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Statement on the Government Bill on Section 40a of the Construction Act (request for statement: VN/17257/2023)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Section 40a of the Building Act. We are deeply concerned that this proposal will severely impact the supply of professionally rented furnished housing, which is crucial for our operations. Our business relies on having access to homely furnished apartments for employees on work assignments throughout Finland. Passing this bill would drastically reduce the availability of such apartments, forcing us to depend on sporadic Airbnb rentals.

We have a long-standing partnership with a professional housing operator, ensuring that the short-term housing solutions they provide are reliable, easily organized, and conducive to our assignments. These accommodations must be peaceful and comfortable to support our employees' well-being and productivity. The proposed bill jeopardizes this arrangement, leaving us uncertain about how we will secure adequate temporary housing for our staff in the future.

Beyond the direct impact on our business, this bill has broader social and economic implications. The reduction in available furnished housing will make Finland less appealing for international investment. Global businesses require reliable, flexible, and orderly temporary housing solutions, which Airbnb providers often cannot deliver.

Hotel accommodations do not present a viable alternative. Hotels lack the facilities for registration and receiving mail, and they make everyday activities like cooking and laundry challenging. Registration is essential for obtaining a Finnish phone connection, bank account, and access to schools, kindergartens, and healthcare services for employees' families.

Reinterpreting short-term rentals as accommodations has significant economic repercussions. It affects both regional and national economies by hindering labor mobility, which is already a limiting factor for economic growth. The proposed collapse in the supply of short-term rental housing will exacerbate this issue.

The reliable and flexible rental of furnished housing provided by professional businesses is indispensable to our operations. While it is important to address the problems associated with short-term rentals, an outright ban is not a sustainable solution. We urge reconsideration of this bill to avoid severe disruptions to our business and the broader economy.

Thank you for your consideration.



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Meron provides lift installation services across Europe including Finland.