

Happy New Year 2009!

2008 was once again another successful year for CTIF. I first would like to mention our very active commissions and working groups who met once or several times this year. I would like to thank all commission chairmen and participants for organising and attending these meetings. Our associate members also organised symposia, conferences and workshops. Our vice-presidents represented CTIF on various occasions so as to make our organisation better known and recognised among fire fighters throughout our member countries. All these activities are essential and enable us to learn from each other, motivating us to be active and follow our goals in an efficient manner.

CTIF looks ahead in the future and especially to its 14th International Fire Brigades Competitions that will be held next year in Ostrava, in the Czech Republic.

But before that, I would like to invite you to enjoy the peaceful time coming ahead. Christmas and New Year's Eve are meant to be days of sharing invaluable moments with our families and friends and gather energy before starting 2009 with renewed strength to successfully carry on with our work.

I wish all our readers merry Christmas days and a happy and successful New Year!

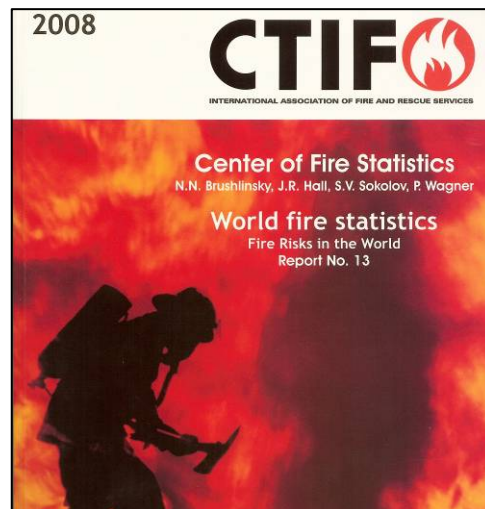
Your CTIF President Walter Egger

CTIF Statistics

The CTIF World Fire Statistics Centre published its 13th report in September 2008, including fire statistics for the year 2006, but also trends in fires, fire deaths and fire fighters deaths for the period between 2002 and 2006, and a history of fire risks for an even larger number of countries.

Here is an overview of the countries covered: Albania, American Samoa, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Guernsey, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jersey, Jordan, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Russia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, USA, Vietnam.

CTIF thanks the authors for their involvement in this important activity, recognised at the worldwide level: Prof. Dr. Brushlinsky and Prof. Dr. Sokolov (Moscow Fire Safety Academy of Emercom), Dr. Ing. Wagner (Berlin Fire Department), Dr. Hall (NFPA, USA).



The CTIF Statistical Report 2008 is now available on request at ctif@dfv.org

International Symposium On Fire Training In Dortmund

Several CTIF representatives took actively part in the international fire training symposium organised on 18 and 19 November in Dortmund by the companies MSA Auer, DMT and Kidde Fire Trainers. The symposium was opened by CTIF President Walter Egger, and CTIF General Secretary Christophe Mignot delivered a speech on the French Fire Officers Training School "ENSOSP". Innovative ideas were presented to the 200 participants, including education and training concepts but also legal questions as regards training accidents and fitness. Gathering representatives from companies and various fire and rescue organisations proved to be a highly successful initiative and enabled many exchanges of experience.

Saint-Petersburg University Proposes International Courses

The Saint Petersburg University – that belongs to the Fire Protection Service of the Russian Ministry for Emergency Preparedness (EMERCOM) and translated CTIF's Fire and Rescue Dictionary into Russian last year - is the oldest educational body in the field of fire and rescue in Russia. Foreign students are now offered the opportunity to attend two international courses (government certificate of continuing education) either on the protection of the environment in oil and gas industries or on the methods of ascertainment of the causes of fire.

More information: www.igps.ru

New CTIF members

At its Delegates Assembly in Colmar in September 2008, CTIF welcomed **9 new members**.



⇒ The **Cyprus Fire Service** employs in total 662 officers, full time fire fighters as well as 120 part-time (volunteer) fire fighters who serve rural fire stations. It has stations all over the island: 10 fire stations in major cities, fire stations in the two main International Airports of Larnaka and Pafos, 15 rural stations manned by volunteer fire fighters, a special fire and rescue unit (EMAK), a fire fighting training centre, a fire prevention department, a fire service maintenance team (mechanical and garage facilities), fire service stores and the fire service information technology department. The Cyprus Fire Service maintains a fleet of approximately 115 pumps, 110 fire and rescue trucks, 6 platforms, 6 emergency vehicles, 20 auxiliary vehicles and 5 ambulances located across the island.

