



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Directorate C – Clean Planet  
The Director

Brussels  
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**drasko.veselinovic@sbra.be**

**Subject: Your letter to Commissioner Šefčovič**

Dear Mr Veselinovic,

Thank you for your letter of 16 February 2024 to Commissioner Šefčovič, in which you express your concerns regarding potential fire risks related to the implementation of the Green Deal. I will reply on his behalf.

I acknowledge the challenges that you mention in your paper, in particular in the built environment. I also share your appreciation of the importance of research and innovation in ensuring a safe and just implementation of the green and digital transition. This is why Horizon Europe supports a broad portfolio of energy and climate technologies along all segments of the innovation chain, balancing shorter and longer-term needs, and taking due account of associated potential new safety issues. This explicitly includes providing practical solutions to the interaction between fire safety and a sustainable circular economy.

To give a few examples, Horizon Europe supports research and innovation on safe-by-design battery systems with innovative thermal management concepts, such as novel materials with enhanced fire-retardant properties, or detection, ventilation and fire suppression technology. In the field of hydrogen systems and infrastructure, safety and circularity by design are embedded throughout the entire research and innovation programme of the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking.

Horizon Europe furthermore supports the development of innovative designs, materials and solutions to improve fire safety in the built environment. Innovation in bio-based construction materials already gives due consideration to safety and user experience aspects; future actions in this field may consider specific recognition of fire risks as part of the overall safety aspects, where relevant.

To implement the Green Deal and REPowerEU, we must build on the achievements to date and further accelerate the pace of innovation over the coming decade. Your recommendations provide a welcome contribution to the debate, and I can ensure you that your input will contribute to our discussions. I thank you again for your full support.

Yours sincerely,

Electronically signed

Rosalinde van der Vlies