



Editorial, by the President

Dear Fire Fighters, Rescuers and Colleagues.

Once again – short before the End of the year - it is time to look back to a busy period of CTIF.

Some projects have been realised, but many others are still waiting to be realised and we all know: There is still much to do and these tasks will keep us busy for the future.

But only a close cooperation between our members, commissions and the Executive Committee will help us to reach our targets for the next years.

For this reason I apply to all our National Committees to delegate best suited and skilled experts as members into our various Commissions.

My wishes for the coming years are: Let us build the future of our International Organisation together.

For the coming Year, I am wishing you all the best – especially good health and a lot of success with all of your projects.



*Your President:
Walter Egger (Switzerland)*

New Formation of CTIF Executive Committee

CTIF starts with new energy into the New Year

In September 2007 new CTIF vice-presidents were elected. Together with the president and the general secretary they form the executive committee, one of the two decision-making bodies of CTIF. On November 6th the members of the executive committee met on invitation of Rosenbauer International for their first meeting in Leonding/Austria.

The most important topic on the agenda was the distribution of tasks in the executive committee since the number of vice-presidents was reduced.

The members of the executive committee are in charge of the CTIF commissions and working groups and support the commission presidents. In the commission up-to-date topics of the rescue and fire-fighting world are being discussed. Nine commissions and 4 working groups are active in the CTIF.

The new distribution of tasks is as follows:

- Among many other responsibilities President Walter Egger (Switzerland) will be in charge of the commission »History, museums and documentation« and of the working groups »Balkan« and »Danube« countries. The History commission addresses not only aspects of history and the creation of a CTIF documentation centre in the Czech Pribyslav but is also a platform for international exchange of scientists in fire services.
- General secretary Christophe Mignot (France) is in charge of the newly created working group »Volunteers« which will have its first symposium in Paris in March 2008. It will be a first review of



After the election: the new CTIF Executive Committee

the current situation of volunteers and will be a chance to prioritize further tasks.

- Laurent Wehrli (Switzerland) will continue to be responsible for the CTIF finances.
- Ralf Ackermann (Germany) stays in charge of the commission »Europe« and will intensify his efforts with CTIF public relations as well as the cooperation with the international specialised press. Aim of the commission »Europe« is to have on voice in Europe on all fire matters.
- Anton Brandauer (Austria) is responsible for the commissions »International Fire Brigade Competitions« and the »Youth Leaders« commission. The latter one supports national fire associations with the creation of youth fire services and has organised several international symposia in the past years. It also collects statistical data on youth fire services in European countries. The Competition commission organises every 4 years the international fire competitions called the Fire Olympics for professional and volunteer fire fighters and every two years the international youth fire brigades competitions. The last youth competitions took place in Revinge, Sweden during this summer. Not less than 45 youth groups from 24 nations participated. The next competitions for both the adults and youth fire fighters will take place from July 19th to 29th 2009 in the Czech town Ostrava.
- Aleksander Chuprijan (Russia) is now in charge of the commission »Fire Brigade Health Services«. This commission is a platform for the exchange of experience between physicians of fire services and also exchanges knowledge about the rescue of human beings. Mr. Chuprijan is also responsible for the CTIF fire statistics center, which publishes the annually World Fire Statistics with up-to-date information about fire services from 80 countries and the 90 largest cities of the world.
- Dennis Davis (UK) is responsible for the commission »Forest Fires«. This commission is working on the organisation, training and equipment of fire fighters in regard to wild and forest fires. Furthermore he will be responsible for the organisation of CTIF symposia.
- Tore Eriksson (Sweden) will be in charge of the commission »Hazardous Materials«. The commis-



President Walter Egger (front middle) and General Secretary Christophe Mignot (back left) appointed the former vice-presidents Dr. János Bleszity, José Manuel Lourenço Baptista, Åke Jacobsson, Eugeny Serebrennikov (from left) as well as Russ Sanders (not on the picture) and former chairman of the CTIF History commission Adolf Schinnerl (back middle) to honorary members.

sion participates in different international working groups and submits proposals for the standardisation of emergency procedures. Also the commission supports the harmonisation of labelling of hazardous materials.

- Luther Fincher (USA) will be in charge of the commission »Fire Prevention«. The commission is discussing safety measures for fire fighters in large buildings and has carried out two enquiries to all member states.
- Julian Wagner (Rosenbauer) has been approved by the CTIF delegates' assembly to be the representative of the associate members and will now be in charge of the commission »Rescue and Fire Services at Airports«. This commission deals with all technical issues concerning fire fighting and rescue at airports and makes proposals to the ICAO as well as harmonisation of infrastructures of airport fire services.

CTIF in Short

- CTIF is the international fire and rescue competence and information network,
- 48 member states and 45 associate members
- representing 5 million fire-fighters and 650.000 youth fire-fighters who protect a population of 1 billion people every day.

