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## Turn of the Year

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Again a year of intensive work in our association has become a part of fire history. The highlight in this past year certainly was the Fire Olympics in Ostrava:

More than 3,000 fire fighters from 28 nations came together to compete in a fair way. The performances were very impressive. We were able to welcome as guest nation a high ranking delegation as well as a competition group from Japan. This shows that CTIF is well known far beyond Europe; just as well as the United Arab Emirates recently send their application for membership to our Berlin office. Who knows maybe Japan will join soon too.

All CTIF Commission have been active and met at least once. The results of the newly founded working group "Training and Education" will be reported later on.

But CTIF has to also look ahead in the future:

2010 will be the year of the „Interschutz“ in Leipzig, Germany. Just like in 2005 in Hannover the CTIF will be present again and will try to get in contact with as many interested people as possible.

At this point I would like to thank everyone who supports CTIF. I am looking forward to our cooperation in 2010.

The President  
Walter Egger

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## CTIF Delegates' Assembly 2009

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The CTIF Delegates Assembly took place on 23 July 2009 in the Czech city of Ostrava, alongside the International CTIF Fire Brigades and Youth Fire Brigades Competitions. About 100 delegates from 29 countries decided on main policies, actions and projects to be carried out by CTIF and networked on an international basis. The importance of cross boarder cooperation was underlined through special guests:

### Guest delegation from Japan

Over the past months, CTIF has developed strong links with the Japanese Fire Fighters Association. The association's Director General Mr. Akimoto explained in his speech that all fire services on this globe have something in common.

"I feel that the fire fighters' mission of protecting people's lives and property seems to be common in the world, even if the policies and systems are different from one country to the other."

In Japan, there are 160,000 career fire fighters and 900,000 volunteer fire fighters protecting citizens and material assets. Also 420,000 boys and girls between 10 and 15 years old involved in 5,300 "junior fire fighting clubs" in this nation.



*The delegates from 29 nations are participating*

### Election of the CTIF Treasurer

Laurent Wehrli was unanimously re-elected as CTIF Treasurer for a four-year term. He is the President of the Swiss and Liechtenstein Fire Fighters Federations. He used the opportunity for some personal words:

"It is a real pleasure to work in an international environment. I joined the CTIF Executive Committee in

2005 and I have learned many things, from a professional but also from a personal point of view.

My work for CTIF is focused on managing our association's finances, but it is also important for me as a volunteer fire fighter to make our voices heard and to share our experiences. That's the aim of CTIF's expert permanent commissions. We also try to respond as best as we can to our member countries' needs by creating working groups on issues that are important to all of us."

Two of the CTIF commission had their meetings in Ostrava, the Europe commission and the commission on fire prevention.

### Outlook for 2010

The next CTIF Delegates' Assembly in June 2010 will be under special circumstances:

From June 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> 2010 the international leading fair INTERSCHUTZ will take place in LEIPZIG, Germany. Already 900 exhibitors from 42 countries have registered and about 100,000 visitors are expected from all over the world.

Germany will be a strong exhibiting nation with 430 exhibitors and other nations like China, USA, Italy and Great Britain will also be very prominent. For the first time ever Australia, Hongkong and Peru will also participate.

### New CTIF Members

During the CTIF Delegates' Assembly in Ostrava the following new members were welcomed:

Iran is a new ordinary member of CTIF. The country is represented by the Research Center for Urban and Rural Management, Iranian Municipalities and Rural Management Organisation ([www.imo.org](http://www.imo.org)).

New associate members could be welcomed:

The French company Sperianprotection which is producing personal protection equipment ([www.sperianprotection.com](http://www.sperianprotection.com)) and the German organisation @fire specialised in forest fire fighting ([www.at-fire.de](http://www.at-fire.de)).

### Civil protection forum in Brussels

„Towards a more resilient society“ – this was subject of the third Civil Protection Forum in Brussels in which about 500 civil protection experts participated. In several discussion panels experts debated the future challenges of European Civil Protection. Simultaneously there was a an exhibition with international partners, education centers and innovative technologies.

