

**Information from the History Commission at the CTIF**  
**02/2020**  
**English**



Dear members of the commission,  
dear members of the study group,

I am addressing you today for the first time in my role as chairman of the commission. As you know, I was proposed by the commission as the new chairman in Tulln and CTIF General Secretary Roman Sykora informed me on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 that this proposal had been accepted by the Executive Committee. So, I officially took over this position. Since I have already announced in Tulln that I want to intensify communication in between our conferences, I would like to inform you about current topics today.

In December 2019, a session was held in Salzburg with Adolf Schinnerl, our honorary chairman. The participants were Ingo Valentini, as chairman of the study group, Christian Fastl, as national delegate from Austria (he will take care of the minutes in the future), Katrin Knaß-Roßmann as representative of the steering group and myself. Adolf Schinnerl gave us a good overview, especially of the early years of the commission and study group and in addition we were able to discuss various current topics. One of these was, for example, the content on the official CTIF homepage ([www.ctif.org/index.php/commissions-and-groups/history-commission](http://www.ctif.org/index.php/commissions-and-groups/history-commission)), where improvements and updates have already been made in both the German and English version. Currently changes are still taking place, if you notice any errors or have suggestions for improvement, please be so kind and let me know.

There are also news concerning museum certifications. I have appointed Katrin Knaß-Roßmann as the new head of the group. A certification was just held at the Central Museum for Disaster Relief in Budapest on January 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020. It was carried out by Katrin Knaß-Roßmann and Peter Schmid. I attended to see the certification process and Ingo Valentini joined us as well to make arrangements with Imre Berki and his team for this year's conference in Hungary. During the visit, Ingo Valentini and I also met the Vice President of the CTIF, László Bérczi, and we discussed the work of the commission, the study group and the upcoming conference in Hungary. In addition, we are currently working on the standardization of the certification process.

At the last meeting of the commission, a replacement for Johann Sallaberger in the area of the classification of historic fire engines was debated again and the nomination of possible candidates was requested by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. Since there were no nominations up to this deadline, I actively searched for a replacement and our colleague Patrick Juncker from Luxembourg was ready to accept. In the future, he will coordinate the classifications at an international level. I would like to thank him very much for his willingness and commitment.

What else is going on in the CTIF? At the Executive Committee meeting in Luxembourg in November 2019, I was connected via video conference and was able to present our work and future goals. At the end of March 2020, there will be a personal meeting of the Executive Committee and the chairmen of the Commissions in Slovenia where long-term goals of the CTIF and its commissions will be discussed and developed. As part of Interschutz in Hanover in June 2020, the delegates' assembly will take place and the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CTIF will be celebrated. I will represent the History Commission in both Slovenia and Hanover.

Finally, I would like to present a project from Austria that might be interesting for other countries as well. We are planning to hand over a copy of all conference volumes since 2010 to the Austrian National Library in Vienna, as these are not available there (with the exception of one volume). Since we all want our research work to be accessible to a wider audience, this step serves very well our purpose. I will provide my own volumes for this project, and in future the Austrian Fire Brigade Association will purchase an extra volume each year, which will then be handed over to the National Library. This project might serve as a role model. On the one hand we make our work available to a wider audience and on the other hand we can sell more books.

These are all the news I have got for you at the moment. I will keep you updated.

Best regards  
Gerald Schimpf  
Chairman