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1st Meeting of Fire Information Exchange Platform

As a reaction to the Greenfield Fire in June and in response to debate in the European Parliament, last September Commissioner [Elżbieta Bieńkowska](#) announced the creation of **a platform for Member States and stakeholders to discuss fire safety** issues, exchange data and best practices. The **first meeting** of this **Fire Information Exchange Platform** took place on **16 October 2017** and was exceptionally well attended by representatives from 25 Member States and 25 associations. As a stakeholder, **EMO** was invited to participate in the platform and was **represented by Kay Beyen, EMO's portfolio manager "ETICS"** and chairman of the corresponding sounding board of EMO experts.



The **European Commission and several stakeholders gave presentations** as introduction to different topics and aspects of fire safety. The European Commission took the opportunity to provide an overview and update on the two currently conducted studies related to fire performance and safety: the study on the toxicity of smoke produced by construction products in fire and the study on the development of a European test method the fire performance of façades. The presentations were circulated to the participants and **are available for download to EMO's experts and interested members.**

In this first meeting, the **participants discussed their main concerns, the regulatory needs and expressed their expectations from this new platform.** Already during a debate in the European Parliament the Commission reminded of the **division of competences** as laid down the [EU Treaties](#).

This division of competences and responsibilities was also acknowledged by Member State representatives and most stake holders: **the competences for the safety of buildings – incl. fire safety - lies solely with Member States** whereas the **Commission has to ensure that the relevant product performances are covered** – where these exist - **by the harmonized product standards and that the corresponding test methods are considered to be meaningful.** The latter was underlined by some Member Stated representatives who stressed the need for a connection between testing environment and reality, **which is also one of EMO's main** claims regarding the ongoing study on a European fire test method for façades.

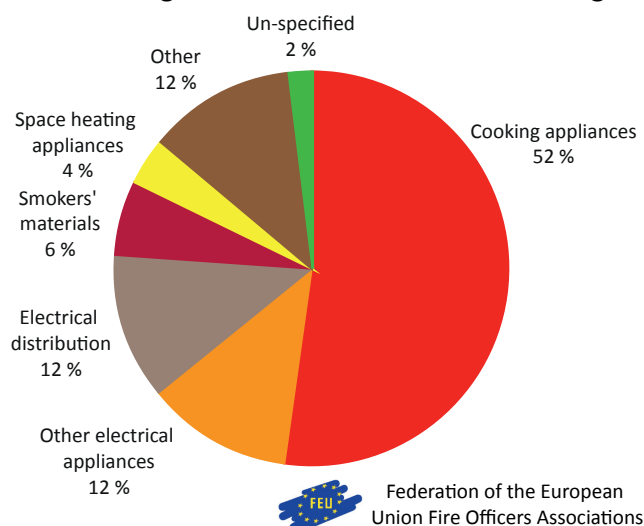
Beside the reaction to fire of construction products, **the attention was also drawn to the causes of fire and the need to actively prevent fire as well as the role of fire design** with regards to inhibiting the spread of potential fires and allowing rescue.

As a main finding of the first meeting, **five main topics** were identified **on which to focus the future work of the of Fire Information Exchange Platform**:

1. Collecting comparable data
2. Fire prevention
3. New products
4. Fire Safety Engineering
5. Lessons learnt

Meeting of the **Fire Information Exchange Platform** shall be held once a year and be dedicated to **(a) specific topic(s)**. To ensure effective meetings and progress, the **European Commission and Member States** will jointly investigate how best **approach the topics** and related tasks, **which may include the installation of special project groups**.

Sources of ignition in accidental fires in dwellings



Registered Address:

EMO
68 Boulevard du Souverain
1170 Bruxelles / Belgium

General Secretary:

Antonio Caballero González

Secretariat:

Alliance of European Associations e.V.
c/o EMO
Oberforstbacher Straße 407a
52076 Aachen / Germany

Telephone: +49 2408 5996207
Mobile: +49 173 9501590
Fax: +49 2408 5996208
E-Mail: acg@euromortar.com