

# Fire Safety of Facades Advisory Panel

## 1. Why an Advisory Panel on Facades?

Facades fire safety has emerged as a critical issue in the past years, rendered more visible by a series of significant facade fires. Several EU countries have developed test methods to assess the fire performance of facades. Today, 12 methods exist across Europe.

Since 2014, Fire Safe Europe has worked to ensure that facades undergo proper and harmonised fire assessment across the EU. In 2015, Fire Safe Europe organised together with Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Catherine Stihler a high-level discussion in the European Parliament to discuss construction methods under the Construction Products Regulation (CPR). Following this, the European Commission DG GROWTH launched in 2016 a [study](#) to develop a European approach to assess the fire performance of facades.

The final report of the European Commission study published in August 2018 put forward two options: a “proposed” approach consisting in the adoption of British BS 8414 and the German DIN 4102 part 20, and an “alternative” approach which, while taking as a baseline the British BS 8414 and the German DIN 4102 part 20, offers stronger improvements. The European Commission asked Member States to express a preference between the two approaches, and the vast majority (18) chose the alternative method.

On September 17, 2019, the European Commission published a call for tender to finalise the European approach to assess the fire performance of facades based on the alternative method.

The Contractor, once selected, will have to:

- Conduct an inter-laboratory test program to show that the proposed test method can be used as intended, meets regulatory needs and is accepted by the Member States;
- Propose a classification with all the necessary criteria and values to be the basis for a Commission’s Delegated Act regarding the classification of the fire performance of facades in line with the provisions of Regulation (EU) No 305/2011, Article 27.

The outcome of the proposed project would be a report including in its annexes:

- The finalised assessment method including an estimation of the assessment cost;
- A proposal for the corresponding classification of façade products.

As these developments occur, there is a need for a place for stakeholders to exchange information and ideas on the different facades’ regulations existing across Europe and on the upcoming European methods.

The European Fire Safety Community is activating an Advisory Panel where people can:

- Discuss the latest evolutions on facades;
- Compare regulations and standards;
- Exchange views on new technologies;
- Be informed of the European Commission's Fire Information Exchange Platform work on facades;
- Get regular updates on the development of a European approach to assess the fire performance of facades.

## 2. What is the Advisory Panel, and who can join?

This Advisory Panel is a high-level group that brings together FSEU Members wanting to work on the topic of facades fire safety. Members are expected to contribute actively to projects, by providing feedback on the panel's work and sharing information on relevant developments, for example, changes in regulations or standards.

The Advisory Panel shall:

- Be comprised of relevant stakeholders such as regulators, firefighters, academics, fire safety engineers, and stakeholders from several industries, national bodies and organisations with expertise on facades fire safety;
- Contribute with diverse skills and experiences;
- Provide knowledge-based input into the activities of the Advisory Panel;
- Share Fire Safe Europe's objectives to improve fire safety in buildings for people and society.

Benefits of joining this Advisory Panel:

- Share your professional expertise and experiences with enthusiastic peers;
- Provide and receive valuable input from your peers and the European Commission;
- Be a part of a project that has a clear objective and deliverables to improve the fire safety of facades;
- Expand your professional network

## 3. What is the specific scope of the Advisory Panel's work?

This Advisory Panel focuses on developments in facades' fire safety, from evolutions of facades' regulations and standards to new technologies to the development of a European approach to assess the fire performance of facades.

Everything that the Advisory Panel produces must be in accordance with the objectives of Fire Safe Europe which are stated in article 4 of the Fire Safe Europe's articles of association.

## **4. What is the objective of the Advisory Panel?**

The aim of the Advisory Panel is to collect & share information on evolutions regarding facades' fire safety in different countries.

## **5. Deliverables**

- Update of the 2014 FSEU study on fire safety requirements for schools, hospitals and high-rise buildings regarding facades.
- Targeted articles on new regulations, technologies, standards, facades fires.

## **6. Organisational Structure**

Advisory Panels are chaired by the respective FSEU Working Group chairs according to the Internal Rules. Advisory Panels provide insight and strategic input to Fire Safe Europe.

The Advisory Panels are not involved in the day to day decision making of Fire Safe Europe and have no right to take a position on their own. The views or reports Advisory Panels may produce in their advisory capacity are addressed to Fire Safe Europe working structures as appropriate.

## **7. Mode of operations**

The Advisory Panel works via online meetings on the European Fire Safety Community platform, conference calls or other forms of technology-enabled interaction.

The Advisory Panel meets minimum three times annually, and written notices of upcoming meetings will be emailed to members at least two weeks in advance, except for emergency meetings. The actions of the meetings will be recorded and distributed.

## **8. Contact Person**

The Advisory Panel members shall refer to the Chair and the Fire Safe Europe Secretariat for any inquiries, questions and issues relating to their work. For more information about the Advisory Panel, please contact your European Fire Safety Community team at [hello@eufiresafety.community](mailto:hello@eufiresafety.community)