



This event is being jointly hosted and facilitated by Atlantic Technological University (ATU) Letterkenny, Ulster University (UU) Magee Campus, Derry and MEP Luke "Ming" Flanagan of the LEFT group in the European Parliament.

Venue: Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Donegal, Tuesday Nov 15th 2022, (1.30-10.00pm)

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/the-science-and-societal-impacts-of-defective-concrete-tickets-443321886697> (Closes 15th Nov 12 noon).

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON 'MICA'/DEFECTIVE BLOCKS

Atlantic Technological University (ATU) Ulster University and MEP Luke "Ming" Flanagan of the LEFT group in the European Parliament will co-host and facilitate an international conference on the science and societal impacts of defective concrete blocks on Tuesday, November 15th from 1.45-10.00pm at the Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. The organising committee for this initiative includes Professor Paul Dunlop (Research Director for Geography and Environmental Sciences, Ulster University), Dr Eileen Doherty (Lecturer in Digital Transformation, Ulster University) and Joseph Morgan (Director of Engineering, Druva), all of whom have been actively involved in researching various aspects of this important issue.

This conference will see leading international experts in geology, earth sciences and engineering who research the impacts of deleterious minerals on concrete from Canada, the USA, Switzerland, Norway and Ireland travel to ATU to speak about their own research insights into defective concrete as well as learn more about the defective blocks issue in Ireland. Other researchers from a wide range of disciplines including Business and Psychology as well as a range of community and stakeholders will also be presenting on their experiences and proposed research on the wider societal impacts of living with defective concrete. The conference incorporates a number of key sessions that includes roundtable discussions with key stakeholders and government representatives, a multidisciplinary session looking at the wider societal impacts of defective concrete, a session on the science of deleterious geological minerals and their destructive impacts on concrete and a session on EU engagement with the issue of Irish defective concrete blocks.

Conference Programme

Session 1 – Defective Block Grant Scheme Update and Round Table Stakeholder Discussions

1:30-1.40pm - Conference Opening - Hosts and Organising Committee

- **Luke Ming Flanagan** (MEP)
- **Paul Hannigan** (Head of College, ATU)
- **Professor Paul Dunlop** (Ulster University)
- **Dr Eileen Doherty** (Ulster University)
- **Mr Joe Morgan** (Director of Engineering)
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1.40pm -2.40pm - Update on the Enhanced Grant Scheme for the Remediation of Dwellings Damaged by the Use of Defective Concrete Blocks in their Construction (Chaired by Dr Eileen Doherty, Prof Paul Dunlop, Mr Joe Morgan)

- **John O'Connor** (Appointed by Minister of Housing, Darragh O'Brien, as Homeowner Liaison)
- **Damien Owens** (Registrar, Engineers Ireland)
- **Martin McDermott** (Chair of Defective Blocks Steering Committee, Donegal County Council)

2.40-3.20pm - Round Table Discussion - The Social Impacts of Defective Concrete (Chaired by Dr Eileen Doherty & Mr Joe Morgan)

- **John O'Connor**
- **Damien Owens**
- **Martin McDermott**
- **Lisa Hone** (Chair of Mica Action Group)
- **Henry O'Donnell** (Affected homeowner)
- **Angeline Ruddy** (School Teacher & Affected Homeowner)
- **Mary Regan** (Pensioner and affected homeowner)

3.20-4.00pm - Round Table Discussion - The Science of Defective Concrete (Chaired by Prof Paul Dunlop & MEP Luke Ming Flanagan)

- **Dr Andreas Leemann** (Research at Empa, Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology, Switzerland)
- **Professor Benoît Fournier** (Research scientist at Department of Geology and Engineering Geology of Laval University, Canada)
- **Eoin McGrath** (Senior Geologist and Head of the Minerals Program at Geological Survey of Ireland, member of the Minerals Resources Expert Group EuroGeoSurveys)
- **Dr Kurt Aasly** (Head of Mineral Production & HSE research group, Department of Geoscience and Petroleum, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway)
- **Thomas Campbell** (Director of TA Group & Chartered Engineer on IS465 register of engineers)
- **Debbie McCoy** (State of Connecticut, Lead Advocate, USA)

