

The 7 layers of fire safety in buildings, what role for the EU?

Briefing Note

Breakfast Roundtable – 8th October 2019

ASP 0 G – 8:00 – 10:00

Event organised by the Modern Building Alliance and the European Fire Safety Alliance

Hosted by MEPs Pernille Weiss and Theresa Griffin

Introduction

Most fatalities from fire are caused by residential fires that are preventable. Over recent years, a number of European initiatives and actions have been put forward. According to the subsidiarity principle, fire safety is a national competence, but the European Union also has a role to play. In the [EU Fire Safety Guide](#), the Modern Building Alliance presents ideas around the 7 layers of fire safety in buildings: prevention, detection, early suppression, evacuation, compartmentation, structural safety and firefighting.

This event is organised as an exchange between MEPs, the European Commission and key stakeholders contributing to the very first [EU Fire Safety Week](#) organised by the European Fire Safety Alliance from the 18th to the 21st November 2019.

This briefing document summarises key information about recent activities by the European Commission and information about participants. Thank you for your participation!

Social media: #EU4FireSafety #EUFireSafetyWeek @ModernBuildEU @EuroFSA



**The 7 layers of fire safety in buildings,
what role for the EU?**

Breakfast roundtable for MEPs

Hosted by **MEP Pernille Weiss**, EPP
and **MEP Theresa Griffin**, S&D

INVITATION: Tuesday 8 October 2019
8h00-10h00, European Parliament - MEP Salons ASP 0 G



Key developments on fire safety in buildings by the European Commission

- Fire Information Exchange Platform - FIEP

In October 2017, the European Commission initiated the [EU Fire Information Exchange Platform \(FIEP\)](#) to facilitate the exchange of fire safety information and best practice among Member States. Under the leadership of DG GROW, the Fire Information Exchange Platform (FIEP) gathers Member States' representatives and stakeholders from civil society and industry.

The following areas have been identified by FIEP members for further cooperation:

- Common terminology and fire statistics
- The application of fire prevention principles
- The regulatory approach for new products, including high-rise buildings
- Exchange of experience from fire accidents
- Fire engineering approach in building regulations

The last plenary of the FIEP took place in February 2019 in Brussels.

- Pilot project on fire statistics and prevention

At the end of 2018, the European Parliament voted in favour of a [pilot project proposal](#) submitted by 24 MEPs and the ITRE Committee asking the European Commission to address the gap on fire statistics and support pan-European fire safety efforts, with a budget of 630 k€ over 2 years. This pilot project will complement and support the FIEP.

To this date, the call for tender to process to the data collection, analyse and reporting of fire safety statistics has not been launched yet.

At the end 2018, the European Fire Safety Alliance published its own report on "[Fatal residential fires in Europe](#)" analysing data for 9 European countries and delivering a preliminary assessment of risk profiles. This report can serve as a starting point for the pilot project.

- Assessment of the fire performance of façades

In the specific case of taller buildings, the performance of façades is a prime element of the building design and therefore, it must be tested as a system and not only as individual components. Some Member States have a national standard for fire performance of façades while others refer to standards from other countries or are not using any façade testing standards at all. An EU harmonised standard is essential in this matter as it will help provide a clear assessment and communication about façade system performance and would allow regulators to set application specific façade system performance requirements.

A study published by the European Commission in September 2018 presented two options for a European approach. After having consulted the Member States and selected one of the options, the Commission published in September 2019 a [call for tender](#) for the finalisation of the European approach to assess the fire performance of façades. The project is expected to run until the end of 2021.

- Smoke Toxicity Study

The European Commission investigated the potential relevance of regulating the toxicity of smoke produced by construction products in fire within a wide-ranging study published in January 2018. The conclusions of the study recognise that all smoke is toxic, regardless of its origin and exact composition (see 2nd conclusions of the study¹). The responses received do not agree that regulation of the toxicity of

¹ European Commission, Study to evaluate the need to regulate within the Framework of Regulation (EU) 305/2011 on the toxicity of smoke produced by construction products in fires, 2017, [available here](#)

smoke from construction products is required and are questioning the usefulness of singling out construction products. The study also highlights a significant remaining data gap on fire statistics. Since all smoke is toxic and its composition can hardly be controlled, the fire safety strategy in buildings is rather to avoid exposure to smoke. Smoke detection is one essential element of this strategy and the study also highlights that only some of the Member States require the presence of smoke detectors in residential buildings.

