



Mr Gary Cartwright
Publishing Editor, EU Today

editor@eutoday.net

Brussels, September 25, 2020

Dear Mr. Cartwright,

I am writing to you to offer elements of response to your article "Smoke and mirrors: How the mineral wool industry leaves its mark on national and EU policy" in EU Today, 25 June 2020, and to your article "Mineral wool fails to be promoted by European Parliament as EU Renovation Wave builds" in EU Today, 20 August 2020. This responds specifically to your points regarding Fire Safe Europe.

By virtue of the applicable law, Fire Safe Europe wishes to exercise its right of reply to the said articles and invite you to publish the reply as formulated below. I would also like to emphasise that Fire Safe Europe is at your disposal to provide comments and factual information for your articles should you wish in the future.

In response to the specific claims in your articles:

- "80% of FSEU's funding would come from its founding members and main actors Rockwool, Knauf and Paroc", EU Today, 25 June 2020.
Fire Safe Europe (FSEU) was set up in 2011 with three founding Members. The membership quickly expanded: as early as 2012, two new members joined at Board level, and in 2013, FSEU had nine Board members, from different parts of the construction sector. Currently, Fire Safe Europe has six Full (Board) Members: FROCC, Hilti, Knauf Insulation, Owens Corning Group-PAROC, ETEX-Promat, ROCKWOOL, and three paying Community Members: EAACA, ECP and SILMA. FSEU has a clear fee and Membership structure.
- "The three would effectively block the seats on the FSEU board, as well as access to the organisation, for other insulation product producers", EU Today, 25 June 2020
This is incorrect. Fire Safe Europe is a broad and cross-sectoral association. According to our Articles of Association, Fire Safe Europe's Full Membership, which entails a seat at the Board, is open to "any legal entities which offer or support products or services that promote fire safety and that meet all the membership requirements as further defined in the Internal Rules and fulfils all their membership obligations." You can find the exact membership requirements in Fire Safe Europe's Articles of Association published in the "Moniteur Belge" attached. We have over the years welcomed a number of new companies representing a wide range of solutions to make Europe fire safe. In 2018, Fire Safe Europe welcomed two new Board Members: ETEX-Promat and Hilti. Board Members are represented in different official positions: for example, as of 2021, FSEU's president will be from HILTI. Our current Technical Task Force Chair is from ETEX-Promat.
- "It questioned whether given its composition, FSEU can claim to be serving wider interests", EU Today, 25 June 2020
Fire Safe Europe aims to improve fire safety in buildings for people and society. Our membership is composed of corporations and associations which produce or provide different fire safe solutions or services. In addition to our Full Members, we initiated in 2019 a vibrant European Fire Safety Community

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Rue Mercelis 57 - 1050 Brussels - Belgium | @FireSafeEU | secretariat@firesafeurope.eu | www.firesafeurope.eu



of over 377 individual members. This Community offers a free Fire Safe Europe membership for individuals and is open to “any legal entities or natural persons that share FSEU’s objectives and are interested in its work but do not and are not expected to fulfil all the conditions to become Full Members. Currently, this Community includes individuals for various corporations (35%), fire engineers (20%), academics (8%), firefighters (8%), international, European and national associations (8%), architects (3%), and more.

As a final point, and by way of request, your 25 June article mentions a report entitled “Smoke & Mirrors”, which allegedly makes an analysis of statistical and other claims made by Fire Safe Europe. Your second article published on 20 August also states that “The independence of FSEU from the mineral wool producers that founded it has been questioned in a report, which another construction product company funded and was referenced in a 2017 study for the European Commission.” It is unfortunate that these reports were not made available by way of attachment to your article. We would welcome the opportunity to consult the report and provide further feedback if necessary. Could you kindly provide us with a copy?

For your perfect information, this reply will be published on the Fire Safe Europe website.

We look forward to your response and remain at your disposal for any additional clarifications.

Sincerely yours,


Juliette Albiac
Managing Director
Fire Safe Europe (FSEU)