



19 NOVEMBER 2019

**BUILDING  
FIRE SAFETY**

# FIRE SAFETY OF BUILDINGS: HOLISTIC REGULATORY APPROACH CONFERENCE

## BIOGRAPHIES

### Moderator



#### **Karin Helmstaedt**

**Moderator**

**@khelmst**

Karin Helmstaedt is a Canadian-born journalist, moderator, and TV host based in Berlin, Germany. She studied in Toronto, Montreal and Paris, and alongside her studies had an impressive career as a member of Canada's National Swim Team, participating in World Championships, Commonwealth and Pan American Games. It was from the international sporting arena that she embarked on her journalistic career, covering major sporting events, reporting extensively on doping, and eventually moving into broadcasting. Since 1999 she's been one of the most constant faces on Germany's global TV broadcaster Deutsche Welle, hosting news and cultural magazines as well as special events. Fluent in English, French and German, Karin is also a sought-after moderator and facilitator for conferences and events around Europe, with experience in a broad range of sectors including communications, food and agriculture, chemicals, and rail transport.

### Speakers



#### **Gonçalo Ascensão**

**Project Manager**

**CEN CENELEC**

**@goncas07**

Graduated in Environmental Engineering in Coimbra in 2007, Mr Ascensão joined Reciascensão – Reciclagem de Sucatas, Lda in 2004 as Environmental Manager until 2008. From 2008, he has been working in European organisations such as the European Chemical Regions Network and European Water Partnership.

Mr Ascensão joined the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre (CCMC) in April 2011 and has since then worked as Project Manager responsible for the coordination and management of European Standardization in the construction sector. He is in charge of about 80 CEN and CENELEC Technical Committees, including the European Standardization on horizontal matters such 'Sustainability of Construction Works', 'Assessment of release of dangerous substances' and Fire Safety in Buildings.

Gonçalo has an extensive amount of experience in European Standardization and in European Legislation with focus on the Construction Products Regulation and the development of harmonized standards under the CPR.

Furthermore, since 2018 he is the Customer Service Specialist – Manufacturing, leading a team of Project Managers supporting the standardization activities in the areas of Construction, Mechanical Engineering, Chemicals, and Mining and Metals.



### 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 Procter & 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.



### Antonio Caballero González

**General Secretary**

**European Mortar Industry Organization**

Antonio holds a degree in Civil Engineering from the Aachen University in Germany. He worked between 2002-2007 for the Bundersverband Kalksandsteinindustrie respectively as Head of the Standardisation Department, Head of Products & System Development Department and Deputy Head of the Qualitätsgemeinschaft Mauerwerksprodukte. Since July 2007 he is Secretary General of The European Calcium Silicate Producers Association and has also been appointed as Secretary General of the European Mortar Industry Organisation since January 2004.

Antonio is also an active Member of the Executive Board of Construction Products Europe (CPE).



### Emmanuelle Causse

**Director**

**International Union of Property Owners (UIPI)**

**@Causse\_EU**

Emmanuelle Causse is the Director of the International Union of Property Owners (UIPI), a pan-European not-for-profit umbrella association bringing together 29 national property owners' organisations in 28 countries across Europe.

As representative toward EU institutions, Emmanuelle's task is to ensure that European landlords and homeowners' interests are given weight in the development of EU policies. Throughout her years at UIPI, Emmanuelle gained a strong expertise in housing, financial and built environment related matters. She is the voice of final investors and end users in numerous EU expert groups on these issues. Emmanuelle is also part of the Board of Trustees of the International Property Measurement Standards coalition and co-chair of the European Housing Forum.



### **René de Feijter**

**Project Leader Fire Investigation**

**Efectis Nederland**

**@renedefejter**

René De Feijter started his career in 1989 as a volunteer fire fighter at the Vlissingen Fire Department and was a professional fire fighter and fire prevention officer from 1992 – 2007.

He represented the Dutch Fire departments in the standardization committee for fire safety in buildings and worked on fire safety in large scale projects like the railway tunnels for the Highspeed line and Betuweroute.

As an International Certified Fire Investigator, he investigates fires to determine the cause, the fire development, the impact on constructions and materials and the response of Emergency response teams and Fire departments to the fire. He is hired as a Court expert in civil and criminal cases and as an expert for the Police and Dutch Safety Board. He also was involved in the investigation of several major fires like the TU-Delft, Chemie Pack Moerdijk and Psychiatric Hospital Rivierduinen Oegstgeest and fires in Qatar, Germany, Belgium and Curaçao. He is also a guest lecturer at the Amsterdam University of applied science and the Delft University.



