

Editorial, by the President

Dear colleagues,

It is a pleasure for me to say a few words in this new edition of CTIF Hot News. I want to first take this opportunity to thank each of you for the confidence you have shown in me by electing me as the president of our international fire fighters association, the CTIF. I will do all possible to respond to your needs and expectations. We have already started to work on a new vision and strategy for the CTIF. This new initiative involves representatives from the Executive Committee, associate members and our commissions, which are at the core of our world-wide activities. And, because our National Committees completed the survey at our last Delegates Conference in Romania, all of our National Committees are also involved in determining the future of the CTIF! This global project is called CTIF 2010, and we will keep you informed, step-by-step, as we continue to make progress. Let us build the future of CTIF together and strengthen our links further. This is my wish for all fire fighters throughout the world for the New Year coming. I wish you all the very best for all of your projects in 2005!

Walter Egger

A new president and general secretary for the CTIF

The results of the elections held at the Delegates Assembly in Brasov, Rumania, on 9 September 2004.



New president
Walter EGGER
(Switzerland, left)
with previous CTIF
president François
MAURER (1997-2003)

Christophe MIGNOT (France)
was elected general secretary.



Your agenda 2005

28-30 January: meeting of CTIF Forest Fires commission in Freiburg, Germany.

February: meeting of the CTIF Balkan countries working group in Bulgaria.

3-4 March: meeting of CTIF Fire Prevention commission in Helsinki, Finland.

9-13 March: Executive Committee meeting in Oslo, Norway.

Mid-March: meeting of the CTIF Danube countries working group in Zakopane, Poland.

8-10 April: meeting of CTIF Youth Leaders commission in Sankt Pölten, Austria.

21 -24 May: meeting of CTIF Hazmat commission in Bratislava, Slovakia.

3-4 June: meeting of CTIF Fire Brigades Health Services in Rouen, France.

6-11 June: participation of CTIF in international exhibition INTERSCHUTZ in Hannover, Germany.

13 June: meeting of CTIF commission Rescue and Fire Fighting at Airports at company Lukas Hydraulik (CTIF associate member) in Erlangen, Germany.

17-24 July: 15th International Fire Brigades Competitions and 13th International Youth Fire Brigades Competitions in Varaždin, Croatia, **with:**
20 July: Executive Committee meeting.

21 July: Delegates Assembly.

22 July (morning): Workshop.

12-15 October: Executive Committee meeting in Saint Petersburg, Russia, **with:**

14 October: international conference on
"Reorganisation
of fire and rescue services
at the beginning of the 21st century".

Fall: meeting of CTIF Hazmat commission in the United Kingdom.

Fall: meeting of CTIF Youth Leaders commission in Trento, Italy.

National Committees: who are they really?

CTIF vice-president José Manuel Baptista (Portugal) conducted a successful comparative analysis on the CTIF National Committees, with a 70% response rate. In short, half of the CTIF National Committees were established more than 20 years ago and nearly a quarter of them more than 80 years ago. More than 50% are made up of 3 or more entities including fire fighting associations and ministries. As far as their operations are concerned, 50% meet more than three times per year and are primarily managed by elected or nominated people who work on a voluntary basis. Half of the National Committees do have their own budget, with 70% of them having their activities supported by one or more entities and in some cases financed by sponsor's or member's fees. More than 80% of the National Committees maintain a close relationship with the fire brigades in their own countries, mainly through sports activities, seminars, meetings, and communication tools such as newsletters or web sites. Ninety percent of the National Committees reported that they would not miss the Delegates Assembly nor the international symposia (80% do participate). On the other hand, only 30% of the National Committees attend the international fire brigades or youth fire brigades competitions.

➤ The full report is available on demand from the General Secretary.

Partnerships

CTIF is developing closer cooperation with several organisations such as the **United Nations**, **NATO**, the German Fire Prevention Association **VFDB**, **FEU** (Federation of the EU Fire Officers Associations), the **Metro Fire Chiefs** in the USA, **CFPA Europe** (Confederation of Fire Protection Associations), **UPTUN** (European Programme on Cost-effective, Sustainable and Innovative Upgrading Methods for Fire Safety in Existing Tunnels) and also **EFSCA** (European Fire Service College Association).

To find more information:

www.un.org www.nato.int
www.vfdb.de www.f-e-u.org
www.nfpa.org www.cfpa-e.org
www.uptun.net www.efscademon.co.uk

Focus on Varaždin 2005

The fire brigades competitions on the Internet



<http://www.ctif2005.hr>

the official web site designed
by the Croatian Organisation Committee

➤ Everything you need to know about
the venue, accommodation opportunities,
tourist information...

in Croatian, English and German!

<http://www.ctif.org>

➤ to find online the official programme,
the registration forms, the competitions rules
in English, German and French!



Press centre CTIF

New competition leader

Ignaz MASCHA (Austria) will replace Wilfried WEISSGÄRBER as international youth fire brigades competition leader.