4.00-4.30pm – BREAK

Session 2: Multidisciplinary Session (Chair - Dr Eileen Doherty)

4.30-4.45pm – Dr Eileen Doherty (Ulster Business School, Ulster University)

- **Title:** Session introduction & Governance failure on behalf of the Irish State - the 'mica' case

4.45-5.00pm - Ann Owens (Homeowner Advocate, Donegal)

- **Title:** Victims of Failure

5.00 -5.15pm - Eileen McLaughlin Long

- **Title:** Family testimony - The impacts of living in a defective concrete block home

5.15-5.30pm - Angeline Ruddy (Secondary school teacher, Moville Community College)

- **Title:** School Testimony - The impacts of defective concrete blocks on the lives of secondary school students

5.30-5.45pm - Dr Karen Kirby (Ulster University, School of Psychology)

- **Title:** Measuring the scale of the mental health & well-being impact of MICA affected homeowners in Ireland

5.45-6.00pm - Affected Business Owner (Anonymous, Donegal)

- **Title:** The impact of defective concrete blocks on business owners

6.00-6.15pm - Declan Meehan (Chair of Ray Community Centre & Manager of Milford District)

- **Title:** Community Centers in Rural Ireland impacted by defective block

6.15-6.30pm Denise McCool (Inishowen Development Partnership)

- **Title:** IDP/IFAN community response Programme for mica affected families

6.30 - 6.45pm BREAK

Session 3: Scientific Insights into the Causes of Defective Concrete (Chair - Professor Paul Dunlop)

6.45-6.50pm - Professor Paul Dunlop (Research Director, School of Geography and Environmental Sciences, Ulster University)

- **Title:** Session Overview

6:50 - 7:20pm - Keynote Address: Dr Andreas Leemann (Group Leader Concrete Technology Empa, Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology Switzerland)

- **Title:** The mica crisis in Donegal – a case of internal sulfate attack?

7.20-7.35pm - Nick Scaglione (Concrete Research & Testing, USA)

- **Title:** Petrographic Examinations of Pyrrhotite-Bearing Aggregates

7.35 - 7.50pm - Dr Robbie Goodhue (Senior Experimental Officer, School of Natural Sciences, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland)

- **Title:** Water in masonry concrete

7.50-8.05pm - Professor Josée Duchesne & Professor Benoit Fournier (Department of Geology and Geological Engineering, Laval University, Québec City, Canada).

- **Title:** Overview of the Trois-Rivières Pyrrhotite Issues in Québec, Canada: Background, Research Initiatives and Canadian Standard

8.05 - 8.20pm - Dr Kurt Aasly (Head of Mineral Production & HSE research group, Department of Geoscience and Petroleum, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway)

- **Title:** Identification of sulphur and sulphide minerals in aggregates for concrete

8.20 - 8.35pm - Prof Marisa Chrysochoou & Dr Kay Wille (School of Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Connecticut, USA)

- **Title:** Pyrrhotite in Concrete - Research & Field Testing in Connecticut & Massachusetts

8.35 - 8.45pm - Questions from the floor

8.45 - 9.00pm BREAK

Session 4: EU/Policy session (Chairs - Joseph Morgan & MEP Luke Ming Flanagan)

9.00 - 9.15pm - **Debbie McCoy** (State of Connecticut, Lead Advocate, USA)

- **Title:** legislation comparative on defective concrete from the USA

9.15 - 9.30pm - **Luke Ming Flanagan** (MEP)

- **Title:** EU Parliament Update on Irish defective concrete

9.30 - 9.45pm - **Joe Morgan** (Engineering Director DRUVA)

- **Title:** Session overview & EU Petitions Committee Update

9.45 - 10.00pm – (Conference Organising Committee)

- Closing Remarks