

CTIF Definitely Goes Interactive!

After several months of conceptual, technical and graphical battles, the brand new CTIF website is online. We strongly wish www.ctif.org to be an international fire and rescue information exchange platform, and count on all of you to help the CTIF team improve it day by day and to make it known to all of your country's fire fighters! Have a nice scroll through these lively pages of CTIF history and future...

CTIF President Walter Egger

Fire fighters Build Up Tomorrow's Civil Protection In Europe

An important CTIF event took place on 7 and 8 March in Paris, where for the first time ever in France, fire fighters' representatives from 25 European countries gathered, determined to find common ways of strengthening Europe's civil protection capabilities. The summit meeting was organised by the French Fire Fighters Federation and the French CTIF National Committee, and welcomed CTIF President Walter Egger, former European Commissioner Michel Barnier, author of the report "Europe Aid", but also Jacques Barrot, European Commission Vice-President. A message from French Home Minister Michelle Alliot-Marie was also read, in view of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, which started on 1 July 2008. Mrs Alliot-Marie highlighted France's willingness to push the creation of a European Civil Protection Force ahead.

The severe and increasing catastrophes of the past years – forest fires in Greece, earthquake in Bolivia in 2007, floods in Eastern Europe, humanitarian crisis in Lebanon in 2006, tsunami in South East Asia in 2004 - demonstrated the need for a better-prepared European response to all sorts of crises and emergencies to strengthen the protection, aid and assistance provided to the populations in and outside of the European Union.



Fire fighters from all of the countries represented have already been very active in the field of international help. They will therefore have an essential role to play in a strengthened civil protection mechanism not only because of their huge human and material resources, but also thanks to their expertise and to the values they share in terms of involvement, commitment, humanity and solidarity.



6 countries (France, UK, Germany, Austria, Czech Republic and Portugal) also introduced their system of volunteer fire fighters and expressed their common concern about the survival of such system. The final statement is unanimous: Europe has difficulties to recruit and keep its 4 million volunteer fire fighters, though they play an essential role in the protection of their fellow citizens. The availability of fire fighters during working hours was one of the issues that the speakers pointed out and that the newly founded CTIF "Volunteers" working group will study in the coming months.

What next?

As a result of the conference and in accordance with CTIF's willingness to speak up in one voice to the European institutions, the CTIF Europe commission suggested to focusing first on the working time directive proposal. A comprehensive document prepared by the French and UK CTIF National Committees and expressing the fire fighters' point of view on this directive proposal has been submitted to the CTIF National Committees of the 27 European Union member countries. If approved by all countries, the document will be brought by the CTIF Europe Commission to the European institutions in Brussels to make the voice of all fire fighters heard!

⇒ Read full report and proceedings on:
www.ctif.org

CTIF Experts In Kosovo

The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) contacted CTIF a few months ago, looking for experts to analyse the current state-of-the-art as regards fire and rescue services in Kosovo. 4 CTIF experts from different countries were sent on the spot in December 2007: Tommy Forsberg (Swedish Fire and Rescue Academy), Peter Hofman-Bang (Danish Emergency Management Agency), Harald Herweg and Peter Wagner (Berlin Fire Service, Germany). They were asked to give advice on how fire services are organised, to assess their technical equipment (vehicles, materials, protection clothes) and their training, but also to look at their cooperation with other administrative institutions. CTIF experts visited several fire stations in Kosovo and discussed with the local fire brigades but also with representatives from the local government.



CTIF experts with OSCE representative

As a result, a written report was prepared by the CTIF team, including an overview of the current fire and rescue system in Kosovo, along with practical proposals to improve their organisation to fight against fires and to rescue people based on the ideas and suggestions given by the many colleagues met in Kosovo. The OSCE will focus on these proposals to help develop fire and rescue services in the country.



**Download the full report on: www.ctif.org
More information on: www.osce.org**

Interested In SAFEPROTEX?

Reducing the risk of injury through advanced personal protective equipment is the aim of this European project. The concept of the project lies in the development of protective uniforms, incorporating multiple protective properties and designated for rescue teams under complex risky conditions met in various types of everyday emergency operations. The project will mainly focus on the following aspects: protection against multiple hazards, extension of the service-life, physiological comfort and mechanical parameters. The project partners are now looking for end-users (fire services) in order to start the project.

