



ZAVOD ZA  
GRADBENIŠTVO  
SLOVENIJE

SLOVENIAN  
NATIONAL BUILDING  
AND CIVIL ENGINEERING  
INSTITUTE



# ***Mind the EPBD Harmonization Gap!***

## ***New fire risks from electrification and renovation of buildings***

**3 October 2025 | 09:00 – 13:00**

**University Foundation, Meeting Room A,**

**Rue d' Egmont 11, 1000 Brussels**

***(on-site, in-person event)***

*The upcoming event will address the growing challenges linked to fire safety as Europe advances its goals of building renovation and electrification. With an emphasis on the gaps in harmonization within current building directives, the speakers will present how new technologies, sustainable solutions, and large-scale retrofitting efforts introduce new fire risks. By bringing together experts from research, policy, and industry, the program seeks to shed light on the preparedness of stakeholders, the adequacy of current testing methods, and the broader implications for consumer protection and public safety.*

*Throughout the half-day event, discussions will cover a wide spectrum of critical issues, from the risks tied to façade materials and energy storage systems to the evolving challenges faced by insurers and regulators. Key sessions will highlight the tension between innovation and safety, highlighting the urgent need for reliable data, regulatory clarity, and cross-sector collaboration. By examining both technical and policy perspectives, the event aims to foster a deeper understanding of how Europe can balance its climate ambitions with the essential requirement of safeguarding people and buildings against emerging fire hazards so that EPBD goals can be implemented faster, safer and in a more just manner, all which is in the interest of EU member states and their citizens.*

### **Programme**

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**09:00 – 09:30**    *Registration of participants*

**09:30 – 09:40**    **Welcoming remarks from the organizers and moderator**

- **TBA, MEP, Slovenia**

- **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Draško Veselinovič** – Director, Slovenian Business & Research Association
- **Prof. Dr. Grunde Jomaas** – FRISSBE ERA Chair and Hed of Department for Fire-safe Sustainable Built Environment at the Slovenian National Building and Civil Engineering Institute (ZAG), Slovenia

**09:40 – 10:00 New fire risks associated with sustainable solutions – What is our preparedness level?**

- **Prof. Dr. Grunde Jomaas** – FRISSBE ERA Chair and Hed of Department for Fire-safe Sustainable Built Environment at the Slovenian National Building and Civil Engineering Institute (ZAG), Slovenia
- **Bart van Leeuwen** – Captain at Brandweer Amsterdam-Amstelland, The Netherlands

**10:00 – 10:25 Past, current and future focus areas for DG GROW and DG ENER in the field of fire safety**

- **Marco Morini** – European Commission, DG ENER, Italy
- **Heikki Väänänen** – Policy Officer, European Commission, DG GROW, Finland

**10:25 – 10:40 Fire safety of facades – Does testing ensure fire safety?**

- **Dr. Andrea Lucherini** – Senior Researcher, Slovenian National Building and Civil Engineering Institute (ZAG), Slovenia

**10:40 – 11:00 Coffee Break**

**11:00 – 11:20 Fire safety for the electrification of buildings (batteries)**

- **Dr. Eric Guillaume** – General Manger, Efectis, France

**11:20 – 11:40 How to break the cycle of innovation and new fire risks**

- **Dr. Wojciech Węgrzyński** – Deputy Head of Fire Research Department at Instytut Techniki Budowlanej (ITB) and incumbent Europe Chair at the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE), Poland

**11:40 – 12:00 The unknowns of new fire risks and their challenges for the insurance industry**

- **Sondre Zakariassen** – Head of Fire Safety and Risk, Storebrand, Norway
- **Tom Roche** – Senior Consultant, International Codes and Standards, FM Global, United Kingdom

**12:00 – 12:15    The urgent need for data and regulations to protect consumers and citizens**

- **Michela Vuerich** – Lead Programme Manager, European consumer voice in standardisation (ANEC), Belgium
- **Adam Jarubas (TBC)** – Member of the European Parliament, Poland

**12:15 – 13:00    Networking Luncheon**

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