www.fs.gov.cy or www.cyprus.gov.cy

⇒ The **All-Russian Volunteer Fire Organisation** is the largest and oldest non-profit fire and rescue organisation in Russia. It has 81 regional departments, 850 city or district departments and 300,000 members, among them nearly 17,000 children and youth clubs. It aims at defending the rights and interests of its members, preventing fires, accidents and emergencies, improving fire extinguishing techniques, organising awareness raising campaigns to prevent fires and teach people how to react in the event of a fire, but also encouraging sports.

www.vdpo.ru

⇒ **Bitschnau Stahl- und Anlagenbau GmbH (Austria)** specialises in aluminium and steel processing, steel and metal constructions, including constructing bridges. It also designs, manufactures and installs aluminium rooftop heliports and helipads.

www.bitschnau.com

⇒ **COMP-TRADE Austria** manufactures and provides equipment (breathing air compressor systems, industrial safety and fire fighting material) for the oil and gas industry, the safety and fire fighting sector and the military and diving industry.

www.comtrade.at

⇒ **EducExpert** is a multimedia company that specialises in training and learning. It provides training for part-time fire fighters in Québec cities but also services to fire chiefs to help them organise their fire fighters' initial training and continuing education.

www.educexpert.com

⇒ The **National Chemical Emergency Centre (UK)** specialises in providing emergency response and chemical safety products and services. It supports the UK Government in responding to a range of incidents. It also provides commercial services to the chemical industry and governments around the world, helping organizations to improve their chemical safety management and emergency response.

www.the-ncec.com

⇒ **Pastor Group** is the sole manufacturer of fire extinguishers in Croatia, resting on a 70-year tradition started in 1930. It provides a complete range of portable and transportable pressurized extinguishers using various agents such as powder, carbon dioxide, water or foam. Its production is exported primarily to Germany, Belgium, France and Russia.

www.pastor.hr/english/homepage.html

⇒ The **Strategic Security Institute (Switzerland)** is an international centre providing governments, non-governmental bodies and corporations with certified security, crisis management and counterterrorism training. It works with an international team of former special operations, law enforcement, defence, security and risk mitigation specialists having substantial worldwide operating experience with governments, NGOs, law enforcement agencies, militaries and multi-national corporations.

www.strategicsecurityinstitute.org

⇒ **W.L. Gore & Associates Ltd. (UK)**

Gore manufactures consumer products (outerwear and footwear, including the Gore-Tex fabric), cables and cable assemblies, electronic and electrochemical materials, fabrics, fibres for the technical textile industry, filtration products, pharmaceutical, medical and health care products and sealants. It also provides geochemical services.

www.gore.com

CTIF Makes the Voices Of Fire Fighters Heard

At the CTIF Europe Symposium organised in Paris in March 2008, fire fighters from the European Union countries had expressed their common concern about the consequences of the proposals amending EU Working Time Directive 2003/88/EC on fire fighting activities – especially as regards the minimum daily rest period of 11 consecutive hours per 24 hours and the maximum weekly working time of 48 hours. On behalf of the CTIF Europe Commission, a position paper was jointly prepared by French and British experts on this issue.



Véronique Wadel – France
**The CTIF Europe Commission
met in Colmar in September 2008
to discuss the position of European fire fighters
on the EU Working Time Directive**

CTIF considers that the situation of fire fighting activities as regards the definition of working time should be clarified to avoid future conflicts. This could be either by excluding fire fighting activities from the definition of working time, or giving member states the competence to exclude a limited number of activities (including certain types of fire fighters such as volunteers and their activities) from the definition of working time. This position paper will be forwarded by each CTIF European Union nation to their respective MEP's. CTIF will also organise a meeting with MEP's in Brussels soon to make sure that the issues that are specific to fire and rescue services and fire fighters in Member States are better taken into account at the European level. The aim is to encourage a final adoption of the Directive Proposal as soon as possible to preserve the good functioning of fire and rescue services while guaranteeing a high level of protection of the health and safety of fire fighters.

Download the full position paper on: www.ctif.org

Ostrava 2009: An event not to be missed!

**Next CTIF International Fire Brigades
And Youth Fire Brigades Competitions
19 to 26 July 2009
Ostrava, Czech Republic**



Welcome to Ostrava!

The city is located in the Moravian-Silesian region and is – with nearly 320,000 inhabitants - the third largest city in the Czech Republic. It is located about 10 km away from Poland, 50 km away from Slovakia, and 360 km from Prague. The Vitkovice Stadium will welcome the CTIF Games.

How to get there?

The Leoš Janáček Ostrava International Airport (OSR) is located 20 km from the city centre and welcomes both domestic and international flights.