- Construction Product Regulation (CPR)

The Construction Products Regulation (CPR) lays down harmonised rules for the marketing of construction products in the EU. The Regulation provides a European framework to assess the performance of construction products on seven basic work requirements including fire safety in case of fire.

It ensures that reliable and harmonised information is available to professionals and consumers, and it allows national authorities to set criteria and requirements based on this framework.

Before they can be used in buildings in the EU, almost all construction products must first be tested and verified according to a harmonised European standard (hEN) or a European Assessment Document (EAD).

- Energy Performance of Building Directive (EPBD)

The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive has been revised in 2018. Besides the ambition to achieve a highly energy efficient and decarbonised building stock by 2050, the Directive also encourages Member States to use their long-term renovation strategy to address fire and seismic safety. In May 2019, the European Commission published recommendations on building renovations, that includes recommendations on fire safety².

- The safety gate rapid alert system for dangerous non-food products (RAPEX)

The [Safety Gate rapid alert system](#) enables quick exchange of information between EU/EEA Member States and the European Commission about dangerous non-food products posing a risk to health and safety of consumers. In 2018, a total of 2257 alerts were circulated in the system and 8% of the risks notified where a fire risk³. The most notified products (all risks together) are toys, motor vehicles, clothing and textiles, electrical appliances and equipment, and cosmetics.

- Other initiatives

EU research and education funding schemes are sometimes beneficial for fire safety projects, for example the [BFireSafe@School](#) project currently funded by the Erasmus+ programme.

The European Commission is also working on civil protection horizontal issues such as the [EU civil protection mechanism](#) and the [single European emergency number](#) (112).

² Commission recommendation on building renovation (EU) 2019/786, 8 May 2019 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reco/2019/786/oj>

³ Safety gate annual report 2018 : [RAPEX 2018 Report en.pdf](#)

Participants

Members of the European Parliament



Pernille Weiss
 Denmark - European People's Party
 @WeissPernille

- Member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)
- Member of the Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly
- Substitute of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)



Theresa Griffin
 United Kingdom - Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats
 @TheresaMEP

- Member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)
- Member of the Delegation for relations with the People's Republic of China
- Member of the Delegation to the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly



Franc Bogovič
 Slovenia - European People's Party
 @Franc_Bogovic

- Vice-Chair of the Delegation to the EU-Serbia Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee
- Member of the Committee on Regional Development (REGI)



Carlo Fidanza
 Italy - European Conservatives and Reformists Group
 @FidanzaCarlo

- Member of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO)
- Member of the Delegation to the EU-Serbia Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee



Seán Kelly
 Ireland - European People's Party
 @SeanKellyMEP

- Member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)
- Member of the Delegation for relations with the countries of Southeast Asia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)



Kateřina Konečná

Czechia - Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left

@Konecna_K

- Member of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO)
- Member of the Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN)
- Member of the Delegation to the EU-Armenia Parliamentary Partnership Committee, the EU-Azerbaijan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee and the EU-Georgia Parliamentary Association Committee
- Member of the Delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly
- Substitute of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)



Ádám KÓSA

Hungary - European People's Party

@adamkosamep

- Member of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)



Marian-Jean Marinescu

Romania - European People's Party

@MarianMarinescu

- Member of Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN)
- Member of the Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly Substitute
- Substitute of the Committee on Budgetary Control (BUDG)
- Substitute of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)



Mairead McGuinness

Ireland - European People's Party

@MaireadMcGMEP

- Vice-President of the European Parliament
- Member of the Parliament's Bureau (BURO)
- Member of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI)
- Member of the Delegation for Northern cooperation and for relations with Switzerland and Norway and to the EU-Iceland Joint Parliamentary Committee and the European Economic Area (EEA) Joint Parliamentary Committee
- Substitute of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)



