

**EUROPEAN UNION COMMISSION**  
**NOTE of 15th MEETING MONDAY 16th APRIL 2012**  
**HEADQUARTERS FNSPF PARIS FRANCE**

## **1 Convening of Meeting**

The 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the European Union Commission convened under the chairmanship of Vice President Davis in the offices of the French National Federation of Sapeur Pompiers [FNSPF] in Paris on 16 April 2012. A warm welcome was extended by Jean-Paul Autret on behalf of FNSPF.

## **2 Registration of Representatives**

Austria [Froschl], Finland [Metso], France [Autret, Bour, Cescut, Faur (part) Maurer, Nardine (part)], Germany [Andree], Hungary [Grafjodine Varga], Luxembourg [Maner, Kohn], Slovenia [Koren] and UK [Davis]

## **3 Minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting Bergen Norway**

The note of the last meeting was approved and accepted.

## **4 Matters Arising**

Members agreed that the ideal of having a EU statistics progress was to be encouraged but there were recognised difficulties and differences between CEN and ISO. One major difficulty was finding the right person and a series of common statistical definitions. It was agreed that each National Committee should be asked to nominate an individual to assist.

Following Leipzig a call for papers would be made for the next European Fire Service Conference to be held in Bratislava - France and Hungary agreed to participate in the call.

## **5 EU Civil Protection Developments**

Phillipe Nardine updated members on the status of current discussions, being led by the Danish Presidency, regarding draft proposals for the 2014-20 DG ECHO Financial Instrument supporting the EU Mechanism. Key issues were the development of Standby Modules, encryption of the CECIS database, staffing and other matters regarding the Emergency Response Centre for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid, Risk Management, Training and Transport.

## **6 CRISYS Project**

Dennis Davis gave a presentation on the current status of the project that is now approaching its final conference to be held on 10 May 2012 in Barcelona.

## **7 President' Address**

The President of FNSPF Eric Faur addressed members stressing the importance of the EU in terms of civil protection and fire and rescue services.

## **8 CTIF National Committee Initiatives**

Slovenia suggested a number items regarding the WTD and Mechanism. Whilst supportive of coordination they do not want direction from DG ECHO.

France mentioned CBRN and response to the consequence of terrorism initiated in DG HOME. There was also reference to relief for third countries.

On a second point France raised concerns regarding the 3.5 tonnes limit on a car driving licence saying that since last year the German Parliament has agreed that each Lander can increase the limit to 7.5 tonnes for fire trucks and ambulances. Austria has also raised its limit to 5.5 tonnes. Mention was made that a lobby was being mounted against this move by driving schools.

## **9 EU Related Initiatives on FRS and Fire Safety**

Finland made the point that because of subsidiarity the EU was not really interested in routine matters like safety issues but it was important for CTIF to keep raising these matters especially as part of prevention actions.

## **10 Working Time Directive**

France presented a joint declaration signed with the German DFV promoting exemption from the WTD. After review by members it was agreed that other national committees should consider offering support and then use the declaration to lobby MEPs.

In terms of the negotiation between social partners no update was available.

The Chairman indicated he thought the key was in defining a volunteer and part time firefighter. It was agreed to ask the European Commission if it would be helpful to provide a definition. If they agreed a CTIF working group would be formed. In France there is already a legal definition of a volunteer FF. This would be provided to the Chairman by Francois Maurer, circulated to members and all national committees, and used to start a definition.

On the 24 May the CTIF Volunteer Commission will meet and it will be alerted to this issue.

## **11 FEU**

The positive outcome of the recent FEU – CTIF meeting and protocol was reported and welcomed.

Comment was made that it would be good to again try and introduce the views of the civil protection associations to the EU through DG ECHO.

The European Voluntary Civil Protection Forum was also mentioned as a possible route to sharing ideas and thoughts between groups and Hungary would supply some background details.

## **12 Next Meeting**

The next meeting would be held in Bratislava on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

Dennis Davis  
Chairman  
18 April 2012