

# SFPE Benelux Charter

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*contactpersoon* P.H.E. (Peter) van de Leur  
*e-mail/telefoon* Peter.vandeLeur@sfpebenelux.eu

## 1. Reasons for drafting a Charter

After the start of the Benelux Chapter of the SFPE in 2012, the focus of activities has been on organizing seminars. A series of tunnel safety seminars has been successfully organised, and has put the SFPE-Benelux on the map. In the meantime, the composition of the original core group, the Board of Directors (BoD), has changed considerably. Among others, with the death of J.C. De Smedt the 'engine' and main initiator was lost. There has also been comment from outside the SFPE on a noted lack of focus. These have been the reasons for the BoD to take the initiative to draft a clear policy for the Benelux Chapter. The chapters below outline the objectives of SFPE and more specifically of its Benelux Chapter.

## 2. Key objectives

- SFPE has the ambition to be active in the entire spectrum of Fire Safety Engineering ( FSE, see below), not only in Fire Protection Engineering.
- SFPE aims for rational fire protection of buildings, installations and objects.
- SFPE strives for innovation in fire protection by promoting development, correct and integral application, and recognition, acceptance of FSE.
- FSE is the application of scientific principles and engineering methods for protecting people, animals, property, the environment and society against the harmful effects of fire.
- FSE is not limited to the application of combinations of models. Conventional architectural, architectural, building service installations and organizational security are part of sound overall security. SFPE promotes the right design, dimensioning, construction, installation and assembly into a coherent security system.
- SFPE aims to expand scientific and technical knowledge as a basis for FSE.
- SFPE strives for demonstrable quality in methods, products and services. Therefore, SFPE wants to be more than a platform or network organization.
- SFPE aims to provide a balanced platform for all fire professionals, and prevent unilateral commercial interests (special interests) being promoted.
- Products, models, services and individuals must have a minimum level to contribute to an FSE solution. Not all products are equally good, not all models and not all practitioners. The result of efforts depends on the levels of quality of all applied products, the care with which they are chosen, dimensioned and assembled, and the competence and integrity of the responsible persons and institutions. SFPE strives for transparency on the quality offered on the various subjects.

### 3. Concrete objectives

- Developing into an authoritative organization in the field of fire protection in the region.
- The views and opinions of SFPE must be authoritative in developing regulatory and FSE methodologies
- SFPE wants to be the 'inescapable' party for parties seeking knowledge and opinions on fire protection
- SFPE must take the lead in further development of fire protection techniques and methods
- SFPE aims to collect, develop and extend knowledge, methods and tools for the professionals involved in fire protection.
- SFPE wants to influence developments by drawing up and publishing a research & development agenda. It identifies deficiencies in data and methods, and proposes how to remove those shortages.
- SFPE develops and manages competence profiles (training, knowledge, skills) for the various levels of fire protection professionals
- SFPE contributes to the introduction of these profiles in quality assurance / certification schemes in the market. Note: SFPE does not have the ambition to take a formal position in certification, but stimulates professional recognition.

### 4. Action plan

SFPE wants to acquire a base of active members by making membership attractive for new and existing members. To this end, it undertakes the following actions:

Note: This list to be prioritized, confirmed and executed by BoD + members.

- Organizing seminars on current topics
- Organize discussion meetings on current topics (less presentation, more discussion, capture and disseminate results)
- Setting up of position papers and white papers on current topics. The members of SFPE Benelux can participate in it. The papers are first made available to members, and later to the general public
- Set up and manage a discussion forum
- Providing teaching materials to members
- Develop and manage relationships with partners / colleagues and their representatives (in line with our ambition to be authoritative) such as FireProNet, BBN, VVBA, ORI
- Recruit new members
- Positioning of the Benelux Chapter in SFPE Europe's activities (other European chapters)