The main focus lay in the high-level kick-off discussion in which Stavros Dimas, EU Commissioner for

the Environment, Håkan Jevrell, State Secretary, Ministry of Defence, from Sweden and Margareta Wahlström, Assistant Secretary-General, UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction participated. In regard to the discussion in the commission about a European civil protection force it was emphasised that such one will not be necessary.

Different seminars and panels discussed subjects like: development of European Civil Protection, prevention, Risk Perception, existing ways of cooperation and distribution of resources and innovative technologies.

The final discussion with participation of general directors from different nations and the general director of the DG Environment of the EU commission focused on future developments like involvement of the the MIC (Monitoring and Information Center) which is the platform in the community mechanism to coordinate a European reaction.

A representative from Italy emphasized based on the experiences in the last major incidents that helps which is not requested is very difficult to handle at the place. With this in mind he asked not to plan any support without the prior consent of the incident leader.

CTIF was represented at this excellent international networking opportunity by Vice-presidents Ralf Ackermann and Dennis Davis.

### CTIF Commission „International Fire Brigade Competition“: Revision and future

Commissionpresident Hans-Heinrich Ullmann was able to welcome more than 30 participants from 12 nations in Amberg (Germany). Each subgroup reported and everyone quickly agreed that Ostrava can be described as a successful event:

All competitions, youth fire brigades, traditional and sports competitions were performed in a fair and sportive way and everywhere first class performances could be admired.



„Hot“ competitions in Ostrava

One could consider the attendance of the president of the autonomic Italian province Trient, Mr. Alberto Flaim as a starting signal for the next CTIF Fire Olympics in 2013.

4 years of hard work are laying ahead of the local organisers as well as the CTIF Commission until this next major event. Everyone is very much aware of the short time.



*Until 2013 the athletes have to wait until they can celebrate again*

Further points for discussion were different details regarding the competition regulations. These will be further discussed by the sub-groups.

Finally Hans-Heinrich Ullmann was unanimously appointed for chairman of the CTIF Commission International Fire Competition for the next two years.

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## **X. International Symposium of the CTIF Youth Leaders Commission 2010**

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Under the motto "Youth and its Problems in Current Times" the X. International Symposium of the International Youth Leaders Commission (IJLK) of the CTIF takes place in Krakow, Poland from 13 – 16 May 2010. In discussion groups, so called "Workshops," the IJLK, in co-operation with the youth members and their leaders wants to debate the above subject. It wishes to explore the difficulties and demands in order to focus on the awareness of integration and equality within our youth associations.

According to the chairman of the IJLK Jos Tholl:

"Currently there are 30 member nations of the CTIF running youth fire brigade schemes for 800,000 boys and girls between 6 and 20 years of age. However, on the basis of this data it would be wrong for the or-

ganisation to suggest it should rest on its laurels and allow our work with young people to become complacent. Right here and now a new emphasis must be applied to meet the new challenges."

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## **Meeting of the CTIF History Commission**

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*During the meeting CTIF President Walter Egger (right) awarded the CTIF medal of honor to Willi Pfefferli (left) for his outstanding research of fire history (Foto: Ivo Havil, Pribyslav)*

Members from 14 nations participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CTIF commission "History of Fire Services and CTIF, Museums and Documentation" on September 30<sup>th</sup> 2009 in the Fire Center Pribyslav (Czech Republic).

After the first certified museums in Pribyslav (Czech Republic, 2007), Myslowice and Rakoniewice (Poland, 2008) and Fulda (Germany, 2008), the Styrian Fire Museum Groß St. Florian and the Upper Austrian Fire Museum St. Florian (both Austria) as well as the fire museums in Norderstedt and Winnenden (both Germany) have been suggested for certification and have been added to the list of CTIF certified fire museums.

There was a broad discussion about a guideline presented by Dipl. Ing Dieter Jarausch (German Fire Protection Association) of this organisation regarding the age determination of fire brigades. It was decided to develop based on this guideline an own instruction for CTIF historians in the year 2010.

