

## Editorial, by the President

This is the first issue of a newsletter that will be sent to you two or three times a year as an update on the activities of our organisation. It is now up to you, the members of the CTIF, to make this newsletter vibrant and to enrich its contents with your contributions.

This is the place to share your comments, information, or disseminate other information that you feel is of interest to your colleagues. I hope you enjoy our newsletter, and I look forward to seeing each of you when we join our Hungarian colleagues and friends in September.

Colonel François Maurer

## Highlights from 2002

### Prevention knows no frontiers

The 23<sup>rd</sup> CTIF international symposium held in Vienna from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September 2002 was a roaring success: more than 75% of the CTIF member nations were represented - 29 countries in all.

At the top of the agenda: fire prevention viewed by different countries.

The CTIF started a comparative survey about community safety programmes three years ago. The survey was led by Russell Sanders, CTIF vice-president for community safety programmes, and undertaken pro bono by TriData Corporation through its president Philip Schaenman. TriData is an American company that specialises in fire prevention research and evaluation and strategic planning of local and national fire protection programmes.

The survey results were presented at the Vienna symposium.

**Highlight:** among the 38 CTIF member nations 14<sup>1</sup> responded to the survey, submitting a total of 24 programmes.

(1) Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, France, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Rumania, Slovenia, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States.

## Conclusions

To carry out their prevention tasks properly, fire and rescue services must have support from the other actors involved in fire prevention. For instance, it is important to adapt programs that were first aimed at adults to children, who are the most targeted audience in the context of fire prevention programmes. To do this effectively, those with expertise in reaching children must be involved. The work of fire fighters is not only based on the operations they carry out everyday, but also on the delivery of community fire safety messages. As a matter of fact fire fighters no longer stay "barricaded" in the fire stations but are more and more involved in community safety and fire prevention. This is a most welcomed change in numerous countries.

*"Most injuries and deaths are not accidents, but rather preventable incidents. Our experience exchanges within the CTIF are very important in that respect",* said Russell Sanders. Sharing experiences and knowledge among our CTIF colleagues is extremely important, because learning from our peers provides inspiration and momentum to already existing programmes - they suggest new ideas, be it in terms of content, target, organisation or assessing methods. The end result is more lives saved!


Here are a few examples of the programmes mentioned in the survey.

Every year, several countries organise their **national fire prevention week** (and some of them even a whole month), choosing a different topic and a different target audience each time.


In the **United States** such event is co-ordinated and implemented by the fire and rescue services. In 1998, NFPA (sponsoring Fire Prevention Week every year with many other organisations) launched a three-year public safety programme called "Fire Drills: the Great Escape" which encourages the public to get actively involved in home fire escape planning. A direct impact of this programme: 58 lives saved (35 of them under the age of 12).

To test fire safety in one's home or assess the risks in case of faulty electrical equipment in homes were some of the topics favoured by the **Norwegians** for their annual fire prevention weeks. More than half of the municipal fire services are involved every year in the action. Their activities in this field are co-ordinated with those of several local organisations (electrical inspection authorities, social services, insurance, schools) and presented to the media. Centrally produced brochures, slides and video films are also used to illustrate local initiatives.

In **Slovenia**, every October is designated Fire Prevention Month. It is the Slovenian Fire Fighting Association who decides on the safety theme each year. The large public participation at the various activities organised every year is an indication of the programme's success.

 The whole text of this article can be found on the web site [www.lesapeurpompier.fr](http://www.lesapeurpompier.fr), International section, under the title « Prévention sans frontière » (in French).

**! The fire prevention survey was continued in 2003, in order to encourage more countries to participate.**

 So to make your initiatives in matters of fire prevention better known or get the complete survey results:

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### Highly positive results for the first international conference organised by the CTIF

On 8<sup>th</sup> November 2002, 400 participants from 20 different countries attended the CTIF conference in Regensdorf (Switzerland) to answer a rather troubling question: are tunnels safe enough?

Throughout the day, representatives from fire and rescue services and tunnel management companies spoke about their respective experiences, and in particular about the major incidents that occurred in various European tunnel incidents (Mont Blanc in France, Tauern in Austria and St Gotthard in Switzerland).

All speeches are available in English, German and French on a CD-ROM from:

**Swiss Fire-Fighters Federation**  
CTIF Conference  
Morgenstrasse 1  
CH-3073 GÜMLINGEN  
Fax : 00 4131/958 81 11

## New associated members

Since 2002, the Spanish company Seganosa and the French consulting company CGx are official members of the CTIF.  
**Introduction...**

### Focus on CGx...

Founded in September 1996, CGx is a research and consulting company that specialises in geographic information systems (GIS). It employs 40 engineers and technicians with acknowledged expertise in computer sciences, cartography, aeronautics, onboard information systems and image processing.

