventing public support for affordable housing. Member states have called on the Commission to examine the impact of subsidised loans on public debt.

- 1 When will the Commission publish its Guidance to Member States on designing financial and legal solutions to support social and affordable housing taking into account public debt considerations?
- 2 What measures will the Commission propose to ensure fiscal rules will not hinder, but encourage, public investment in social and affordable housing?
- 3 Will the Commission instruct Eurostat to clarify rules on subsidised loans for affordable housing in public debt calculations and provide guidance to enable such investments?