

Report on Commission EuropeChairman **Dennis DAVIS**CTIF Delegates Assembly BERGEN Norway 16th September 2011**1. Activities**

1. The 13th CTIF Europe meeting was held in Brussels at the DFV - Hessen State office on the 8th February 2011 with representation from Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Poland, and UK with additional representatives of the CTIF Secretariat and Hessen State who were present as observers. Apologies were received from 12 nations: Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Sweden. The group considered significant changes made by the European Commission relating to civil protection and its position regarding the Working Time Directive.
2. In relation to the EU changes it was proposed that CTIF should continue to promote the acceptance of the FRS as appropriate actors within Europe; that there remained a clear need for appropriate forums to allow interaction, debate and integration between first responders and policy makers in Europe; and that CTIF should propose ideas that could be promoted for inclusion within the next EU Financial Instrument.
3. An International Development and Humanitarian Aid Conference is to be held in Manchester UK 20-21 October 2010. The proposal made on behalf of the UK CTIF National Committee under the EU 2011 call for proposals by DG ECHO on delivering humanitarian aid by volunteer firefighters was however unsuccessful.
4. On the 27 May 2011 at the request of the President I represented CTIF at the meeting of FEU held 25-27 May 2011 in Protaras Cyprus. The meeting was very constructive, allowing information especially regarding activities in the European Community to be shared.

2. FP7 CRISYS Project

5. The European Organisation of Security led Research Framework Programme 7 CRISYS Project started in February 2011. Associating CTIF with this major project, which aims to explore practical options for a more coordinated system of crisis management at the operational level, provides good CTIF visibility. The Project runs for 15 months and a User Advisory Board meeting was held in Brussels on 20 June 2011 attended by some other CTIF members and on the 5 July 2011 CRISYS was subjected to its first review by REA officials again in Brussels; both events were successful. The first CRISYS national meeting has also been held in Helsinki Finland on 5 August 2011 and a further national meeting is arranged for Manchester UK on 1 September 2011.
6. Further continued liaison with EOS resulted in attendance at a joint conference EOS held with the Security Defence Agenda in the Bibliotheque

Solvay Brussels on 10 February 2011. The theme was A New Partnership for European Security and in the session CTIF raised issues related to improving civil protection and disaster management.

7. The EOS/SDA event was opened and addressed by the Director General for EU Justice and Home Affairs, Council of the European Union and the Director General of European Community Humanitarian Office. There was wide participation from many Members States, EU and Government officials, heads of industry and commentators.

3. European Commission DG ECHO Stakeholders Meeting

8. Attendance was made to a Stakeholders' Consultation for the EU Impact Assessment for the Review and Renewal of the EU Civil Protection Regulatory Framework held in Brussels on 6 April 2011. This meeting discussed EU official's ideas and options that will dictate DG ECHO's spending on programmes over the next several years starting when the existing programmes conclude in 2013. DFV and NFSPF were also present at this meeting. A second DG ECHO Stakeholder meeting to consider further these financial plans in the next period was held in Brussels on 17 June 2011.

4. Working Time Directive

9. France, Germany and UK exchanged views on this matter and at a bilateral meeting between France and UK a draft CTIF position statement was prepared. After the meeting this statement was widely circulated. Subsequently a meeting was held with European Commissioner Anzio in Brussels on 24 June 2011 to discuss the Working Time Directive - France, Germany and UK together with FEU and CTIF exchanged views with the Commissioner in what appears to have been a very useful discussion. FNSPF and CTIF were the prime movers in creating this opportunity.

10. A letter was subsequently sent to the Commissioner stating our collective understanding of the meeting's outcomes and a statement indicating that firefighters are exempt for major emergency events has now been received and widely circulated to CTIF EU members.

5. Safer Cigarettes

11. Progress continues on the introduction of the new CEN standard Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarettes [Safer Cigarettes] with the EU reporting that early compliance in 2012 by all Member States is anticipated.

6. Leipzig Statement

12. CTIF Europe considered again the statement prepared after the first European Fire Service Conference in Leipzig and noted DFV had discussed with organisation of a 2nd conference with the Polish firefighters association to coincide with the Polish Presidency of the EU. All members were supportive of this DFV initiative but there was some disappointment that the event was not being closely branded with CTIF.

Dennis Davis
Chairman Commission Europe