



Role of European Commission

International Safety Education Seminar

Heikki Väänänen DG GROW.H.1

Fire Safety: Who does what in the EU?

- Under Treaty on European Union (EU), the competence regarding the fire safety of buildings is with the Member States (and/or regions).
 - ✓ This follows the subsidiarity principle, and
 - ✓ is logical given different building traditions, climatic and geographic conditions.
- EU level regulation is mainly exercised through Construction Product Regulation (CPR) ensuring the Internal Market for Construction Products (CPs).
 - ✓ 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

EC 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)

Regulatory sphere

- Product standardisation including aspects relevant for fire safety
 - Reaction to fire
 - Resistance to fire
 - External fire exposure (roofs)
- Related needs for delegated acts
 - Classification decisions
 - Classification without further testing (CWFT) decisions
 - Assessment and verification of constancy of performance (AVCP)

Project: EU FireStat (1)

- 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
- The main objective is to map “state-of-the-play” in EU MSs and some non-EU countries (e.g. UK, USA, Russia, Canada, Norway) and propose ways forward for common methodology to Fire Safety statistics at EU level

Project: EU FireStat (2)

- Main content
 - State of play in Europe and internationally
 - Data needed for fire safety policy making
 - Data collection methodologies
 - Data to be collected, definitions and terminology
 - Cost / Benefit analysis in fire safety policy making
 - Recommendations for way forward
- Closing phase – Finals report expected within a couple of weeks
- Project can be followed on project website: <https://eufirestat-efectis.com/>

Project: Façade fire testing (1)

- 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
- Objectives of the current project
 - Finalising, fine-tuning and testing the robustness of the method
 - Arrive in method to be used for harmonised product standards (CEN) and for European Assessment Documents (EOTA) regarding relevant CPs (i.e. façade kits).

Project: Façade fire testing (2)

- Main content
 - Theoretical round robin
 - Initial testing activities (literature review, wood crip tests, impact of secondary opening,...)
 - Experimental round robin (testing of the test method)
 - Finalisation of methodology with proposal on classification
- Round robin to start this Spring/Summer
- 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

- Collaboration between DGs GROW and JRC supported by expert group
- 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

Fire Information Exchange Platform (FIEP)

- EC 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
- Initially 5 areas of interest have been identified:
 - 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. As an example webinars during 2021
 - Batteries in fire
 - Developing fire safety knowledge and awareness
 - EU projects on Fire Safety
 - Development and risk of smoke in fires
- Technical secretariat selection process on going
- More information about how to get involved: heikki.vaananen@ec.europa.eu

Thank you



© European Union 2020

Reuse of this presentation authorised
under the CC BY 4.0 license.