It has a wide range of activities that cover:

- Civil Safety and Defence.
- Aeronautics.
- Onboard systems.

**For more information :**

<http://www.cgx-sa.com>

### Focus on Seganosa...

Founded in 1990, the Spanish company Seganosa offers a wide range of training programmes focusing on fire safety and prevention. The training programmes are mainly aimed to fire and rescue services, civil protection services, and personnel employed in company safety departments. However, the programs also target the general public.

Its main activities:


- Risks in urban areas: how to fight fires in large towns and cities...
- Risks on the sea: sea-rescue (aimed at crews in the merchant navy, fishing boats)...
- Aeronautical risks: management of emergency situations in planes, fire fighting in airports (aimed at airports' safety departments and the crews on board).


- Industrial risks: how to fight industrial fires and handle incidents when there might be hazardous materials (aimed to personnel working in risk sectors such as refineries, chemical or petrochemical industries...).

**For more information:**

<http://www.seganosa.com>

## Short notice

 To be read: the eighth report on world fire and rescue statistics has been published and is now available on demand from Alfred Zeilmayr, CTIF General Secretary.

 To be visited:

[www.scotland.gov.uk/hmifs](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/hmifs)

A series of links that will lead you to web sites giving advice on fire prevention to the general public but also to companies and schools (in English).

## Your agenda 2003

24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> April: Executive Committee meeting in Bratislava, Slovakia.

24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> April: CTIF Health Commission meeting at the French Fire Fighters House in Paris.

15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> May: CTIF Hazardous Materials Commission meeting in Valencia, Spain.

20<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> July: International Young Fire Fighters Competitions in Kapfenberg, Austria.

17<sup>th</sup> September: CTIF Protection on Airport Commission meeting in Budapest, Hungary.

18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September: Delegates' Assembly and CTIF workshop in Budapest, Hungary. Important notice: the elections of the General Secretary and two new vice-presidents will take place on that occasion.

## Echoes from the commissions

### *Protection on Airports : new president, new name, new members*

**Peter Tschümperlin**, in charge of safety issues for all Swiss airports within the Swiss Federal Office for Civil Aviation, has been recently appointed chairman of the commission. Mr. Tschümperlin replaces Bernard Valois from Canada.

The commission has changed its name to **Rescue and Fire Fighting on Airports**. As a place to debate issues linked with protection on airports, the commission aims at articulating a set of international recommendations on that topic.

Welcome to the **new members** from the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic, Finland and Germany.

The new commission met on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November, 2002, at the Geneva airport in Switzerland. Some 15 participants discussed technical themes and systematically compared the data from their countries - 10 in all.

- Hot fire training and its frequency: which impact on environmental pollution?

Project: doing a comparative inquiry among several European nations to get to know the minimum requirements for those training sessions (how often, how large, if it needs kerosene or LPG). The results will be announced at the next meeting.

- Communications: due to the lack of English knowledge by the firemen in many countries, the order for evacuation given to the crews on board is done by "hand signals". Yet not all fully understand the meaning of these signals.

Project: writing a letter to the International Pilots Association (IFALPA) to invite them to announce again the meaning of the "hand signals" to all their members (crews) throughout the world.

- Emergency exercises: full-scale aerodrome emergency exercises have to be done at intervals not exceeding two years, in accordance with ICAO standards. Participants compared their data on that issue.

- Airport operational personnel: there are no standards fixing the minimum requirements as regards to the number of operational personnel employed within fire safety services in airports.

Project: doing an inquiry among the different countries in Europe to learn how many people are usually required and what is the minimum requirement.

- Response time for operations on airports: most of the countries attending the meeting think it should not exceed 3 minutes. According to the participants, it should ideally be 2 minutes.

### *History*

Meeting of the CTIF History Commission in Pribyslav (Czech Republic) from 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2002.

*Young fire fighters and women within fire services - Evolutions.*

↗ The report on this historical symposium (in German but with short summaries in English) is available from Alfred Zeilmayr, CTIF General Secretary.

Its main chapters recall the history and the progressive integration of young fire fighters and women in the ranks of fire fighters. Examples are given for the various countries attending the meeting, which include Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Poland, Slovenia and the Czech Republic.