

FIRE SAFETY IN THE HOME

(Formerly Domestic & Hotel Fire Safety)

Chair - Mike Hagen

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Fire Safety in the Home

- **The Role of the Fire Service concerning fire safety in the home**
Eg:
 - Advising citizens on fire safety
 - Fitting smoke alarms
 - Working with other agencies to protect the most vulnerable
 - Effective suppression
- **Upholstered Furniture and Mattresses**
 - Recognising the risk from unprotected polyurethane foam filled furniture and furnishings
 - Considering how regulation can reduce risk
- **Fire Risks and Solutions in Homes**
 - Practical measures to reduce the risk from fire in homes

European Parliament

Written Declaration on Domestic Fire Safety

- *The European Parliament* – having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,
- Whereas fire is a major cause of death and injuries in the home, affecting particularly vulnerable groups such as children, elderly people and people with disabilities. On average, over 5000 people die in fires in the EU every year with 80% of these fatalities occurring in the home,
- B. Whereas the economic cost of fire is estimated to be close to 1% of Europe's GDP and the fire load and the risk of fire in the home keeps increasing,
- C. Whereas flammable upholstered furniture remains in particular one of the greatest fire hazards in EU homes and consumers are put at risk by the lack of a high and uniform level of protection against this hazard across the EU,

European Parliament

Written Declaration on Domestic Fire Safety (Cont)

- 1. Urges the Member States to promote initiatives and awareness raising campaigns to educate consumers about domestic fire risks;
- 2. Urges the Commission to explore ways to ensure the collection of comprehensive fire statistics across the EU;
- 3. Calls for the introduction of harmonised fire safety requirements for domestic upholstered furniture sold in Europe ensuring the highest level of fire safety, health and environmental protection, and for labelling of flammable products in the interim;
- 4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission, the Council and the Governments of the Member States.

EP Written Declarations

- Maximum 200 words on a matter falling within EU sphere of activity
- Up to 5 MEPs to submit (Emma McClarkin ECR UK, Regina Bastos EPP Por, Marc Tarabella SD Bel, Robert Rochefort ALDE Fra, Cornelius de Jong GUE/NGL Neth)
- If signed by majority of MEPs – forwarded to President
- 3 month time limit to get signatures (378)
- + Used to get discussion at policy level of EU
- - However, non-binding and difficult to get a majority of MEPs

For EFA Colleagues to Consider:

- Attend Launch in Brussels on 28 November 2012
- Letter to national MEPs – ACFSE to provide draft text
- Target leaders of national political group delegations
- Fire Chiefs/Professionals writing to MEPs can be influential (ACFSE will provide contact lists)
- ACFSE preparing promotional materials and press releases and supporting the 5 MEPs who proposed the declaration
- Starts 19 November 2012 – Ends 19 February 2013

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