



# EUFSW21 SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Energy Transition – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021

Session II: Fire safety competency to support the Renovation Wave



## **Dr. Adamantia Athanasopoulou**

Scientific Project Officer | European Commission, Joint Research Centre (JRC)  
*@EU\_ScienceHub*

Dr. Adamantia Athanasopoulou is a scientific officer at the JRC of the European Commission. She received her MEng in civil engineering from the University of Patras, Greece and her MSc and PhD in structural engineering from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA. At the JRC, she is contributing to activities in support of EU policies and standards for safe and sustainable construction, including the project on the incorporation of fire safety engineering in the fire regulations of the EU member states. She is also involved in disseminating, promoting and training on the EN Eurocodes in countries outside the EU.



## **Xavier Deckers**

Senior Project Manager | Fire Engineered Solutions Ghent (FESG)

Xavier has been actively involved in the design of smoke and heat control systems since 2006. He completed his studies in the first graduation of Belgian Fire Safety Engineers in 2007. He then worked for two years as a researcher on fire safety in underground infrastructure at Ghent University. Since 2009, he has been responsible for a team of 18 fire engineers at Fire Engineered Solutions Ghent.



## **Perrine Ethuin**

Executive Chair | Modern Building Alliance  
*@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. Perrine Ethuin joined the Modern Building Alliance in 2019 and has been the Executive Chair since June 2021. Perrine is specialised in European communications and public affairs.



## **Michael Strömgren**

Chief Innovation Officer | Briab  
*@m\_stromgren*

Michael is the Chief Innovation Officer (CINO) at Briab, a leading fire and risk consultancy company in Sweden. For more than ten years, he has led standard setting work for fire safety in national and international regulations and standards. He is an expert on performance-based design, fire safety engineering and building requirements and works with leaders of the European fire safety industry and its regulatory bodies to advance fire safety. Michael is a passionate ambassador for quality assurance and digitalisation of fire safety. He is active within CEN, buildingSMART, the Swedish Institute for Standards (SIS) and other groups to advance fire safety and digitalisation in this area. Michael chairs the Swedish BIM & Fire Safety group within the Technical Committee for Fire Safety at SIS. Michael led the revision of Swedish performance-based fire safety regulations in 2011 and is heavily involved in the new building regulatory model that's coming into effect in 2024.



## **Prof. Patrick van Hees**

Professor | Lund University

Professor Patrick van Hees is the head of the Department of Building and Environmental Technology at Lund University. He has been engaged in fire safety engineering for more than 10 years at Lund and Ghent Universities. In parallel, he is highly involved in standardisation committees on fire safety. Professor van Hees is the author of more than 50 scientific papers published in international journals and has contributed to numerous conferences. He holds a MEng in electromechanical engineering and a PhD in fire technology from Ghent University.