European fire safety policy and guidance

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- EU guidance documents for Member States on fire and electrical safety resulting from these efforts

European Fire Safety Alliance (EuroFSA)

Electrical safety is a very important aspect of fire safety - strongly crosslinked issues

What

Independent alliance of fire professionals whose **mission is to reduce the risks from fire**, especially in domestic area (NGO based on voluntary work, founded in 2017 by fire brigade officers)

Why

We do believe that in Europe, **most of the fire victims in homes are preventable**

How

- creating **international network of relevant actors** (EU officials, firefighters, researchers, industry) acting for improvement of fire safety and for putting it on a **higher level in a political agenda**
- defining the biggest EU fire safety challenges expressed in the **European Fire Safety Action Plan** – the first evidence and knowledge-based fire safety agenda for Europe
- organising EU-wide fire safety initiatives e.g.: **European Fire Safety Week**, **European Fire Safety Award, High-level political meetings with the EU decision makers, European Smoke Alarm Day**

EuroFSA has filled a gap in the EU (fire) safety ecosystem by uniting fragmented efforts

European policy on electrical & fire safety

Fire safety and physical safety of energy use *(electrical fires, electric shock, safety of installations)* are **national competences** of EU Member States

EU regulates energy markets and security, energy efficiency, renewable energy

- **No treaty-based EU competence** in electrical or fire safety in buildings.
- EU regulates **product safety only** (e.g. Low Voltage Directive, Machinery Regulation, Electromagnetic Compatibility, Construction Products Regulation)
- **Installation standards, fire protection rules, building codes** remain fully under national authority

Summary: electrical and fire safety are **not regulated by EU treaties** and remain under **Member State responsibility**

Why do we need to act?

Fire safety in the EU (crosslinked with electrical safety)

- **5,000 fire deaths** and **50,000 injuries** in domestic buildings each year
- **25-30%** of domestic fires in have an electrical source
- **132 millions** of obsolete electrical installation
- energy transition is **reshaping European buildings like never before**
- we still have no idea how to get out of the cladding crisis, and **now we are on a path to easily overlook the next risks that can lead to devastating fires resulting from the new hazards accompanying the energy transition**

Grenfell Tower fire
London, 2017
72 fatalities



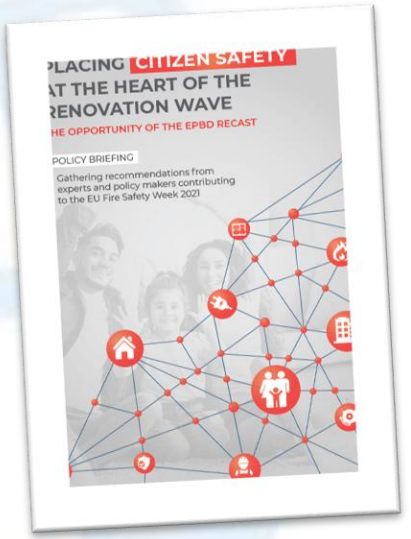
"The simple truth is that the deaths that occurred were all avoidable," *Martin Moore-Bick, chairman of the public inquiry into the Grenfell Trower fire*

European policy on electrical & fire safety

What can the EU do?

- fire and electrical safety are primarily addressed by **building codes that are a national** competence, and **it should remain like this**
- but **building codes do not cover many important safety aspects** (awareness, some elements of prevention, statistics, research, market surveillance or information exchange)
- EU institutions have both **potential and interest to coordinate actions and support MSs** because **fire and electrical safety impact and are impacted by several of the EU core objectives** (concerning mainly energy transition, but also tourism, environment, human health or consumer protection)
- EU offers a unique perspective and capacity that will enrich and strengthen the development of knowledge in the field of fire/electrical safety and **help to address common challenges across the Member States** (harmonisation of **statistics** collected in MSs, shared **safety research**, and **exchange of experience**)
- it is possible **without challenging subsidiarity principle** – EU can develop, coordinate and support solutions which next will be implemented by MSs

Safe energy transition – EPBD revision



Actions supporting the introduction of fire and energy safety considerations in the revised EPBD

- the main objective of the EPBD is not improvement of (fire or electrical) safety, but to achieve a **highly energy efficient and decarbonised building stock** by 2050
- EuroFSA recognised the revision of the EPBD as an unmissable opportunity to consider building renovation in a holistic way and for **making energy transition fire safe**
- a **real risk exists that an energy-renovated building will become more dangerous** for the people, what undermines the sense of renovation
- gathered **recommendations from experts and policy makers** during the Energy Transition discussion within the EUFSW 2021 → transformed into a concrete **proposals of amendments**
- submission made by EuroFSA together with other stakeholders to MEP's and EC to include **fire safety amendments**



Safe energy transition – EPBD revision

Fire safety provisions in the revised EPBD (less fire safety that we originally proposed, but it's still a great step forward and a significant contribution to improving fire safety on which we can continue to build)

- measures to improve the energy performance of buildings **should not affect fire safety**
- **Member States need to address changed risks with regard to the fire safety of buildings** brought by their electrification, such as through the deployment of heat pumps, solar installations, batteries and recharging infrastructure
- European Commission should publish **guidance for Member States on fire safety in car parks** by 31 December 2025 – a dedicated task force at DG MOVE has been already working on this
- Member States shall ensure a **guidance and training** for those responsible for implementation the Directive. This training may also address fire safety aspects
- the increase of fire safety was proposed as one of the indicators in the National Building Renovation Plans

Safe energy transition – EU guidance

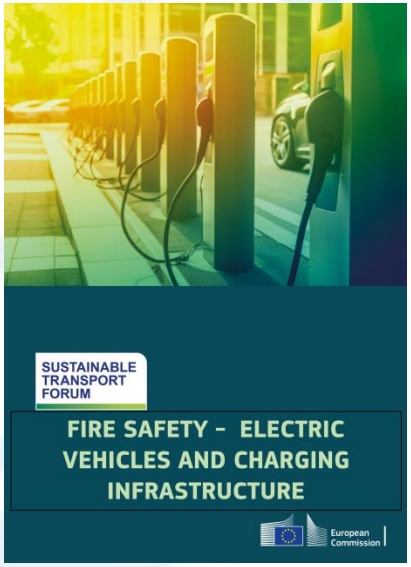
Guidance documents by DG ENER

- To support the implementation of the recast EPBD and based on the needs expressed by MSs and stakeholders, the Commission has decided to work out **guidance packages,** incl. two on **fire safety**

(1) sustainable mobility - *Guidance on fire safety for electric vehicles parked and charging infrastructure in covered parking spaces* – ready and publicly available

(2) fire safety in buildings - *Guidance on fire safety linked to the electrification and renovation of buildings* *(under development)*

- technical document to support MS authorities that will transpose and implement EPBD, where necessary
- four main topics
  - ➢ solar installations (Building-Applied Photovoltaics - BAPV)
  - ➢ insulation and other parts of the building envelope (incl. building-integrated PVs)
  - ➢ energy storage systems (batteries, thermal storage, mechanical storage)
  - ➢ other technical building elements (incl. heat pumps, electrical systems)



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