Juozas Olekas

Lithuania - Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats

@juozas_olekas

- Member of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI)
- Member of the delegation for relations with the Pan-African Parliament
- Member of the Delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly



Marion-Erika Walsmann
Germany - European People's Party
@MarionWalsmann

- Vice-Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI)
- Vice-Chair of the Delegation to the EU-North Macedonia Joint Parliamentary Committee
- Member of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO)



Carlos Zorrinho
Portugal - Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats
@czorrinho

- Chair of the Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly
- Member of Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)

European Commission Representative



Fulvia Raffaelli
DG GROW, Head of Unit C1
European Commission
@FulviaRaffaelli @EU_Growth

Fulvia Raffaelli is the Head of Unit 'Clean Products and Technologies' in DG GROW. She joined the Commission in 2002 and was responsible for Waste management and Recycling related issues in the former DG Enterprise.

From March 2005, she worked on REACH, first as Policy Advisor on the legislative process, then as responsible for the implementation of the Authorisation and Restriction processes and for the first REACH review. In 2012, she joined the Strategic Policy Unit in charge of Relations with the Council and implementation of COSME (SMEs supporting programme). Since 2015, Mrs Raffaelli has been leading the Commission's unit in charge of the implementation of the Construction Products Regulation, the Construction 2020 strategy and the Ecodesign Directive. The competitiveness aspects of the circular economy, energy efficiency and climate related policies are also part of her portfolio.

Born in 1969 in Italy, she has studied in Italy, Belgium and France and has graduated in Contemporary History, European Political Affairs and Political Science.



Heikki Väänänen
 DG GROW, Policy Officer
 European Commission

Heikki Väänänen works as a policy officer in Unit “Clean products and Technologies” in DG GROW. He joined the Commission in 2004 in Audit and evaluation unit of DG for Consumer Protection and Public Health. In 2008 he moved to DG Joint Research Centre (JRC) as the corporate Quality Manager. Since 2012 he was coordinating and developing the planning and execution processes related to JRC Work Programme.

Heikki has master’s degrees in Civil Engineering (Helsinki University of technology), and in Economics and Business Administration (Helsinki School of Economics and Business Administration).

Fire Safety Stakeholders



Quentin de Hults
 Executive Chair
 Modern Building Alliance
 @QuentindeHults @ModernBuildEU

Established in 2018, the Modern Building Alliance is an alliance of trade associations and companies representing the plastics industry in the construction sector. It aims to support the EU in ensuring safe and sustainable construction.

Mr de Hults is engaged in the European Fire Information Exchange Platform and the European Fire Safety Alliance. He has more than 10 years of experience in energy efficiency and sustainability of buildings with the whole value chain, and 5 years of experience in related EU standards and policies as expert and public affairs professional for BASF.

He holds a master degree in mechanical engineering from the Louvain School of Engineering in Belgium.



Elie Van Strien
 Chairman
 European Fire Safety Alliance (EuroFSA)
 @elievanstrien @EuroFSA

Elie van Strien was a fire chief in Eindhoven, Rotterdam and Amsterdam.

He was the Advisor of the Minister of Interior for fire and disaster management from 2000 until 2005.

He was member of the international Federation of the European Fire Officer Associations (FEU) for many years.

Elie is now Chairman of the European Fire Safety Alliance since January 2019. He is committed to putting fire safety high on the agenda of decision makers to improve fire safety for the benefit of European citizens.



Chris Addiers

President

Federation of the European Fire Officer Associations (FEU)

@Cc112Be @FEUorg

Colonel Chris Addiers is President of the FEU since October 2014. He was re-elected in November 2017 for another 3-year mandate. FEU connects the fire service leadership in 24 European countries which will soon extend to 26.

Mr Addiers holds a Master in Civil Engineering from the Louvain University and has been the Chief Fire Officer of the Antwerp City and Port Fire and Rescue Service from May 2002 until he retired in 2016. From 1999 to 2001 he was appointed as Liaison Officer for the Belgian Fire Services in the cabinet of the Minister of Home Affairs.

