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PRESS RELEASE

The fifth Stakeholder meeting with Professor T. Richard Hull

The Alliance for the Case for Flame Retardant Free Furniture is glad to report stakeholders and policy makers about the "Fifth Stakeholder Meeting" with Prof. T. Richard Hull.

The initiative took place on 29th January in Brussels gathering different stakeholders, researchers, practitioners and EU institutions' officials.

At this fifth meeting, Prof. T. Richard Hull presented the finding of his newly published study: **"Flame retardants in UK furniture increase smoke toxicity more than they reduce fire growth rate"**.

Professor Hull confirmed that fire toxicity is the main cause of deaths and injuries in fires, and he stated that, *"once the ignition occurs, the presence of flame retardants has little effect on the fire growth rate, but does have an adverse effect on the smoke toxicity"*. In fact, thanks to the tests that his team has performed, he discovered that furniture products treated with flame retardant chemicals to comply with the UK and Irish regulations release higher rates of Hydrogen Cyanide (HCN), which is the chemical compound causing sudden loss of consciousness, and therefore deaths, during fires.

Thus, Prof. Hull's study has revealed an increasingly clear evidence: **flame retardant chemicals should not be considered as a fit-for-purpose solution in furniture**, as they can increase the toxicity of fires and pose a great threat to human health and the environment.

For this reason the Alliance for The Case for Flame Retardant Free Furniture is calling on European and national authorities to take concrete actions to stop the use of flame retardant chemicals in furniture.



[Professor Hull's findings](#) have been reported by the BBC in its recently broadcasted investigative report: *"[How fire-safe is British furniture?](#)"*.

For more information about **the Alliance for the Case for Flame Retardant Free Furniture**, check out the new website: www.safurniture.eu

A safe fire safety is possible.

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