

TRIBUNAL

**Pruebas selectivas para el ingreso en el Cuerpo Superior de
Interventores y Auditores de la Administración
de la Seguridad Social
(Resolución de 22 de diciembre de 2025. - B.O.E. del 30-12-25)**

CUARTO EJERCICIO: IDIOMA INGLÉS

1. Read the press release and answer the following questions in English:

- a) Which groups are most affected by Europe's housing crisis?
- b) According to the Council's conclusions, what are the main factors contributing to housing shortages?
- c) In your opinion, what would be the most effective way of tackling Europe's housing crisis?

2. Translate into Spanish the following paragraph from the press release:

“The Council also highlights the relationship between housing policy and the environment. Housing policies are often designed to address environmental concerns, for example by ensuring that buildings comply with energy efficiency requirements, yet these requirements may contribute to higher construction costs.

On the other hand, affordable housing may benefit the environment and living costs in the long run: if more people can afford to live near their place of work, less pollution will be generated as a result of long daily commutes by car or public transport. The conclusions therefore call for environmental considerations to be incorporated in a holistic way into housing policies.”

Council highlights demographic dimension of Europe's housing crisis

The Council is calling on policymakers to take into account the **interplay between housing needs and demographic trends**, such as population ageing, shrinking household sizes and rural-to-urban migration.

In conclusions approved by EU employment and social affairs ministers today, the Council draws attention to the **multifaceted and intergenerational nature** of Europe's housing crisis and its impact on aspects such as cohesion, sustainability and competitiveness.

While acknowledging that housing is primarily a member-state competence, the Council also invites the Commission to continue supporting member states' efforts to improve access to suitable and affordable housing.



Housing needs across Europe are changing, shaped by ageing populations, smaller households, and urbanisation. This shift is creating a growing challenge for many Europeans, particularly young people, families, and essential workers. From the outset, Cyprus presidency set a clear political objective: to place housing firmly at the centre of the European social and political agenda. Because housing is ultimately about people. These conclusions set a shared direction for action, calling for stronger efforts to improve access to affordable and suitable housing for all and to ensure that housing systems better respond to demographic shifts and people's everyday realities.

Konstantinos Ioannou, Minister of Interior of the Republic of Cyprus

The conclusions recognise that **housing is a cross-cutting issue** relating to broader societal factors such as social inclusion, family formation, environmental sustainability and labour mobility.

Moreover, they demonstrate that **housing supply both shapes and is shaped by demographic trends**. For example, while high housing costs may prevent many people from starting a family, the resulting reduction in household size can also have an impact on the nature of housing demand.

Supporting the most affected

In its conclusions, the Council acknowledges that the housing crisis is having a **disproportionate effect on certain groups**, such as young people, older persons, persons with disabilities, families with children, low- and middle-income households and essential workers such as teachers and health sector staff.

The conclusions call on member-state governments to **take the needs of these groups into account** when designing and implementing housing policies, for example by promoting accessible housing and encouraging intergenerational co-living.

The Council also highlights the benefits of **integrating housing into broader policy areas** such as employment and rural development, including by strengthening opportunities for younger people in rural areas.

Tackling affordability issues

The Council's conclusions identify a number of **drivers of housing shortages**, many of which are related to affordability. They include the concentration of jobs and educational opportunities in densely populated urban areas, rising construction costs, property speculation and, in some places, the popularity of short-term rentals.

The Council calls for greater efforts to tackle these issues, such as by **encouraging public and private investment** and focusing resources on those regions that are experiencing the most persistent housing pressures. It advocates a fresh approach to housing construction that could include repurposing and reusing existing buildings while also cutting unnecessary red tape.

Mitigating the environmental impact

The Council also highlights the **relationship between housing policy and the environment**. Housing policies are often designed to address environmental concerns, for example by ensuring that buildings comply with energy efficiency requirements, yet these requirements may contribute to higher construction costs.

On the other hand, affordable housing may benefit the environment and living costs in the long run: if more people can afford to live near their place of work, less pollution will be generated as a result of long daily commutes by car or public transport. The conclusions therefore call for **environmental considerations to be incorporated in a holistic way** into housing policies.

Background

Europe's housing crisis has featured prominently on the EU's agenda over the last year. In October 2025, EU leaders discussed the pressing housing challenges facing many EU citizens, including access to affordable housing. This was followed on 16 December 2025 by the publication of the Commission's European Affordable Housing Plan, the first comprehensive strategy at EU level to support the efforts of the member states, regions and cities in addressing the housing crisis and its various impacts.

- [Housing: Shifting demographics and shaping policies \(Council conclusions\)](#)
- [The EU's housing crisis \(background information\)](#)

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