

Press Release

Real estate industry has high expectations of “Brussels”/ZIA President Iris Schöberl: “The announced focus on reducing bureaucracy, financing and competitiveness is long overdue for Europe”

Brussels/Berlin, 12 November 2025 – The real estate industry has high expectations of the European Commission's “Work Programme”. “The announced focus on reducing bureaucracy, financing and competitiveness is long overdue for Europe,” said ZIA President Iris Schöberl, commenting on the plans of EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. The signals for a tangible simplification of regulatory requirements and reporting obligations, the strengthening of financing options and the promotion of a competitive single market are “crucial to ensure that Europe is not economically left behind in the face of developments in the US and other parts of the world in the next few years.”

The planned Omnibus proposals for simplifying existing laws are intended to reduce reporting requirements by 25 percent – in matters of sustainability as well as financing – and thus relieve the burden on companies. In addition, the increased use of digital processes should speed up approvals. “It is now crucial that the Commission's plans are not just lip service, but are implemented without delay,” Schöberl urges. “The economic downturn must be stopped, and that is only possible with less bureaucracy and better investment conditions.”

The establishment of the “Savings and Investment Union”, which aims to mobilise more capital for sustainable and innovative projects, is also extremely important from the perspective of the real estate industry. To this end, financing instruments are to be simplified, and investment hurdles lowered. In addition, strategic and innovative projects should be specifically supported in the new EU budget framework. “The real estate industry needs reliable financing structures and funding opportunities to push ahead

with urgently needed construction and modernisation projects, especially in residential construction,” explains Schöberl. The single market is also to be strengthened by reducing regulatory fragmentation. “Europe cannot afford to stifle investment through over-regulation and inconsistently implemented requirements,” said Schöberl. “The competitiveness of the business location is at stake.”

In its close dialogue with the European institutions, ZIA has long been calling for the consistent implementation of these measures to ensure the Union's competitiveness in the long term.

About ZIA

The German Property Federation (ZIA) is the umbrella organisation of the property industry. Through its more than 400 members, including more than 30 associations, it speaks for around 37,000 companies in the sector along the entire value chain that accounts for nearly 20 % of the German Gross Value Added. ZIA provides the property industry in all its diversity with a comprehensive and uniform representation of interests that reflects its importance for the national economy. As an association of companies and associations, it gives the entire property industry a voice at national and European level with a presence in Brussels, Vienna and Zurich - and in the Federation of German Industries (BDI). The president of the association is Iris Schöberl.

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