

Briefing

Euralarm comments on Inception Impact Assessment

Review of the Construction Products Regulation (Ref. Ares (2017)3070078)

Euralarm in its representative role for the electronic fire safety industry takes pleasure in providing comments on the Inception Impact Assessment on a potential revision of the Construction Products Regulation (CPR). We support the main objective of the CPR which is the free movement of products and push for pan European solutions. However, as DG GROW has quite correctly established, a review is needed.

For the competitiveness of the electronic fire safety industry, the impact of the CPR has according to our members unfortunately not achieved the required effect. This industry depends on standardised product performance requirements and standardised behaviour, which is at odds with the CPR. For example, alarm buttons to activate a fire alarm system are across Europe – and the world – always red. Under the CPR, this is not seen as performance criteria and could change now with national solutions, which would lead to building occupants being confused. In one country the button is red and in another could be any other colour.

Clearly the CPR is helping to standardise the test methods and ensure the European wide acceptance of the test results, which then supports the movement of construction products across Europe, but it is also trying to cover a very wide assortment of products with very different characteristics. Where the CPR logic can very easily apply for certain construction materials, we feel it has a negative effect on the standardisation of fire detection and alarm products. Euralarm is prepared to explain the objective differences and the impact on the functionality and reliability of electronic fire safety products.

Based on initial consultations, we see that Options I and III are not favourable approaches to a long-term solution, but for different reasons.

Euralarm members therefore favours Option II, keeping in mind the successful role that Standards have played in the market in establishing clarity, flexibility and harmony. This is good for the European economy and its ability to participate in a global market.

Euralarm pledges to continue to work with the European Commission and specifically with DG GROW to define and implement the best possible solution.

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About Euralarm

Euralarm represents the electronic fire and security industry, providing leadership and expertise for industry, market, policy makers and standards bodies. Our members make society safer and secure through systems and services for fire detection, intrusion detection, access control, video monitoring, alarm transmission and alarm receiving centres. Founded in 1970, Euralarm represents over 5000 companies within the fire safety and security industry valued at 67 billion Euros. Euralarm members are national associations and individual companies from across Europe.

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