### **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.



### **Talal Fateh**

**Efectis UK and Ireland**

**General Manager**

Dr. Talal Fateh has been working in fire sciences since 2008. He received his MSc in 2007 and PhD in Combustion Engineering in 2011 from the Department of Combustion of the University of Poitiers.

He is currently working at Efectis, as General Manager of the company. Efectis is one of the most important fire testing and fire safety engineering companies in Europe with approx. 250 people.

Talal is a fire expert involved in various missions, including laboratory development, teaching, standardization and regulation, fire toxicity and modelling fire behaviour of materials. In the field of fire safety, he is the author of several scientific publications.



### Merlyn Forrer

**Fire Fighter and Design Fire Consultant**

**@merl\_forrer**

Mr Forrer joined Design Fire Consultants in May 2019 after serving as an operational Station Manager with Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service (GMFRS) with 19 years' service. Between 2012 and 2017, Merlyn moved into fire safety responsible for Manchester borough, providing fire safety and enforcing the *Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005* for one of the largest and most complex metropolitan boroughs in the UK. Between 2017 and 2019, Merlyn has been working for the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) on the response, updating guidance and national codes following the Grenfell fire tragedy.

He graduated from the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) with a Master's degree in Fire Engineering (distinction), is a member of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers and is a Fellow of the Institution of Fire Engineers, FIFireE. His research for both his Bachelors and Masters dissertations focussed on the fire performance of externally thermally insulated cladding systems and the use of organic polymer foams which he continues to research.

Through his project work, involvement on committees, interaction with peers, regulators and building control authorities, Merlyn has detailed knowledge and experience of fire safety engineering, legislation and guidance document interpretation, application and enforcement. This includes fire spread on the external walls of buildings with a detailed understanding of the intent of regulations and guidance.

Merlyn is regular speaker at conferences and seminars on fire safety and regulations. Merlyn has also authored papers on external fire spread, development of regulations and Firefighter safety.



### Theresa Griffin

**S & D Party**

**Member of the European Parliament**

**@TheresaMEP**

Theresa Griffin joined the European Parliament in May 2014, representing the North-West England as top candidate.

Theresa is a full member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and is Chair of the European Parliamentary Labour Party. She is currently the President of EUFORES and has been tackling energy poverty and campaigning for a 'just transition' to a carbon neutral Energy Union since joining the Parliament. Mrs Griffin has since gone on to win the Energy MEP of the Year in 2017, testament to her dedication in this field.

From fuel poverty, regional funding, health research and the promotion of the digital single market, her commitment to equality is shown throughout her work in the European Parliament. She is also actively involved in the Parliament's Intergroups on LGBTI, Trade Unions and Children's Rights, to name a few.

Born to Irish immigrant parents, she grew up in Coventry and has a First-Class BA Honours and a Master's Degree from Lancaster University.



### René Hagen

**Professor fire prevention and Fire safety  
Dutch Fire Service Academy (IFV)**

René R. Hagen (1959), after studying civil engineering, graduated as a fire-officer at the National Fire Service Academy. Besides many courses in the field of fire fighting and fire prevention, he studied Dutch law at the Open University and went on to receive a Master of Public Administration at the Netherlands School for Public Administration. He is currently Professor of Fire Safety at the Fire Service Academy of the Institute for Safety. He is also Chair of the advisory board of the National Fire Prevention Week Association and member of the advisory board of the Minister of Internal Affairs, regarding the use of fire safety regulations in practise.

He spent 30 years in the fire service in The Hague and Amsterdam. In 2000, he joined the Institute for Safety, where he filled various positions until his appointment as Professor of Fire Safety. He worked on the studies relating to the fireworks disaster in the Dutch town of Enschede, the pub fire in Volendam and the fire in the detention centre at Schiphol-Oost.

He has also participated in many working parties and committees in the field of fire prevention, enforcement and building regulations. He lectures and develops curricula in these disciplines and gives lectures in this field at home and abroad. He regularly publishes books and articles on his specialisation, fire prevention. He initiated the introduction of outcome control with fire safety, the application of home sprinkler systems and the production of incombustible TV sets in Europe.



