

33. þing Landssambands ísl. verzlunarmanna

19.-20. október 2023

Housing

To live in secure housing is a human right, and the current housing emergency calls for strong government action. So today we review the actions that are considered the most urgent in this regard and see if anything has changed in this regard or if something is missing. Inaction is nothing more than a recipe for continued inflationary pressures and instability. On behalf of their members the unions can never accept that so for your consideration are the following ideas for discussion. What actions do we want the government to focus on?

1. State and local authorities step up and greatly increased the supply of building plots.
2. A third of new buildings over the next ten years, to be defined as affordable housing for ordinary workers, and built with direct support from the state and municipalities.
3. A minimum of 5% of new residential housing over the next ten years will be social housing.
4. The authorities establish and/or support low- and non-profit housing associations, i.e., with increased capital contributions.
5. Increased involvement of pension funds in the development of apartments, especially apartments for rent
6. Private savings fully defined by law and their use as payment towards purchasing of housing continues to be allowed on a permanent basis.
7. The public sector guarantees short-term housing for families and individuals who are in dire straits due to their situation, e.g., with imported housing units or other solutions.
8. Additional restrictions will be placed on the short-term rental of residential property to tourists.
9. A rent brake / rent ceiling will be put in place so that the rent does not increase beyond the cost increases due to housing. This would replace the current use of changes in the harmonized index of consumer prices as calculated and published by the National Statistics Office monthly.
10. Rent allowances must be increased in line with rising rental prices, as well as reductions due to income.
11. The government keeps its promises made in connection with the Lífskjarasamninga from 2019 to increase support for tenant's rights organizations.