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New strategy for net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 - UEPC calls for a balanced and integrated approach

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BRUSSELS, 6 December 2018 – The European Union of House Builders and Developers (UEPC) has today responded to the publication of the EU's strategic vision to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve net-zero emissions in Europe by 2050.

UEPC acknowledges the need to have an ambitious plan for Europe to tackle the global warming challenge. *“The Commission has rightly set an objective of the decarbonisation of the Continent,”* said Filiep Loosveldt, UEPC Managing Director. *“There is significant potential to cure different city cancers and replace them with new green city lungs. We can help to achieve this objective. However, there is a need to strike the right balance between economical, societal and environmental aspects. While the objective is laudable, housing affordability should not be jeopardised.”*

With the start of the COP24 climate change conference in Katowice, UEPC invites all European leaders and institutions, as well as international partners, to consider these aspects when designing their action plans to implement the Paris Agreement. *“We are also committed to a clean planet for everyone and will happily cooperate with policy-makers in this endeavour. But the only way forward is an integrated and balanced approach”* said Filiep Loosveldt.

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Notes to Editors

The European Commission has adopted an ambitious long-term strategic vision to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve net-zero emissions in Europe by 2050. This strategy reflects the commitments made in the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate. It rightly identifies that ‘to achieve and sustain higher renovation rates ..., sufficient workforce with the right skills and affordability for all citizens are of central importance’.

About the European Union of House Builders and Developers (UEPC)

UEPC is the umbrella organisation for European Union Member State’s national federations of Developers and House Builders, representing more than 30,000 developers and house builders affiliated to the federations of 10 EEA States.

UEPC's main objective is to ensure affordable housing for all European citizens. UEPC works with its members to promote practical and commercially deliverable policy approaches to achieving a sustainable built environment, including issues of resource efficiency.

Its members include:

- Belgium: Union Professionnelle du Secteur Immobilier - Beroepsvereniging van de Vastgoedsector (UPSI-BVS);
- France: Fédération Promoteurs Immobiliers (FPI), Union Nationale des Aménageurs (UNAM);
- Germany: Bundesverband Freier Immobilien- und Wohnungsunternehmen (BFW);
- Ireland: Irish Home Builders Association (IHBA);
- Malta: Malta Developers Association (MDA);
- Norway: Boligprodusentenes Forening (NHBA);
- Poland: PolskiZwiazek Firm Deweloperkich (PZFD);
- Romania: PatronatulSocietatilor din Constructii (PSC);
- Spain: Developer and House Builders Association of Zaragoza (ACPZ);
- United Kingdom: Home Builders Federation (HBF), National House Building Council (NHBC).

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