

**REPORT OF DELEGATES CONFERENCE, BRDO, SLOVENIA
21 September 2006**

Opening and establishment of the quorum

The President Walter Egger opened the meeting indicating that ex Vice President De Silva had died and calling for silence to remember all fallen firefighters. The Defence Minister of Slovenia welcomed delegates. 26 countries and 120 participants were present and Mark Jones, Chairman of the CTIF forest fires commission and DCFO Essex, and myself, represented the UK.

Approval of the minutes of the Delegates conferences in Varazdin, Croatia on 21st of July 2005

The minutes of the meeting, which UK did not attend, were approved without comment.

Report of the President

The CTIF now have a new part time member of staff at the Berlin office shared with Deutscher Feuerwehr Verband. Cooperation with FEU, EFSAC and IFAC continues and new member countries now include Angola and Australia making the CTIF family now 51 countries strong. A strategy working group has been introduced and a new website. Work is ongoing to produce a Russian lexicon and to reduce operating costs by devolving activity to global regions [Western Europe North America Danube Balkan etc]. Major elections for the Executive are needed next year when 5 of the 7 members must leave and the next Delegates Assembly will be in Mondorf Luxembourg 21-21 September 2007.

Report of the General Secretary

Christophe Mignot reported upon the series of meetings held in the preceding year including one with the Japanese.

Financial report of the treasurer and auditors' report, approval of the budget for 2007 and fixing of the members' fee

The budget promoted a question from myself, the only one asked throughout the meeting, since the Treasurer reported surpluses when deficits were obvious. The conclusion was there were deficits, described in Swiss as 'surplus receipts' of an actual £15,077 in 2005, a provisional out turn loss of £2,648 in 2006 and a budgeted 'dissolution of reserves' of £5,085 in 2007. This prompted my second question that revealed CTIF hold reserves of EUR 222,000 or around £160,000. The outcome was that the fee would stay the same, which in the UK case is EUR 3,267 or £2,334

Report of the Vice-presidents, commissions and working groups

The various reports are held in the CTIF office but brief mention was made of work concerning digital radio in Europe, the EU Commission, Airport and Hazmat issues and the international competitions scheduled for 2007 in

Sweden. The Jugendleiter or Youth Leaders Commission meets again on 28-29 September and there are now 10 countries and 63 participants, including the UK, attending these meetings. The results of the CTIF firefighter safety survey in which 22 countries participated will shortly to be published on the CTIF website. Statistical data for 30 countries is now collated and used widely by the EU and others.

In a rare exchange the French delegates responded to these reports saying they were unhappy about the quality and availability of good statistical data and general fire information.

Report of the associate members' representative

There are 35 associates and Julien Wagner of Rosenbaur, who sits on the Executive, reported briefly that all was well.

New members / Resignation and exclusion

The USA State Fire Marshals Association have resigned and New Zealand has applied.

Report on Project CTIF 2010 and founding of a working group "Strategy"

The CTIF Executive have established a '2010 group' to think through the future and the report indicated closer tie to other groups like NATO and the Red Cross as well as working with organisations like the Hamburg FRS to run a conference in 2007.

Presentation of an Associate Member

This was 15 minutes of IVECO presentation of company history and products.

Personnel changes in the commissions and working groups

The new chairman of the CTIF Airport Commission is now Ole Hanson of Oslo Airport.

Report on Public Relations

General information only regarding improved web and media releases, the next release should mention Fire 2006 at Telford.

Events CTIF 2007 to 2010

Dates were announced for the various CTIF meetings and France indicated that it would host the 2008 Delegates Assembly. A schedule is to be distributed in the near future.

Cooperation with other organisations

Reference again to Japan and also to Central America and Africa.

Preview of Delegates' Assembly 2007

A brief introduction was made concerning the venue for next year, Mondorf a spa town in Luxemburg.

Presentation of the EU Project “Leonardo ADDRESS”

The title is an acronym for A change in Delivering Diversity Results within the Emergency Services Sector and was occasioned by declining numbers of volunteers in Europe. There is EU funding at EUR 500,045 and the programme involves in the UK, NTP [understood to be a funding source finding company], CFOA, DCLG, MPS and the Bedfordshire and Luton FRS, although all this was a surprise to Mark Jones. Germany, Spain, the Netherlands and Sweden are some of the countries involved.

The idea is to build modules around operations, management and training the trainers with short-term goals designed to improve inclusiveness, awareness, public image and the attractiveness of the FRS as employment whilst reducing the impact of the male monoculture.

The DFV are the project managers and a transnational conference is planned at the FSC 7-8 December 2006 and at the project conclusion in the Netherlands in 2007. CTIF will participate in the analysis of the pilot training and results are to be widely published in 6 languages.

Information on meeting of presidents of CTIF National Committees (Hungary)

The CTIF national President of Hungary, General Tatar, hosted a meeting in Budapest over the 30 May 1 June 2006 to discuss items that it was believed could not be reasonably discussed in the CTIF forum. 8 countries attended and signed a declaration asking CTIF to recognise that in a complex world the FRS needed better discussion arrangements than existed in CTIF and that the Presidents meeting should form part of the CTIF programme. The outcome after some debate was a general refusal mainly because the terms of reference for the group are unclear and funds are limited. Portugal will host another such meeting in 2007.

Miscellaneous

There was one item relating to latest statistics release, which should be available on the FOBFO website www.fobfo.org.uk or the CTIF one www.ctif.org

Meetings of the Europe Commission for which a separate minute has been prepared, and the Forest Fires Commission followed the Delegate Assembly. The following day a full day symposium organised by the CTIF Hazmat Commission and a note is appended.

Dennis Davis
CTIF UK First Delegate

**HAZMAT SYMPOSIUM BRDO SLOVENIA
22 SEPTEMBER 2006**

Reducing the Risk of Liquefied and Toxic Gases

This session related to the Raddnings Verket [Swedish Rescue Agency] study and training programme designed to assist in the safe management of gases with a BP –32C and VD 2.5. The study had demonstrated the ineffectiveness of conventional sealing devices and the need to use techniques like recondensation.

Chlorine Rail Tanker Accident.

This was a case study reported upon by Azco Nobel of Sweden that involved the safe recovery of 4 damaged rail tankers full of chlorine after a derailment of a 12 rail tanker car train. The accident occurred in Ledsgard, Sweden on 28 February 2005 and the recovery operation lasted several weeks with no loss of containment or injuries.

Radiation Guidelines

The International Atomic Energy Agency has issued revised guidance for first responder that updates action to include response to incidents like dirty bombs. The guidance was reviewed and field-tested in Indonesia in 2005. This is practical guidance on how best to manage and react to incidents involving lost, stolen or maliciously used radioactive sources. The similarities to other hazmat incidents are stressed to reduce training time whilst recognising the differences such as lack of familiarity due rarity and infrequency, the fact very small amounts are detectable, health symptoms that are not apparent for many years and the unrealistic fears of the media and public. A copy of the documentation has been requested.

Fires in Fireworks

Based on the recent cases of explosions in Torobalint, Hungary, Kolding, Denmark and Enschede, Netherlands this presentation by Ben Janssen concentrated on the need to reclassify class 1.3 and 1.4 explosives as likely to explode en mass. Tests in Poland for the EU indicated this risk was high if any form of containment existed and safe distances of 500 metres were recommended with defensive mode tactics.

Buncefield

David McClement of Hertfordshire FRS gave a professional and detailed case study account of the firefighting and logistical requirements demanded to manage this significant December 2005 UK fire.