He taught various topics on safety related issues such as fire protection, Hazmat, fire tactics and crisis management in the Belgian fire academies and at Antwerp University. From 2004 he participated in the Federal Steering Committee which finally lead to the organisational reform of the Civil Safety in Belgium on January 1st 2015.



Krzysztof Biskup

Vice Chair

European Fire Safety Alliance (EuroFSA)

@EuroFSA

He has served as a career firefighter for the State Fire Service in Poland for 30 years. As a former Deputy Commandant of the Main School of Fire Service in Warsaw and the Director of the Training Department in the National Headquarters of the State Fire Service he has a long term experience in the training of emergency services. Throughout his career, he also dealt with fire safety research and products certification, holding the position of the Deputy Director of the Research Institute for Fire Protection. Krzysztof was an initiator and the coordinator of the systemic solutions in the field of community fire safety in Poland.



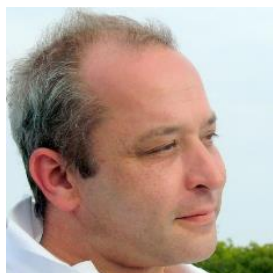
Alan Brinson

Executive Director

European Fire Sprinkler Network (EFSN)

@AlanBrinson2 @Eurosprinkler

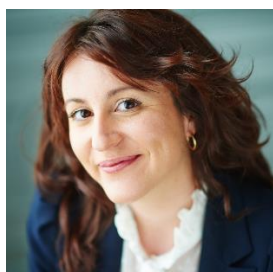
On graduating from Cambridge University he joined Shell as a Research Process Engineer, moving to Proctor & Gamble before joining Tyco in 1992. With Tyco he held a series of European fire protection business and product management roles, culminating in responsibility for the European sprinkler components business. In 2003 Alan left Tyco and set up the EFSN. For the past 16 years he has led and participated in successful sprinkler campaigns in many European countries, working with EFSN members, fire chiefs and officials to ensure that new buildings are fitted with sprinklers. Alan is an active participant in research to establish the safety, economic and environmental benefits of sprinklers to society. He is also a member of fire safety standards and regulatory committees for BSI, CEN and NFPA. He is a chartered chemical engineer.



Benoît Dôme

Forum for European Electrical Domestic Safety (FEEDS)
 @Benoit_FISUEL

Benoît Dôme graduated in building engineering in 1985; this was complemented with a diploma in economics, trade and financial sciences. Initially he worked as a technical sales representative for the copper industry, and subsequently for the Benelux non-ferrous metal centre. As Director of Copper Benelux for over 20 years, he was responsible for the promotion and development for all the copper applications in the Benelux. Benoît has global experience, having managed the Africa Building Wire program for ECI since 2000. He currently focuses his work on the International Federation for the Safety of Electricity Users since 2002.



Isabel de Castro

Executive Director
 Flame Retardants Europe

Isabel became Executive Director of Flame Retardants Europe in 2017, when she was given the assignment of setting up this newly created association. Together with her team, she currently manages the secretariat of the association. Isabel is also Director at Interel, a Brussels based public affairs consultancy. Besides Flame Retardants Europe, she works with major companies and trade associations in the consumer goods and chemical sectors. She is specialised in sustainability, namely in circular economy and chemicals, and she has a passion for the role of science in policy making. Prior to joining Interel in 2013, she worked in Brussels at the European Commission (Secretariat General), Daimler AG and the Valencian Regional Office. Before moving to Brussels, she gathered experience as a political advisor at the Valencian Ministry of Social Affairs and as a journalist in a press agency. Isabel holds a degree in Political Sciences, a degree in Communication and a Master's in European Interdisciplinary Studies from the College of Europe.



Perrine Ethuin

Public Affairs and Communications Manager
 Modern Building Alliance
 @PerrineEth @ModernBuildEU

Perrine joined the Modern Building Alliance in April 2019. Prior to this, she worked from different perspectives in the field of energy renovation of buildings. She first campaigned for Renovate Europe, then worked on the implementation of energy renovation strategies at Brussels Environment – the Regional Public Administration in charge of the environment. She moved to Energy Cities where she managed different European projects related to financing schemes related to energy retrofitting and enhance replications of Brussels' models all around the EU. Perrine holds a MA in Public Relations specialised in EU affairs.