The tour through the CTIF Archive showed that awareness for CTIF history can still be improved. CTIF members should be encouraged to send material for documentation to the CTIF Archive.

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## **Meeting of International Study Group for the History of the Fire Service and Fire Protection in the CTIF: Culture of Fire Services**

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Ever since Aristoteles we are familiar with the thought to view human beings as „zoon politikon“: social beings. Human life is only possible in a social surround-

ing. This is the reason for the importance of associations and clubs.

Fire Services and especially volunteer fire services which are founded according to association law took over their common activities and public events from charitable fraternities. In order to raise funds for equipment fire services organise a lot of different events such as balls, sports competitions, processions, festivities in summer, dancing events in autumn or Christmas tree auctions.

Wearing uniforms fire fighters belong to "marching" units. They also participate in festivities of their communities during the year. The special and own culture of fire services shows in flags and uniforms, badges and other symbols and in celebrations of their patron saints. Fire services are from the beginning on a social-political factor in their communities.

Even if fire services usually have a public status there is often besides the professional training and service a social life. The tasks have remained the same. Volunteer fire services use individuals to form a social group. Because of this they often have an important integrating side for the community. The members come from all groups of the society, they have an important social function.

Due to reforms in the past years (reforms in schools, police, administration, etc.) many small villages have lost important institutions. With the disappearance of these institutions many persons of the public life (teachers, police, etc.) have also disappeared. Also religious representatives are disappearing. But villages need leaders. Should even the fire services disappear from social and cultural life of a village a depletion of the social, economic and cultural life would be inevitable.

These and many other conclusions were drawn when 74 scientists from 14 nations met in Pribyslav (Czech Republic) on the occasion of the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of International Study Group for the History of the Fire Service and Fire Protection in the CTIF from September 30<sup>th</sup> to October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009. The theme was: Fire Services as a social factor in Villages and Cities.

The discussion was led by co-chairman Adolf Schinnerl (Austria) and Stanislav Barta (Czech Republic). Honorary guests were CTIF president Walter Egger, Karel Richter, President of the Bohemian, Mohavian and Silesian Fire Association and Dieter Farrenkopf, chairman of the CTIF History Commission.

The research results are available in a report (50 reports, 376 pages) and can be ordered at the Centrum hasicskeho hnuti, Pribyslav, E-Mail: [jpatek@chh.cz](mailto:jpatek@chh.cz)

The 18th meeting will take place from September 29th to October 1st 2010 in Varazdin, Croatia. Subject will be: "Founding and development of Fire Service Associations".

The International Study Group is closely linked to the CTIF History Commission but the Study group is open to any interested person and is not necessary to be nominated by a national institution. If you need any further information please contact the chairman of the Study Group Adolf Schinnerl, E-Mail: [adolfschinnerl@sbg.at](mailto:adolfschinnerl@sbg.at)

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## New Publication: International CTIF Fire Brigades Competitions

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It was a gigantic task which Mr. Dipl. Ing. Wilhelm Bohlmann (CTIF honorary member) has fulfilled:

In painstaking detail and with many personal interviews he collected information and pictures to document for the first time ever the history of fire brigades competitions from its beginnings until today:

He succeeded in this very excellent:

The book is „alive“ because the author contributed many of his personal memories which he collected as an active athlete, team leader of the GDR group in fire sports, referee and lastly as CTIF competition leader. Reports of other witnesses to history remind us of long forgotten details and emphasise that such events are much more than a sportive competition:

International contacts across borders and different political systems, showing that fire fighters from all nations have something in common.



The publication allows travelling in time through a very interesting history of competitions with pictures and texts. The book (552 pages) contains more than 1,000 photos and can be ordered at a price of 52,90€ (+ shipping and handling) at:

Wilhelm Bohlmann, Lilienthalstr. 25 A, D-18119 Rostock, Germany.

Please be aware that this is a limited edition!