



Energy renovations must be fire safe: keep fire safety in EPBD Art 8

Joint statement of fire safety organisations, 27 September 2022

Ahead of the COREPER meeting scheduled on 28th September, our organisations working on improving the fire safety of European citizens would like to express their concerns on the latest compromise (REV3) proposed by the Czech presidency for the revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD).

There are more than 5,000 fire deaths in the European Union (EU) per year and a multitude of burn survivors who have been marked or scarred for the rest of their lives. Most fires occur in buildings, and are preventable. With the appropriate regulatory framework, we can protect thousands of people in Europe against fire in the built environment.

The revision of the EPBD is an unmissable opportunity to consider building renovation in a holistic way, placing the fire safety of EU citizens at its heart. The Renovation Wave initiated by the European Commission to reach the climate objectives set by the European Green Deal will boost the renovation of the EU building stock and has the opportunity to keep citizens fire safe. The European Union has already included fire safety in the previous EPBD revision, and now has the opportunity to build on that by integrating better fire safety provisions into the EPBD recast.

For this reason, **we oppose the deletion of “fire safety” from the elements that Member States shall address in relation to buildings undergoing major renovation (Article 8)**, proposed by the Czech Presidency of the Council in their latest proposed compromise (REV3):

↓ 2018/844 Art. 1.4 (adapted)

⇒ new

3. Member States shall encourage, in relation to buildings undergoing major renovation, high-efficiency alternative systems, in so far as ~~this~~ ☐ that ☐ is technically, functionally and economically feasible. ☐ Member States ☐ and shall address ☐ , in relation to buildings undergoing major renovation, ☐ the issues of healthy indoor climate conditions **and** ☐ adaptation to climate change, ~~fire safety, and risks related to intense seismic activity~~ ☐ , ~~the removal of hazardous substances including asbestos and accessibility for persons with disabilities~~ ☐ .

Over the past years, building fires result in human, social, economic, and environmental consequences. Buildings with obsolete fire safety design, obsolete fire safety equipment and obsolete gas or electrical installations present a greater fire risk, that can be exacerbated by their energy renovation or the transition to new forms of energy if fire safety is not properly addressed. Integrating fire safety into the revision of the EPBD is crucial to keep European citizens safe in their living spaces and create the sustainable buildings of tomorrow. Hence, it is crucial to ensure fire safety accompanies the renovation wave, the energy transition and the EU Green Deal: **every energy-efficient renovation must be fire safe!**

Should you need more information on the importance of fire safety within the EPBD revision, we invite you to consult:

- Policy Briefing of EuroFSA, FEEDS and MBA "[Placing Citizen Safety At The Heart Of The Renovation Wave The Opportunity Of The EPBD Recast](#)"
- European Fire Safety Action Plan '[10 actions that will improve Fire Safety in Europe](#)'
- MBA '[Fire Safety Guide](#)'
- FSEU position paper "[EPBD Revision: A Crucial Opportunity For Sustainable Buildings](#)"
- Forum for European Electrical Domestic Safety (FEEDS) : <https://www.feedsnet.org/>
- Factsheet of European Copper Institute: "[Electrical safety: time for action](#)"
- Euralarm Briefing [An ambitious EU Recovery Plan for a safer and more secure Society](#):