Finian Joyce

Chief Fire Officer
 Leitrim County Council (Ireland)
 @JoyceFinian @BFireSafeSchool

Finian Joyce is Chief Fire Officer at Leitrim County Council (Republic of Ireland) and Secretary of European Union of Fire Officer Associations. He is the project coordinator of 'BFireSafe@School', an Erasmus+ funded programme for fire safety education in secondary schools. He has previous experience in other European projects on fire safety.



Alberto Lampasona

Public Affairs Manager
 Europacable
 @europacable

Mr Lampasona is Public Affairs Manager at the European Association of wire and cable manufacturers in Brussels. He is also Chairman of the Task Force Infrastructure within Orgalim, Europe's Technology Industry Association. Prior to joining Europacable in February 2018, Alberto worked as a Consultant with a number of Brussels based public affairs firms, advising clients on energy and industrial policy issues. He also worked for the European Commission, former DG Enterprise, and the Italian Government as a member of the delegation managing the Italian Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2014.

Alberto has a MA in European Affairs from the College of Europe, Bruges Campus.



Shane Lyons

Commercial Director
 Ei Electronics
 @shanejlyons

Shane Lyons is Business Development Manager with Ei Electronics, the Irish manufacturer of residential fire and gas alarms. Shane works across France, Spain, Portugal and Italy.

He is President of GIFSID, the French Residential Fire and Gas Installers and Manufacturers grouping and a committee member of OPRIM, the French CO awareness organisation and CoGDEM Europe, the European branch of the Council of Gas Detection and Environmental Monitoring, as well as being a vocal participant in standards committees, Electrical Safety meetings and Carbon Monoxide awareness groups.



Rozenn Maréchal

Secretary
MSSI-Electrical
@RozennM

Rozenn Maréchal is the Secretary of MSSI-Electrical, an initiative of CECAPI (European coordinating committee representing the Associations of Manufacturers of Electrical Installation Equipment). MSSI Electrical's objective is to help eliminate unsafe and non-compliant electrical products in Europe to help protect people, goods and property, created in 2012 with the support of major industrial players and serviced by the Orgalim Partnership. Rozenn joined Orgalim in 2011, where she is currently covering the EU electrical legislation and dealing with the EU R&D and Innovation, economics and statistics matters. Prior to this Rozenn was Head of marketing and strategic planning at the European Vending Association. She also worked at the European Commission external relations DG, and in two IT companies. Rozenn is a Member of the Euramet Research Council and a Member of the Board of Kedge Business School alumni association. Rozenn obtained her Master in International Management from Kedge (French Business School) in 1998 and went on to complete a Master in European Affairs from Louvain-La-Neuve University (Belgium) in 2004 while working. Rozenn also holds certificates from different MOOCs. French national from Brittany, leaving in Belgium for already 20 years.



Margaret McNamee

Fire Safety Engineer
International Association for Fire Safety Science (IAFSS)
@MargaretSMcName @IAFSS

Margaret McNamee is Professor in Fire Safety Engineering at Lunds University in Sweden. Prior to becoming Professor, Margaret held a variety of positions at RISE, the Swedish National Research Institute (previously SP), since starting there as Researcher in 1995. She has technical expertise in characterising the environmental impact of fires and has worked in the field of fire and combustion research for more than 20 years. She has more than 70 international publications, has co-authored some 30 Technical Reports and 5 book chapters.



Guido Sabatini

Technical Manager Building Market Group and Standards
European Aluminium
@guido_saba @EU_Aluminium

Guido Sabatini works as Technical Manager at European Aluminium where he oversees the standardisation activities of the Building Market Group. He previously dealt with standardisation issues linked to the implementation of the Construction Products Regulation at DG GROW and at the European Builders Confederation. He studied Environmental Engineering at both the University of Florence (Italy) and Lund University (Sweden).