Contact:

Thomas DIETRICH
Coordinator of European Projects
Tel.: +34 945 29 81 44 (ext. 117#)
Fax: +34 945 29 82 17
Email: thomasd@leia.es
Web Site: www.leia.es

CTIF Invited To Japan

In May 2008, the Japanese Volunteer Fire Fighters Organisation invited CTIF President Walter Egger and Vice-President Ralf Ackermann to speak about volunteer fire fighters, youth fire brigades and the response to large scale disasters and terror attacks in a European perspective. Approximately 350 listeners attended, among them the Japanese Minister of Internal Affairs and Communication and the Minister of State for Disaster Management, the President, the Chairman of the Board of Directors and the Executive Director of the Japanese Fire Fighters Association Mr. Katayama, Mr Akimoto and Mr. Yamaguchi, as well as several fire chiefs from all over Japan. Speakers from several countries (USA, Canada, Australia, The Netherlands and the UK) were also invited, caring for high-level exchanges. A few months ago, a Japanese delegation visited the CTIF Permanent Office in Berlin and the contacts should be strengthened even further with a delegation coming to attend the General Assembly in Colmar.

More on:

http://www.nissho.or.jp/ivfc/index_e.html

News from CTIF Countries

⇒ The new president of the Croatian Fire Fighters Association is Ante Sanader. A formal tribute was paid to his deceased predecessor Marian Mlinaric, in presence of CTIF president Walter Egger.

⇒ The new president of the Slovenian Fire Fighters Association is Anton Koren. CTIF President Walter Egger thanked his predecessor Ernest Eöry for all his work, especially as the founder of the CTIF working group "Danube Countries".

Forest Fires in the Spotlight

⇒ Forest Symposium in Sintra, Portugal

The CTIF Forest Fires commission and the Portuguese Fire Fighters Association organised a symposium in Sintra, Portugal, on 17 and 18 April 2008 to discuss the economical and environmental impact of forest fires. Mark Jones, chairman of the commission, focused mainly on the European experience in this field, thanks to the information collected from his colleagues from the commission. Over 20 countries participated, which is a great success for both of the organisers. Several Portuguese speakers from different organisations such as civil protection, fire brigades and wood processors were also invited.



⇒ Eurofire

The CTIF Forest Fires Commission is a lead partner in a two-year European project called Eurofire which is producing new training standards for forest and wildfire fighters. Commission members assist by giving their time to the project report. Essex Fire Service in the UK, led by Mark Jones, supplied 20,000 Euros as CTIF's contribution. European funding from the "Leonardo" programme was also obtained to allow the idea to be developed further through a partnership between Rural Development Initiatives (a Scottish Company) and the Global Fire Monitoring Centre (GFMC) in Germany. The project brings together partners with international expertise and experience in wildland fire research, management and training in order to develop, evaluate, produce and distribute a new European-wide, multi-lingual on-line training resource.

More on: www.euro-fire.eu

⇒ Global Wildland Fire Network

The Wildland Fire Advisory Group created in the framework of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction met recently in Germany. The CTIF Forest Fires Commission was invited to report on its activities and to exchange with wildland fire experts. This Group is part of the Global Wildland Fire Network initiated by the Global Fire Monitoring Center.

More on: www.fire.uni-freiburg.de

⇒ Forest Symposium in Chambéry, France

The symposium was organised by CTIF associate member Iveco Magirus from 2 to 4 June 2008. CTIF president Walter Egger was invited to open the debate. Over 200 participants from France, Italy, Austria, Germany, Greece, the USA and Chile attended.

⇒ "Fire Crime in Europe"

A European Conference on Exchanging Best Practice in Arson Prevention and Investigation will be held on 15 and 16 September 2008 near Newcastle upon Tyne (UK). This 2-day event – which will bring together experts from across Europe in the fields of arson prevention, investigation and forensics - is a major part of a European Commission funded project that is currently being delivered by Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service in partnership with the Laboratoire Central de la Préfecture de Police in France and Northumbria Police in the UK.

⇒ **Next CTIF Forest Fires Commission meeting: from 2 to 5 October 2008 in Rizomata, Greece.**

To join the commission and learn more about these projects and conferences, please contact: mark.jones@essex-fire.gov.uk

Fire Prevention: Exchanges Soaring

During its meetings, the CTIF Fire Prevention Commission listens as the host country describes its fire prevention system. This is what happened in Luxemburg in September 2007, when it was explained that the country had no national standards and therefore applied European standards, especially the German DIN or VDE. Prescriptions on fire safety are also initiated from the Inspection of Labour for the so-called "classified establishments" and from the Fire Prevention Office of Luxemburg's City Career Fire Brigade. General prescriptions - based on Belgian regulations - divide the buildings according to their height. Specific prescriptions – based on French and German regulations - make the difference between non-classified (all sorts of habitations) and classified establishments (ex.: number of persons to be accommodated in a concert hall, surface of an office building...). There are also specific rules - based on the European directive for building materials - for all kinds of architectural / structural cases (e.g. restaurant, cinema, underground parking, etc.).