### Adam Heath

**Product Fire Performance Engineer  
Kingspan Insulation**

Adam Heath has been working in the construction sector for last 7 years as part of Kingspan Insulation's technical department. His current role is centred around standardisation, product testing and certification, with a focus on fire performance for the Kingspan product range. This testing can range from small scale tests for CE marking purposes to large scale fire tests for end use applications.

In addition to product testing, Adam also works closely with the marketing and business development teams at Kingspan, to help demonstrate the suitability of their products for their intended applications.



### Colin Hird

**Head of Fire Structure & Environment, Building Standards Division  
Scottish Government  
@ScotGovBldgStds**

Colin joined the Scottish Government in 2001. In his role as Head of the Fire, Structure and Environment within the Building Standards Division, Colin led technical reviews on structural fire precautions, escape, Fire and Rescue Service facilities, automatic fire suppression systems and structural Eurocodes. Colin represents the Government on various technical committees and steering groups and advises Scottish Ministers on all aspects of design and construction relating to fire, structure and environment. He is currently assisting the Scottish Government in their response to the Grenfell Tower.





### Seán Kelly

**Ireland - European People's Party**  
**Member of the European Parliament**  
**@SeanKellyMEP**

Seán Kelly has been a member of the European Parliament for Ireland South since 2009. He is the current leader of Fine Gael in the European Parliament, and part of the European People's Party (EPP) Group.

Seán sits on the European Parliament's Committees on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), International Trade (INTA) and Human Rights (DROI).

In 2015, Seán led discussions in the ITRE committee as a rapporteur ahead of the Paris Climate Agreement and as a result represented the European Parliament at the upcoming COP21 in December 2015 at which the historic global agreement was reached. He would also go on to represent Parliament at subsequent UNFCCC Climate Conferences in Marrakech (2016) and Katowice (2018).

In 2017, Seán was appointed EPP lead negotiator for the post-2020 Renewable Energy Directive (REDII), and also for the ITRE Committee Opinion on the Effort Sharing Regulation. Both files are crucial elements of the EU 2030 climate and energy framework. Work on the REDII continued in 2018 as Parliament secured the ambitious target of 32% for Renewable Energy by 2030, following intense negotiations with Council.

2018 also saw Seán lead Parliamentary discussions on the new InvestEU Programme, the EU's new €650 billion investment plan that will operate from 2021-2027; negotiations with Council are underway and the programme is expected to open up significant new investment opportunities for Irish businesses.



### 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.



### Oscar Nieto

**Technical Director**  
**Construction Products Europe**  
**@o3car**

Mr Nieto holds a 5-year engineering degree from the Valladolid University in Spain specialized in structures and materials. He joined Construction Products Europe in August 2012 and he is now Technical Director. Mr Nieto has experience of being an expert, a member of secretariats and president of certification and standardisation committees. He has also worked in the development of sustainability and concrete standards by providing his technical knowledge in manufacturing processes and testing. Oscar's responsibilities include following the implementation of the CPR on behalf of the industry and to guarantee a scientific and consistent technical approach. His recognised expertise regarding LCA, EPD and sustainability assessments also allows him to evaluate the risks and opportunities that arise from European initiatives in relation to these issues. Recently he was involved in the development of tools to facilitate digitalisation of construction products information to be used in BIM.



### Eugenio Quintieri

**Secretary General**

**European Builders Confederation - EBC**

**@eugenio\_in\_bxl**

Eugenio Quintieri is the Secretary General of the European Builders Confederation since June 2017, previously working at the European Sea Ports Organization (ESPO) as a Senior Policy Advisor. In addition to managing EBC secretariat, Eugenio represents EBC in the European Social dialogue committee, supervises several legislative fields, including the digitalization of the construction sector, and acts as EBC main spokesperson. Representing EBC in SMEunited, Eugenio is also a board member of Small Business Standards, the organisation representing SMEs in the European and international standardisation processes. With a Master degree in European Interdisciplinary studies from the College of Europe, Eugenio speaks Italian, English, French and Spanish.



### 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.



### Guillermo Rein

**Professor**

**Imperial College London**

**@GuillermoRein**

Guillermo is Professor of Fire Science at the Department of Mechanical Engineering of Imperial College London and Editor-in-Chief of the journal Fire Technology. The purpose of his work is to reduce the worldwide burden of accidental fires and protect people, their property, and the environment.

