

EU fire safety regulations must keep pace with innovation

Brussels, 17 November: Fire safety experts, fire fighters, EU policy makers, and representatives from the industry and associations met today at the European Parliament to discuss the path towards a better regulation for fire safety in buildings. The high-level discussion was organised by [MEP Catherine Stihler](#) and [Fire Safe Europe](#).

Fire Safety standards for buildings products in the EU are shaped by the [Construction Products Regulation \(CPR\)](#), which sets a number of essential requirements. However, testing methods called on by the CPR do not always reflect real life fire behaviour of buildings materials. Moreover, they have not been revised since 2002 and are based on data from the 90s.

“Today’s event was a unique opportunity to discuss fire safety of construction products with all relevant stakeholders around one table”, said MEP Catherine Stihler, who was the European Parliament Rapporteur on the Construction Products Regulation file. She added: *“Our world is changing, and construction is part of that change. We as policy makers must make sure fire safety regulations and standards keep up-to-date with the developments in the industry.”*

“Keeping the link between the fire classification system and the actual fire behaviour of construction materials is key. For reaction to fire the tests must show how a product will perform in a realistic reference scenario” urged Björn Sundström, Head of the [Fire Research Department at SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden](#).

“We must strive to ensure the correct products are installed, and also installed correctly,” added David McCarrey, Station Manager and Deputy Fire Safety Enforcement at the [Scottish Fire and Rescue Service](#). *“If fire fighters can not predict how a building will perform in a fire situation, how are they supposed to save lives and buildings effectively?”*

The event was the occasion for the launch of a position paper presenting [Fire Safe Europe’s proposal for future proofing the Construction Products Regulation](#).

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About Fire Safe Europe Fire Safe Europe (FSEU) is a broad and unique cross-sectorial alliance of fire experts, fire fighters, European associations, and international companies. FSEU’s mission is to improve fire safety in buildings for European citizens. Find FSEU’s call to action on: www.firesafeeurope.eu