

# Consumer affairs

---

## FIRE SAFETY

### **Council Recommendation [86/666/EEC](#) of 22 December 1986 on fire safety in existing hotels**

#### Objective

To ensure a minimum level of fire safety across Europe, for people staying in hotels.

#### Relevance for the hospitality industry

Hotels are submitted to heavy legislation on fire safety. The 1986 Council Recommendation sets a minimum level of fire safety for hotels across Europe. Moreover, the current focus on safety of services has reactivated the debate on the necessity for the EU to adopt more stringent EU-wide legislation on fire safety in hotels.

#### State of progress

Adopted in 1986.

However, by 1994 not all Member States had communicated the measures they had adopted to conform to the safety provisions in the Recommendation. This led the European Parliament to erroneously conclude that these measures to ensure safety were not in place and it therefore called for a Directive. Following Parliament's call for a Directive in May 1994, the Commission issued in January 1995 a call for a study on fire safety in hotels. The carrying out of the study was entrusted to the French firm of CETEN - APAVE which delivered the final study in September 1996.

In 2007, several MEPs called for either the update of the 1986 Recommendation or for the adoption of a more stringent and binding EU legislation.

In November 2008, the European Parliament issued a study on hotel safety, with a clear focus on fire safety in hotels. The study explores different possibilities for future EU activities on the matter.

#### Content

The Council Recommendation establishes 4 aims to achieve fire safety in existing hotels:

- To reduce the risk of fire breaking out;
- To prevent the spread of flames and smoke;
- To ensure that all occupants can be evacuated safely;
- To enable the emergency services to take action.

It is accompanied by a detailed annex which provides prescriptive means to achieve the aims of the Recommendation, including: safe escape routes, emergency fire fighting equipment, staff safety training, and plans and diagrams displaying escape routes.

For a more detailed summary of the developments in relation to fire safety you can visit DG [SANCO website](#) (European Commission). A summary of the content of the Recommendation is also available on the [SCADPlus website](#) (European Commission).

## HOTREC position

Fire safety should remain primarily a competence of the Member States. As most characteristics affecting the safety of a premises depend largely from one member state to another, and from one region or town to another, the EU should limit its involvement to the current Recommendation and should not seek to impose a one-size fits all approach to fire safety in hotels.

## References and related documents

Council Recommendation [86/666/EEC](#) of 22 December 1986 on fire safety in existing hotels

See also:

[European Parliament study on "hotel safety"](#), requested by the IMCO Committee of the EP, November 2008, IP/A/ALL /FWC/2006-105/LOT 3/C1/SC6.

Oral question [N° 0066/07](#) with debate of 12 October 2007 by various MEPs.

[Section 19 of the Report](#) – Revision of the Annex – Technical Guidelines for Recommendation 86/666/EEC

Report from the Commission on the application of the Council Recommendation of 22 December 1986 on fire safety in existing hotels (86/666/EEC), [COM\(2001\)348](#) of 27.06.2001

HOTREC comments on the Study Conducted by CETEN – APAVE on Fire Safety in Hotels and Accommodation Buildings, Doc 97.123 of 27 March 1997 (available on the HOTREC website under 'consumer affairs', [www.hotrec.eu](http://www.hotrec.eu))

Oral question N° 42/01 of 19 September 2001 by Ms. Caroline Jackson and Mr. Phillip Whitehead to the Commission on Fire Safety in Hotels

Written Question E-0184/02 of by Caroline Jackson to the Commission (6 February 2002) on Fire safety in buildings and Answer given by Commissioner Byrne (15 March 2002), O.J. C 160 of 04.07.2002