## Robert Reinermann

**CEO**

**VdS**



Dr. Robert Reinermann is CEO of VdS and has held this position for 10 years. VdS is a fully-owned subsidiary of the German Insurance Association (GDV) and is one of the leading independent testing and certification institutions in the security and safety market. A vitally important business sector for VdS is IT security and safety, and Dr. Reinermann has played a leading role in the development of the Cyber Security Standard VdS-3473. VdS now offers a practicable and comprehensive level of protection for the first time for medium-sized companies with the award-winning Cyber Security Standard VdS-3473, and offers the insurance industry innovative solutions for evaluating IT risks. Dr. Reinermann has a doctorate in Psychology, holds an MBA & Engineering degree (with a focus on management and mechanical engineering) and is a certified systems security professional (CISSP).

## Christophe Richon

**Chair of the CPR Working Group**

**Europacable**

**@ChrisRichon**



A professional of international strategy and marketing with 29 years of experience, Christophe Richon has strong expertise in B to B, with a major focus in the electrical industries. He worked for major players such as Legrand, Philips, Zumtobel, General Electric and Osram, in market, product and training management roles. In 2012, he created Lux Fit, a consultancy supporting businesses and organisations worldwide in their strategy, marketing, and training activities. Since 2018, Christophe leads marketing and innovation at Nexans's Building and Territories division, focusing on differentiation and premium positioning. In Europacable, Christophe chairs the Working Group on CPR, which joins Europe's leading cable manufacturers in their effort to increase fire safety.

Christophe graduated from ESCP Europe, the Paris Management School, and holds an MBA from the University of Ottawa.

## Lance Rütimann

**Director Industry Affairs**

**Siemens Switzerland**

**@lruetimann**



Lance works for the international headquarters of Siemens Smart Infrastructure. He has been part of this industry since over 30 years, during which he held numerous management and leadership positions. His broad experience spans across the business areas of solutions and services.

Lance focuses on the long-term development of the Fire/Life Safety industry including relevant digitisation topics. In his association and committee roles as director, board member, chairman or delegate, Lance advocates for safe, secure and sustainable societies confronted with an increasing legislative and regulatory challenges. Presently, Lance is Vice-President of Euralarm and Chairman of the association's Fire Section. He also sits on the EUSAS Executive Committee and is an active member in other fire safety related organisations such as NFPA and SFPE. Lance's educational background is Electronics Engineering, Marketing, General Management and Philosophy + Management.





### 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).



### Colin Todd

**Managing Director**

**C.S. Todd & Associates Ltd.**

Colin is regularly retained as an expert witness in enforcement and prosecution cases associated with fire, either by the enforcing authority or Defendants. He was an expert witness for the Crown in the Fatal Accident Inquiry into the Rosepark fire. He is currently appointed as an expert witness for the Public Inquiry into the Grenfell Tower fire. He was also a member of the Building Standards (Fire Safety) Review Panel which advised Scottish Ministers on changes to the Building Regulations in Scotland in response to the Grenfell Tower fire. Colin serves on a number of British Standard Committees, is a Board member of the Fire Industry Association (FIA), Chairman of the FIA Fire Risk Assessment Council and the author of a number of British Standards Institution (BSI) publications, including PAS 79, the BSI guidance on fire risk assessment.



### 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 has been 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).



### **Elie van Strien**

**Chairman**

**European Fire Safety Alliance (EuroFSA)**

**@elievanstrien @EuroFSA**

Elie van Strien, former fire chief in Eindhoven, Rotterdam and Amsterdam became the Advisor of the Minister of Interior for fire and disaster management from 2000 to 2005.

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

Elie is currently 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.



### **Eric Winnepenninckx**

**BBRI Coordinator Standardization and Certification**

**European Construction Industry Federation**

**@EWinnepenninckx**

Eric Winnepenninckx has been employed by the Belgian Building Research Institute for more than 20 years. He is the BBRI's Coordinator Standardization and Certification, responsible for organizing approx. 25 NBN national standardization commissions, mirroring the activities of a large number of CEN and ISO technical commissions.

Being the CEN/TC128 Chairman and CEN/TC277 Secretary and member of the Belgian Technical Committee Construction, mirroring the EC Standing Committee on Construction and involved in technical assessment and certification activities, he acts as Rapporteur in FIEC's Technical Commission 1 "Standardization and Quality Assurance", informing its members about developments in the framework of Regulation (EU) N° 305/2011 and in standardization in general.