



# Current and future activities regarding fire safety in DG GROW

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# Fire Safety: Who does what in the EU?

- Under Treaty on European Union, the competence regarding the fire safety of buildings is with the Member States (and/or regions and/or local authorities).
  - ✓ This follows the subsidiarity principle, and
  - ✓ is logical given different building traditions, climatic and geographic conditions.
- EU level regulation is exercised through Construction Product Regulation (CPR) ensuring the Internal Market for Construction Products.
  - ✓ Common technical language i.e., harmonized European (product) Standards and European Assessment Documents
  - ✓ Related harmonised testing methods
- Commission can however facilitate improvements in fire safety through specific projects and activities

# DG GROW activities “Big picture”

- Regulatory
  - Related to implementation of CPR
  - Product standards
  - Delegated acts
- In between
  - Specific projects
  - EU FireStat
  - Façade fire performance testing
  - Fire Safety Engineering
- Non-regulatory
  - Fire Information Exchange Platform (FIEP)

# Project: EU FireStat

- Closing Data Gaps and Paving the Way for Pan-European Fire Safety Efforts – “EU FireStat”
- Background
  - An earlier study (Smoke toxicity from CPs) identified the general lack of data
  - Fire Information Exchange Platform (FIEP) identified common terminology, fire statistics and the need to collect such data at EU level as an area of priority
  - European Parliament identified the need to address gaps in fire data and decided to finance a Pilot Project on the subject
- Project has been finalised and the documentation is available on project website [EU FireStat \(eufirestat-efectis.com\)](http://eufirestat-efectis.com)

# Project: Façade fire performance testing

- Current situation is not optimal from Internal Market point of view
  - There is a large number of national test methods and regulations in place.
  - Requirements for more energy efficient buildings will likely increase the demand for these products
- Previous project proposed a harmonised testing method and related classification
- Round robin phase is on-going
- Project can be followed on project website: <https://www.ri.se/en/what-we-do/projects/finalisation-of-the-european-approach-to-assess-the-fire-performance-of-facades>

# Project: Fire Safety Engineering

- Prospects for European fire safety code using fire engineering principles by analogy to the Eurocodes:
  - common design rules, but
  - safety level remains a choice of the MS authorities through Nationally Determined Parameters
- Assessing standardization needs for incorporation of fire safety engineering in the regulatory frameworks of the MS, explore
  - the needs of the MS regulatory authorities,
  - the current Eurocodes and the current ISO standardization work
- Needs for guidance and training for professionals
- [JRC Publications Repository - The status and needs for implementation of Fire Safety Engineering approach in Europe \(europa.eu\)](#)

# Fire Information Exchange Platform (FIEP)

- Commission considers that improvements in fire safety would be facilitated by co-operation among Member States and relevant stakeholders
- On this basis FIEP has been created in 2017 for sharing the best practices and lessons learned in the area of fire safety
- Focus on domestic fires with 5 broad areas of interest:
  - common terminology and fire statistics,
  - application of fire prevention principles,
  - new products and high-rise buildings,
  - the exchange of experience from fire accidents,
  - the use of a fire engineering approach in building regulations.

# Fire Information Exchange Platform (FIEP)

- No “formal” role – platform for exchange and learning
- Activities are organized mainly through meetings/seminars/webinars.
  - Batteries in fire
  - Developing fire safety knowledge and awareness
  - EU projects on Fire Safety
  - Development and risk of smoke in fires
  - Electrical fire safety
  - Fire statistics
  - Women involvement in “fire world”
  - Photovoltaic panels
- Next webinars in planning: May “Timber”, June “eVehicles and carparking”



# Thank you



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