



PRESS RELEASE

Coalition of experts call on the European Commission to take action on fire safety in buildings

Brussels, November 24th 2016: An unprecedented alliance of firefighters, researchers, fire engineers, associations and industry representatives has urged the European Commission to **take action on fire safety in buildings**.

“The EU is working in an indirect and uncoordinated manner on a number of issues that affect the fire safety of buildings and occupants”, the call to action reports, “yet fire safety is rarely a consideration when these policies are developed. A mechanism needs to be put in place to ensure that fire safety has a seat at the table in future policy making.”

Fire safety is a major societal and safety issue. There is no comparable data on building fires in the EU, however the disparate figures available suggest that there are at least 5,000 fire incidents each day across the EU. Fires have a more devastating effect on society and the environment than meets the eye, from producing pollutant gases, to affecting citizens’ and firefighters’ health, to causing a heavy economic impact. With a built environment that is rapidly changing, influenced largely by the drive for sustainability and innovations, it is key to ensure that new and renovated buildings are resilient to fire, and that prevention programs and policies are coordinated amongst Member States.

“The EU has an unprecedented opportunity to improve the safety of its citizens”, co- authors say. The group is calling on the Commission to set up an expert group on fire safety to work on a European fire safety strategy, to map the issues, identify potential solutions, and draft a roadmap to achieve them.”

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. Together with our partners, we believe it is time for the EU to act on fire safety in buildings.