The network is growing

The CTIF is not only an international fire services association but also a broad competence and information network for everyone connected to fire and rescue services.

Currently the CTIF website will be relaunched and working platforms for all commissions will be available. This will speed-up the exchange of information. Already available is the CTIF dictionary in German, French and English. The Russian language will soon be available too. Furthermore the internet offers several CTIF documents and information, amongst these the World Fire Statistics, also for download.

Autumn Meeting of the working groupe Danube

The working group Danube countries was founded five years ago. From November 29th to December 1st the working group held its autumn meeting at the state fire school in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The long-time president of the Slovenian Fire Services Association Ernest Eöry was presiding the meeting with the support of János Békés, Mario Starcevic und Vendelin Horváth. A total of nine countries participated and

also CTIF President Walter Egger along with CTIF vice-president Ralf Ackermann.

It was agreed that the cooperation and the exchange of information in this regional group is very helpful and necessary. Fire service association as well as the legal basis and the structure and organisation of fire services are very different in each country. This information had been inquired by the working group and was presented to all participants.





International Exchange: Maks Lesnik, Ernest Eöry and János Békés run the meeting of the Danube countries

During the meeting it was discovered that the activities of volunteer brigades are important in many European countries, not only in the Danube countries. The system of volunteers is in many communities also part of the community tradition. The independent and responsible work for the safety of communities and the cooperation with other organisations is very valuable in the face of disaster and emergencies. During the past years some countries have experienced a decline of the number of volunteer fire fighters. Thus very important subjects are ways to motivate citizens to become active members, to implement the volunteer service, health and social insurance and the reimbursement of the salary. These issues were discussed in detail and should be subject during the meeting on March 7th and 8th in Paris. The working group will continue to discuss special issues from the region.

CTIF present at second European Community Civil Protection Forum 22-23 November 2007



A second EC Forum, the first happened five years ago, was held in Brussels and brought together over 600 people. CTIF was well represented by Vice Presidents Ackermann and Davis and Cornelia Andrea who from our CTIF stand provided information to many visitors. The Forum had plenary sessions and three workshops – Working Together – Planning Together – The Wider Picture – together with sub themes on cross border work, assistance, climate, terrorism, volunteers, media, training, alarming and children. CTIF contributed especially on threats like floods and wildfires and the need to plan better to reduce vulnerabilities.

Our comments were very much in line with Forum's overall conclusions that centred on improving the EC Mechanism and MIC initiatives whilst creating a long-term civil protection programme, which might include an EC wide Training Institute and volunteer database linked to the much talked about European Civil Protection Force .

CTIF confirmed to the EC a wish to continue participation in civil protection and commented upon an EC cli-



CTIF Vice-president Ralf Ackermann in discussion with forum participants



Activities in Brussels: at the 2nd Civil Protection Forum the CTIF was represented by vice-presidents Ralf Ackermann and Dennis Davis as well as Cornelia Andree (CTIF permanent office).

mate change consultation paper raising issues that concern firefighters. We hope to meet Hereve Martin Head of the Civil Protection Unit in February or March 2008. Everyone attending the Forum agreed this was a most useful event to meet, learn, contribute and network.

One final EC point. The last Delegates' Assembly discussed RIP cigarettes and the EC will propose in Spring 2008 that CEN prepare an RIP standard.

75. Meeting of International Commission of Youth Leaders Turku, Finland, 13. October 2007

Thirty participants from eleven countries took part on 75th Meeting of International Commission of Youth Leaders (IJLK) in Turku (Finland) from October 12th till 13th, 2007.

The meeting opened on Friday evening October 12th, 2007 a workshop "Conference" dedicated to the preparation of mission and topics for the upcoming conference in Turku, which will focus on "Integration and Tolerance". The participants of the conference will discuss on (1) integration of disabled, (2) youths from diverse social environments and cultures and (3) integration of girls in the Young Fire Fighters' Group.

The workshop was concluded with movie made the by French comrades about the 16th International Youth Fire Brigade Competition from Revinge in

Sweden in July 2007. Indeed, the organization of such large international event was very challenging for our Swedish comrades for the reason that they had such opportunity for the first time. The President of the ILJK Jos Tholl continued the meeting on the October 13th, 2007. The members approved the memorandum of the 74th Meeting of the IJLK from Revinge from July 29th, 2007. A comprehensive analysis of the 16th International Youth Fire Brigade Competition in Revinge was performed.

Jos Tholl reported that the Finnish comrades Torbjörn Lindström and Frans Schaper representing the National Fire Brigade of Finland were accepted as new members of the IJLK and took responsibility for the preparation of the coming International Camp Olympic Games. Secondly, the President gave a report about the meeting of the workgroup for the International Youth Fire Brigade Competition in Ostrava, the Czech Republic, and informed about approval of composition of nation's delegations. In total, each country may participate with two youth groups (twenty members), four Coaches (two each group), one Trainer and one Delegation Leader (in total twenty six participants per country). In addition to this, the regular training for Judges will take place as usual in Linz, Austria, from October 10th till October 11th, 2008

The Commission accepted the proposition of the workgroup „Conference" for the mission and topics

for Turku from the May 22nd till May 25th, 2008 and visited the conference building.

