



News Release: July 2017

EAPFP defines key positions at Lisbon meeting

European Association for Passive Fire Protection (EAPFP) members enjoyed an interesting meeting in Lisbon, Portugal on 7-8 June, where the Association's latest activities were discussed and plans for the remainder of the year developed.

During two days of wide-ranging debate the delegates looked in detail at the main concerns and activities within each state to identify where progress could be made by sharing knowledge and experience and through campaigning at a pan-European level.

The delegates took part in a focused session aimed at defining the most relevant subjects of common interest, and identifying synergies, opportunities, and threats to the European passive fire protection industry. The discussions highlighted influencing standards and regulation as key to improving levels of passive fire protection in buildings across Europe.

EAPFP members expressed support for the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) amid concerns that proposals from a CPR Technical Platform Workshop to be held on 21 June could lead to a total repeal of the CPR. The EAPFP developed a position paper which was presented to the Workshop. This stated: 'EAPFP strongly believes that the CPD and CPR have contributed to removing barriers to trade in Europe. Consequently, either repealing the CPR or degrading its requirements is not supported by the passive fire protection industry. EAPFP supports a progressive harmonisation towards a real European free trade zone via the CPR which uses a common technical language and harmonisation of safety performance characteristics.'

Concerns were also voiced about the widespread use of performance-based structural fire engineering in the design of medium and high rise buildings. The EAPFP developing a position paper on the practice in which it will highlight a number of its concerns, particularly the apparent misuse of structural fire safety engineering to reduce levels of fire protection, particularly passive fire protection, within such buildings.

While the EAPFP appreciates and acknowledges that performance-based designs can provide a rational approach, especially for buildings for which the conventional prescribed solutions are difficult or impossible to apply, it believes that a number of issues should be considered and addressed before moving forward with structural fire engineering on a broader scale.

Commenting on the Association's activities, EAPFP President Joric Witlox declared:

"Having identified several key areas of concern across Europe, the Association is now actively campaigning for further harmonisation of standards for fire protective products and looking to offer guidance to the industry on raising standards of fire protection in new and existing buildings alike."

The EAPFP acts as the European voice for passive fire protection. EAPFP members are national associations representing manufacturers, contractors and other institutions involved in passive fire protection. Members meet twice each year to discuss issues affecting the European fire industry.

For further information on the EAPFP, visit www.eapfp.com; tel: +44 (0)1420 471616; e-mail: admin@eapfp.com

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Notes to Editors

EAPFP was formed in 1988 to act as a European voice on behalf of national associations representing manufacturers, contractors and other institutions involved in the fire protection to steelwork, timber, and other passive fire protection applications, including penetration seals and ductwork.

Countries represented by EAPFP members include Austria; Belgium; Cyprus; Denmark; France; Germany; Ireland; Italy; Netherlands; Norway; Russia; Slovak Republic; Spain; and UK.

The Association campaigns to raise the standard of fire safety in buildings and offers a range of publications and guidance notes in several languages. The EAPFP also has representation on the European Union Technical Committees involved in developing product standards across Europe.

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