



# Fire Information Exchange Platform (FIEP)

Update from DG GROW.C.1

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## Fire Safety: Who does what ?

Under the current provisions of the Treaty on European Union, the Union does not have the exclusive competence regarding the fire safety of buildings.

Important differences in the climatic and geographic conditions and also in building traditions exist among the Member States. For this reason fire safety of buildings is better regulated at Member States or local level.

**The Commission does not dispose up until today compelling proof that Member States cannot ensure the fire safety of their citizens.**



## Fire Safety: Who does what ?

The Commission, therefore (under the subsidiarity principle) does not intend to regulate more than what is necessary to achieve the internal market for construction products (Regulation EU 305/2011 on the marketing of construction products).

The fact that serious fire accidents in the EU (Bucharest disco, Grenfell tower) were caused by **non-compliance with existing fire regulations** points rather at the need to enforce existing Member States regulations than at the need for new regulations at EU level.



## NEW CHALLENGES

During the last years, technological developments and the need for more energy-performing buildings resulted in a large choice of new construction products offered in the market for buildings and their facades.

These modern ways of construction like, for example, the modern facades systems, and the need to extensively renovate older buildings have changed significantly our buildings.

**They may represent a challenge for the regulatory authorities of the Member States.**



## NEW CHALLENGES NEED CO-OPERATION

The European Commission considers that fire safety in buildings would be enhanced by stimulating the co-operation among Member States and the exchange of information between Member States and relevant stakeholders on best practices and lessons learned in the area of fire safety.

To achieve this the European Commission, has therefore created the **Fire Information Exchange Platform (FIEP)**. The creation of FIEP was also supported by the Estonian Presidency of the Council.



# 1<sup>st</sup> FIEP meeting

The 1<sup>st</sup> FIEP meeting took place in Brussels on 16 October 2017 with:

- more than 80 participants,
- 25 Member States,
- 25 European Associations representing:
  - *various product groups,*
  - *firefighters,*
  - *fire safety associations,*
  - *engineers,*
  - *test labs,*
  - *standardisers*



## 1<sup>st</sup> FIEP meeting

The meeting allowed participants to take stock:

- ✓ on already available recommendations for fire safety,
- ✓ on preliminary findings regarding the Grenfell fire,
- ✓ on current Commission studies to address emerging challenges (toxicity of smoke, facades fire assessment), and
- ✓ to map the areas on which FIEP considers necessary to focus the future cooperation.



# 1<sup>st</sup> FIEP meeting

Areas for future cooperation in FIEP are:

- common **terminology** and **fire statistics**,
- the application of **fire prevention** principles,
- dealing with **new products** (e.g. integrated photovoltaic panels) and **high-rise buildings**,
- the exchange of **experience** from fire accidents,
- the use of **a fire engineering approach** in building regulations.

Cross cutting priority is considered to be **domestic fire safety** because the vast majority of the fire victims occur in houses or apartments.



## Next steps

At the moment the Commission is examining:

- priorities and organisation of the work (secretariat, etc.)
- possible contribution from other Commission services
- creation of specific Project Teams to prepare proposals for the FIEP Plenary
- planning further FIEP Plenary meetings (2 per year).

**Thank You for Your attention!**