The conference will take place in precious historical premises of the Fire Brigade Station in Turku. The Volunteer Fire Fighters' Brigade (Pelastuslaitos Ráddningsverket) in Turku established in 1869 counts to the oldest Fire Fighters' Brigades in the Nordic States. The conference room is equipped with ancient chandeliers and contemporary electronic audiovisual technique and its capacity reaches up to 800 people. The comrades from Ostrava reported about ongoing preparation for the coming 14th International Fire Brigade Competition and 17th International Youth Fire Brigade Competition in Ostrava from July 19th till 26th, 2009: A draft agenda for the competition was approved.

The President of the Commission Jos Tholl was confirmed in his position for the coming period of four years. The composition of the Committee (IJLK) is the following:

- Joseph THOLL, Commanding Officer – President, Luxemburg,
- BR Ignaz MASCHA, International Youth Fire Brigade Competition Commander, Austria,
- Andreev PAVEL, Bulgaria,
- Hans-Peter SCHÄFER, Official Responsible for Youth Fire Fighters, Germany,
- Jörn-Hendrik KUINKE, Germany,
- Torbjörn LINDSTRÖM, Finland,
- Frans SCHAPER, Finland,
- Jean STOLL, Captain, France,
- Marguerite STOLL, France,
- Mick NORTON, Great Britain,
- Peter BATEMAN, Great Britain,
- Sergio CAPELLETTI, President, Italy – Trento,
- Maddalena COSTA, Italy, Trento,
- Livio ANDLAR, Croatia,
- Pierre SAUVEUR, President of the Youth Fire Fighters, Luxemburg,
- Jean MÜLLER, Vice President of the Youth Fire Fighters, Luxemburg,
- OBR Dietmar LEDERHAAS, Official Responsible for Youth Fire Fighters, Austria,
- Wojciech KOTONSKI, Commanding Officer, Poland,
- Teresa TISZBIEREK, Official Responsible for Youth Fire Fighters, Poland,
- Jan ROTH, Slovakia,

- Ivanka HOČEVAR ISTENIČ, Official Responsible for Youth Fire Fighters, Slovenia,
- Josef KRAJCA, Czech Republic,
- Marketa STRZINKOVA, Czech Republic,
- Zsolt KELEMEN, Hungary.

In case of questions please contact:

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The youth leader commission was also responsible for the international youth fire brigade competition in Revinge (Sweden)

Photo: Darmstädter



*The French Fire Fighters Federation
and the French CTIF National Committee
invite you*

*to the symposium "Rescue and Fire Fighting in Europe"
on 7 & 8 March 2008 in Paris.*

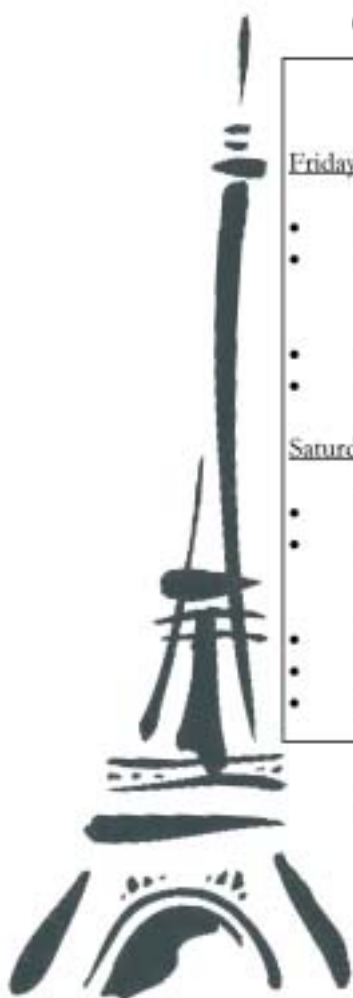
Preliminary programme

Friday 7 March, afternoon:

- Opening & Welcome.
- Topic : **Voluntary Fire Fighting**
 - ◊ Presentations from 5 European Union member countries.
 - ◊ Discussions.
- Conclusions.
- Diner.

Saturday 8 March, morning:

- Debate : **identifying common issues among the fire and rescue services throughout Europe and defining priorities:**
 - ◊ Which topics are to be first focused on and worked out?
 - ◊ How to proceed and organise lobbying?
- **Discussions on creating a European Civil Protection Force.**
- General conclusions.
- Lunch.



More information available in the next CTIF newsletters. Registration will be open from December 2007 on.

Registration forms will be sent to each CTIF National Committee.

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