The Vetter Cup

Youth fire brigades have been competing every two years since 1989 to win the coveted CTIF Vetter challenge cup in international competitions. This work of art from the sculptress **Mechthild Baumann** is made of sterling silver and was donated by Manfred Vetter GmbH & Comp. to **promote understanding among young people across the borders.**

The protection of the fire fighter in the 21st century

The CTIF 24th international symposium took place in Brasov, Rumania, on 10 and 11 September 2004. It was attended by some 200 participants. There were presentations from eight countries from 12 different perspectives such as community awareness programmes, hazards to fire fighters from a medical point of view, the Romanian fire safety legislation, judicial and social security, preparedness to urban violence, operations in subways, command tools for operation management, common worldwide approach to CBRN incidents for first responders, protecting clothes, and more...

10th World Fire Statistics report



CTIF celebrates this year the 10th anniversary of the setting up of its world fire statistics centre. The 10th statistical report was published recently, showing statistical trends in some 80 countries and 90 large cities from 1993 to 2002. It also gives an enlarged list of subjects. The whole document will be available soon on www.ctif.org.

Technology transfer project

This project – to be carried out by CTIF vice-president Russ Sanders - aims at improving fire fighter safety, effectiveness and efficiency through the sharing of successful programmes and through the transfer of technology from government and other sources to the international fire service.

➡ More on this projet to be found on:

www.ctif.org

New members in 2004

CTIF now has 41 member countries and 19 associate members. A special welcome to: Albania, Liechtenstein, Turkey and Ukraine, and to Bulfire, Manfred Vetter, VFDB and Dieter Schmidt (individual member, Germany).

More about...

- ➡ **BULFIRE Ltd** is a Bulgarian company specialising in the manufacturing and trading of fire fighting vehicles and equipment, fire extinguishers, and fire protection devices. The company supplies the Bulgarian government as well as several Bulgarian institutions.
- ➡ **MANFRED VETTER** is a German company set up in 1964 to develop products serving the purpose of rescuing people and protecting the environment. It manufactures a wide range of products in this field, such as lifting cushions, aeroplane lifting cushions, buoyancy cushions, pipe sealing leakage sealing cushions or decontamination tents.
- ➡ **VFDB** is a German Fire Prevention Association promoting the sharing of experiences. It organises national and international seminars on fire prevention, publishes comprehensive documentation and supports research. It has developed partnerships with several organisations such as the CTIF.

More communication...

After developing the CTIF website in English, German and French, the public relations work will be focused on building strong relationships with the international fire fighters press to promote CTIF activities in various magazines. Work is under way too to design a brand new leaflet. CTIF will also have a display at the international exhibition Interschutz in Hannover, Germany, from 6 to 11 June 2005 - with the support of the German Fire Fighters Federation.

Echoes from the commissions

Danube countries Balkan countries

The 2 regional working groups were established at the Delegates Assembly in Budapest in 2003. Their chairmen and current activities are:

☞ Mr **Ernest Eöry** (Slovenia) presides over the Danube countries working group which has met 3 times since 2003. A secretariat of four people was set up to assist him. Work is based on promoting co-operation to comply with EU expectations in the field of civil safety.

☞ Mr **Kiril VOYNOV** (Bulgaria) was nominated as the chairman of the Balkan countries working group. A meeting was held in Belgrade on 18 November 2004.

Hazardous Materials

The commission met from 29 April to 2 May 2004 in Aachen, Germany. Fourteen countries were represented at the meeting, including Norway as a new member. Discussions focused on information sharing and CBRN-incidents, but also included the initiation of a glossary of tactical procedures to deal with hazardous materials. A new Hazmat-website was developed with the help of Slovenia and Sweden:

www.ctif-hazmat.gasilci.org

Rescue and Fire Fighting on Airports

The commission met on 16 June 2004 at the Oslo Airport in Norway, to discuss emergency response time on airports. It issued a recommendation stating that ICAO principles should be followed by each member country.

Youth Leaders

The commission held its international Youth symposium in Birmingham on 23 May 2004. The symposium, which was attended by nearly 60 representatives from 16 countries, discussed the topic: “**Youth - Our Future**”. The commission also organised a meeting from 22 to 24 October 2004 in Dunajsky Klatov, Slovakia.

Fire Brigades Health Services

The commission met on 9-10 September 2004 in Rumania to discuss how to help health services face new threats, such as bioterrorism or radiological and chemical attacks. The commission is asking that every CTIF member country send one representative to its meetings. Because of increasing health risks, there is a need for closer cooperation between fire fighters and their physicians. It was further suggested that the CTIF develop international exchanges in the field of first-aid training.

Europe

The commission organised several meetings with the European Commission's civil protection unit. Its current work is based on developing a directory of European Fire associations.

Forest Fires

The commission aims at issuing guidelines for forest fire fighting and becoming a knowledge resources network.

Fire Prevention

The commission published the results of its first study on www.ctif.org: fire fighters safety in large single storey buildings. Now the commission works together with CFPA Europe's Guidelines Commission.

International Competitions

The commission focuses on the next competitions in 2005, where more than 200 teams are expected to compete. A training seminar for all jury members was organised from 8 to 10 October 2004 in Linz, Austria.

History, Museums and Documentation

Fire prevention under authoritarian governments: this topic was at the core of the conference held in Fulda, Germany, by the CTIF History commission from 6 to 8 October 2004. Current work is based on developing a certification catalogue for fire fighting museums, defining guidelines to assess ancient fire fighting vehicles, developing a worldwide network of fire fighting museums, and adding historical expressions to the CTIF dictionary.