



**January 2020**

## **CIB W014 – Fire Safety New Commission Coordinator**

In January 2020, the CIB Programme Committee appointed João Paulo Correia Rodrigues as new Coordinator of the Working Commission W014 – Fire Safety.



### **CONTACT DETAILS:**

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### **CURRICULUM VITAE SUMMARY:**

João Paulo Correia Rodrigues is graduated in Civil Engineering from Coimbra University (UC), in 1991 and completed the Masters in Civil Engineering in the area of Structures at UC, in 1994. He completed the PhD in Civil Engineering at the Instituto Superior Técnico (IST) of the Technical University of Lisbon (UTL), in 2001 and the Habilitation in Civil Engineering at Lisbon University (UL), in 2014.

He has spent all of his professional career at the Civil Engineering Department (DEC) of UC having joined it in 1992. He is currently Associate Professor with Habilitation at UC. From July 2020, he will also join the Federal University of Minas Gerais, in Brazil, as Invited Full Professor.

His research interests lie in the areas of: (i) fire safety of structures; (ii) behaviour of structural and non-structural materials at high temperatures; (iii) fire safety engineering (performance based fire design and fire risk analysis).

He is also author of hundreds of scientific publications and has supervised hundreds of MSc and PhD students in the area of Fire Safety Engineering. From 2006 to 2019 he was coordinator of the Post-graduate programme (MSc and PhD) on Fire Safety Engineering

of Coimbra University, in Portugal, having been responsible for its creation.

He has also participated actively in various international working groups: W014-Fire Safety of the International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB), HTC and HPB-Concrete Properties at High Temperatures of the International Union of Laboratories and Experts in Construction Materials, Systems and Structures (RILEM), TC3-Fire of the European Convention for Constructional Steelwork (ECCS), TG 4.3-Fire Design of Concrete Structures of the International Federation for Structural Concrete (fib), TC92 SC4-Fire Safety Engineering of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and TU0904-Integrated Fire Engineering and Response and FP1404 – Fire Safety of Bio-Based Building Products of the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST). For this last action he was the national representative, designated by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT).

### **New Horizons for CIB W014 – Fire Safety**

CIB W014 – Fire Safety is one of the oldest active commissions of the International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB). This Commission over the years has developed extensive and effective work in different areas of fire safety with the publication of many important roadmaps. This work has been carried out by hundreds of experts around the World. The Commission has organized numerous workshops and supported several congresses in the area and recently created a new cycle of international congresses, the IFireSS – International Fire Safety Symposium.

The commission has met regularly in person, in different parts of the world, trying to combine the meetings with those of other committees with which it has liaison, such as the TC 92 – Fire Safety committee of the International Standards Organization (ISO).

The work carried out by the previous CIB W014 Commissions was excellent and only this justifies that CIB W014 is one of the oldest Commissions still active. Continuing this excellent work and improving it, is an obligation of the new Coordination.



The Commission enters now in a new era where increasing, enhancing and systematizing its activity is necessary. The Commission intends to set up several working groups in different thematic areas of fire safety. It is intended, in a first phase, to create a working group on Structures and Materials at High Temperatures, another in Systems, Installations and Equipment of Fire Safety and another in Fire Safety Regulations and Standards. These working groups will be complemented by sub-groups on more specific topics that will give rise in the future to new subcommittees. This will allow to work in a decentralized way where everyone will feel responsible in the Commission's activities.

For an easier coordination of the work, it is intended to appoint co-coordinators of CIB W014 commission for different large territorial areas of the World. Thus, a co-coordinator for Europe, another for North America, another for Latin America, and another for Asia and Oceania, are intended. These co-coordinators can accompany more close the work in the areas where they live and carry out their professional and research activity. These co-coordinators together with the coordinator will constitute a core group that will manage and plan the activities of the commission.

The registration of new members in the Commission is of outmost importance, especially young students and researchers. This will be promoted by the presentation of the Committee in Schools and Universities, in different parts of the World. These dissemination actions will be done by the regional groups in dedicated workshops or in parallel with other events. The registration of members from companies, working in the area, beyond the members of the universities and research centers, is also very important. The connection between research and companies is very important for the development of applied solutions and final products.

A new website dedicated to the work of the Commission, in parallel with the information already in the CIB website, will be created. The activity of the commission will be advertised using different means. A CIB W014 newsletter will be distributed by email to all CIB members.

The continuation of publishing roadmaps, in different areas of fire safety, is important, but the Commission will also publish thematic handbooks, as other associations of the area do, and special thematic issues with papers in scientific journals. In these special issues and whenever possible, the Commission members should mention its affiliation to CIB W014, in order to advertise the Commission. Being a member of CIB W014 will be a distinctive aspect in each one's curriculum vitae.

CIB W014 intends also publish technical appraisals of different innovative fire safety products and solutions for a proper use in building construction. These

documents intend to uniform and improve the construction worldwide.

CIB W014 will also organize thematic courses and workshops in different areas of fire safety. These courses will be face-to-face, but it is intended to create also e-learning courses for a global audience.

CIB W014 is not a research group, but it should promote research synergies in different areas of fire safety between its members and those of other scientific groups and researchers in general from different institutions around the World.

CIB W014 will also make an evaluation, non-binding, of the existing doctorate, masters and specialization courses on fire safety around the World and give advice on their restructuring when necessary for an enhanced quality. The Commission will write model curriculums for the different types of courses in order to uniform them around the World. The creation of the figure of fire safety engineer, with very well-defined skills, will be of outmost importance for the development of the area at a global scale.

The Commission work will be reported at least once a year to CIB Board of Directors. The Commission's work should be always at a high standard and contributes to the CIB's objectives of developing research and technical knowledge in construction industry worldwide.

The IFireSS – International Fire Safety Symposium will continue to be the great global scientific meeting of CIB W014. IFireSS is an International Congress across the various areas of fire safety engineering and has been asserting in recent years as a reference in the area. This Symposium had its first edition in 2014, in Coimbra-Portugal, followed in 2017, by Naples – Italy and in 2019, by Ottawa – Canada. The next edition of the Symposium will take place in 2021, in Rio de Janeiro - Brazil. The idea to continue with this Symposium, each two years, in different parts of the World. After Rio de Janeiro, in 2021, it is expected to have an edition somewhere in Asia or Oceania. Indexed proceedings and thematic issues in journals, with the best papers presented in these Symposiums, will be prepared.

Thus, the main objective of the new coordination will be the development of the Commission for the development of fire safety worldwide.

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