More on: www.ostrava.cz

The Czech Fire Brigades in short

They are managed by the General Directorate for Fire and Rescue Service at the Ministry of Interior, and are in charge of fire and rescue operations. There are in total nearly **8,000 brigades involving more than 85,000 members**: 237 regional fire and rescue brigades with 6,500 career fire fighters, 94 company fire brigades with 2,350 full-time fire fighters, 7,348 municipal volunteer fire brigades with more than 73,000 people, 258 company fire brigades with over 2,800 people employed by those companies and who serve as fire fighters on a voluntary basis, and 19 military units with nearly 500 fire fighters.

CTIF and the Czech National Committee at work

An international steering committee has been set up to prepare the competitions, involving CTIF vice-president Anton Brandauer and Gen. Maj. Ing. Miroslav Stepan, chairman of the Czech CTIF National Committee, the CTIF International Fire Brigades Competitions Chairman Hans-Heinrich Ullmann and Jos Tholl, who chairs the CTIF Youth Leaders Commission, CTIF Competition Leader Josef Huber and CTIF Youth Fire Brigades Competitions Leader Ignaz Mascha. 15 persons are already involved in the technical organisation in Ostrava (logistics, transport, website, press...).

**Download the competition rules on
www.ctif.org**

And visit www.ctif2009-ostrava.cz !

CTIF Commissions: Looking Back On a Year Full of Exchanges

⇒ Rescue and Fire Services on Airports

The commission met in June in Durham Tees Valley Airport, UK. Swiss training procedures, Norwegian crisis management and the UK Airport Fire Service Association were introduced. The



Swiss Federal Office for Civil Aviation

commission sent proposals to the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) on issues regarding intervention time, fuelling with passengers on board, training and equipment regulations, the A380, co-operation between airport and municipal fire brigades, environmental problems caused by new foams.

⇒ Hazardous Materials



Rogério Oliveira - Portugal

The commission met in Antwerp, Belgium in April and in Stockholm, Sweden, in October. This last meeting included workshops on tools and services for determining the dispersion of

hazardous materials and handling risk management, command and control in the event of hazmat incidents. The commission continued its co-operation with the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

⇒ Europe

The commission met twice in France, in April in Paris and in September in Colmar to discuss the consequences of the European Union working time directive on volunteer fire fighting activities (see p.3).



European Community 2008

⇒ History, Museums and Documentation



Estonian Rescue Board

The commission met in September in the National Fire Fighters Museum in Myslowice, Poland, where it welcomed new members from Denmark, Luxemburg and Greece. This museum was the 4th to be certified by the commission and hence joins Pribyslav (Czech Republic), Rakoniewice (Poland) and Fulda (Germany). The commission currently examines the application of the Styrian Fire Museum (Austria). A conference was organised along the meeting on the evolution of equipments designed to protect the head of fire fighters.

⇒ Fire Prevention

The commission met in Sofia, Bulgaria, in April and in Saint Petersburg, Russia, in October. Its members exchanged on fire prevention requirements, alert management in emergency situations, inspections and high rise buildings protection (see CTIF News July 2008).



Pompierii Romani

⇒ International Fire Brigades Competitions



Mario Jurinec, Croatia

The commission met 3 times in Ostrava, Czech Republic in 2008 to prepare the competitions 2009 (see p.3), visiting the stadium, which can welcome up to 20,000 persons, accommodation infrastructures and the venue for the CTIF Delegates Assembly. Team registration was also launched through Internet for the first time. A 4th meeting was held in Wels, Austria, in October.

⇒ Youth Leaders

The commission met in Ostrava, Czech Republic, in March to prepare the CTIF Youth Fire Brigades Competitions 2009, along with its colleagues from the CTIF International Fire Brigades Competitions Commission. It also met in Stuttgart, Germany, in October.



Press Centre Kapfenberg, Austria

⇒ Forest Fires



Rogério Oliveira - Portugal

The commission met in Sintra, Portugal, in April, and in Rizomata, Greece, in October. Thanks to the contacts established through the commission, 40 fire fighters from the UK attended the Greek Forest Fire Training Academy, enabling them to better understand the challenges faced by their European colleagues. The commission also worked on the Eurofire project (see CTIF News July 2008).

⇒ Fire Brigade Health Services and Rescue

The commission organised a conference "New World, New Risks" in Carcassonne, France, in July, which welcomed participants from 12 countries (see CTIF News July 2008).



Rogério Oliveira - Portugal

⇒ View the dates and venues
of the commission meetings 2009: www.ctif.org