



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

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

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

- **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Draško Veselinovič** – Director, Slovenian Business & Research Association (SBRA)

- **Prof. Dr. Grunde Jomaas** – FRISSBE ERA Chair and Head 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 Head of Department for Fire-safe Sustainable Built Environment at the Slovenian National Building and Civil Engineering Institute (ZAG), Slovenia
- **Xabier Olano Azkune**, FIRE - Strategic Focus of Excellence Manager, TECNALIA Research and Innovation, Spain
- **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 – 10:35 Fire Research Institutes for EC DG ENER Guidance

- **Ian Pope** – Research Consultant, The Danish Institute of Fire and Safety Technology (DBI), Denmark

10:35 – 10:50 Fire safety of facades – Does testing ensure fire safety?

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

10:50 – 11:10 Coffee Break

11:10 – 11:30 Fire safety for the electrification of buildings (batteries)

- **Dr. Eric Guillaume** – General Manager, Efectis, France
- **Dr. Ana Sauca** – Scientific Researcher, The Danish Institute of Fire and Safety Technology (DBI), Denmark

11:30 – 11:45 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 European Chair at the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE), Poland

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| 11:45 – 12:05 | The unknowns of new fire risks and their challenges for the insurance industry <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sondre Zakariassen – Head of Fire Safety and Risk, Storebrand, Norway• Tom Roche – Senior Consultant, International Codes and Standards, FM, United Kingdom |
| 12:05 – 12:15 | The urgent need for data to protect consumers and citizens <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michela Vuerich – Lead Programme Manager, European consumer voice in standardisation (ANEC), Belgium |
| 12:15 – 13:00 | Networking Luncheon |

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