More on: www.itm.public.lu

Guest speakers are also invited to detail specific aspects of fire prevention such as unprotected steel constructions or how to manage alerts in emergency situations. The co-operation with the Confederation of Fire Protection Associations Europe is also increasing as the CTIF Commission is involved in the production of common safety guidelines to achieve similar interpretation in European countries. The guidelines are primarily intended for those responsible for safety in companies and organisations, but also for rescue services or consultants for instance.

More on: www.cfpa-e.org

⇒ **Next CTIF Fire Prevention Commission meeting: 25 & 26 September 2008**

in St Petersburg, Russia - To join the commission, please contact: matti.orrainen@spek.fi

New World, New Risks



This was the title of the conference organised by the CTIF Health Commission, chaired by Jean-Yves Bassetti, in Carcassonne, France, on 4 and 5 July 2008, which was a real success with the participation of 12 European countries in all and many members of the French Fire and Rescue Services' Health Departments (doctors, pharmacists, nurses, veterinarians). How to protect human beings and rescuers? How to face new hazards and disorders? How to improve rescue plans and training? How to manage evacuations? These were the questions handled at this conference, organised with the help of the consulting agency Inovatech3V (www.inovatech3v.fr), the Aude Department Local Council (www.cg11.fr) and the Aude Fire and Rescue Service. Members of the CTIF and the French Fire Fighters Federation's Health Commissions also met to exchange on their various experiences and get feedbacks from the different delegations.

⇒ To join the commission, contact:
jean-yves.bassetti@orange.fr.

A New Page of History



Dieter Farrenkopf (middle), former Fire Chief of Hamburg, Germany, is the new CTIF History Commission chairman, here with his predecessor Adolf Schinnerl and Walter Egger in 2007. He will preside over the next CTIF History Commission meeting and conference that will be held in Myslowice, Poland, from 3 to 5 September 2008. The evolution of equipment designed to protect the head of fire fighters and rescuers will be in the core of the conference.

⇒ For more information, contact:
d.h.farrenkopf@gmx.de

CTIF Permanent Office – International Association of Fire and Rescue Services • Reinhardtstraße 25 • D-10117 Berlin - Germany
Tel: 00 49 (0)30 28 88 48 8-40 • Fax: 00 49 (0)30 28 88 48 8-49 • Email: contact@ctif.org

Meeting Threats: Fire and Rescue Services Strategies

Do not miss the next CTIF Symposium!

Friday 19 September 2008 at 14:30

Venue: Hotel EUROPE
15 route de Neuf Brisach, Colmar, France
as a continuation of the Delegates Assembly

Avian Influenza Pandemic Preparing a Response

Luther FINCHER – United States

Of all the global risks judged to most threaten society governments cite "bird flu" most often as the number one priority and this presentation examines how preparations may be made to meet this threat.

Wide Area Flooding Learning the Lessons

Peter LADEWIG – Germany

Although flooding is a recognised threat faced by many countries changes in climate and increased land utilisation have highlighted the importance of finding better ways to mitigate this tremendously devastating power.

EMERCOM of Russia Past, Present and Future

Aleksander CHUPRIJAN – Russia

Developing an emergency response and protection agency with a capacity and capability to meet the complex threats that occur across a whole nation is a significant challenge that will be described in this presentation.

Fire Control Rooms Ensuring Resilience

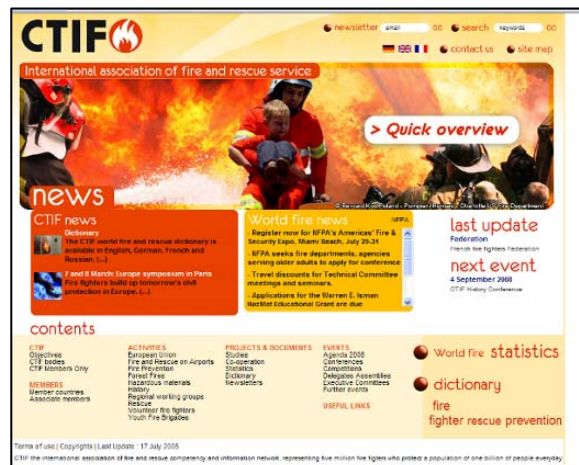
Dennis DAVIS - United Kingdom

At the heart of emergency response are the service communications centres and developing how best to increase their capacity and essential resilience to counter major national catastrophes is a key component of future success.

CTIF Goes Interactive... With You!

Visit the brand new CTIF website and make it yours by sending your contributions (pictures, your country's fire and rescue news, interesting links, national or international events...) to:

webmaster@ctif.org



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