



## National Round Table on Fire Management, Republic of Macedonia

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, Conference Room, str. Aminta Treti No.2, Skopje  
9 November 2016

### Report with Conclusions and Recommendations

The first National Round Table on Fire Management was held on 11 September 2016 in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy. This Round Table was part of the activities of the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)<sup>1</sup> and the Regional Fire Monitoring Center (RFMC)<sup>2</sup> with the support of the Council of Europe (CoE), Secretariat of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy of the Republic of Macedonia was co-organizer of the Round Table, as well.

As laid down in the Concept Note (Annex I) the objectives of the National Round Table included:

- Review of the national legislative and institutional framework in fire management
- Review inter-agency coordination and its effectiveness
- Discuss enhancing capacities and coordinated involvement of governmental and civil society stakeholders in fire management
- Development of recommendations for fostering the national inter-agency and civil society cooperation in fire management in Republic of Macedonia
- Development of recommendations to the Council of Europe for further action

The Round Table was attended by 25 participants from the following institutions and organizations of the Republic of Macedonia:

- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy
- Public Enterprise (PE) Macedonian Forests
- Directorate for Protection and Rescue
- Crisis Management Center
- Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Macedonia
- Ministry of Interior
- PE for Pasture Management
- Fire Protection Union of Macedonia
- PE Parks and Greenery
- Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning
- Fire Protection Brigade of Skopje

A complete list of participants is included in Annex II.

In the first part of the consultation the participating agencies and organization presented the national policy, the institutional framework and the sectoral responsibilities, services and achievements in fire management.

In the second part of the consultation a discussion was held on enhancing the interoperability, effectiveness and efficiency of cross-boundary fire management in Republic of Macedonia.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.rfmc.mk>

## Conclusions and Recommendations

As a result of the Round Table the following conclusions and recommendations were adopted:

1. The Steering Committee for Forest Fire Management and its working groups should be established as soon as possible. The decision on the establishment of this Committee has been taken during previous national consultations.
2. Strict implementation of the current legislation shall be enforced.
3. Creation of Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the engagement of aerial firefighting aircraft belonging to the Directorate for Protection and Rescue.
4. Analysis of the current fire suppression command chain and the possibilities of introducing an Incident Command System.
5. The Fire Protection Union of Macedonia (FPUM) shall be supported to improve the situation of voluntary firefighting (training, regulation of liabilities, and provision of insurance).
6. International conventions and other obligations related to forest fires signed by the Republic of Macedonia should be taken into consideration by creating relevant national legislation.
7. In order to reduce people-caused fires, including intentionally set fires, strict law enforcement must be pursued.
8. Legal regulations and practices of fire management should take 'holistic' approaches at all levels of the natural and administrative 'landscapes'.
9. The Macedonian Forest Fires Information System (MAKFFIS) shall be further developed and upgraded as a decision-support tool for wildfire preparedness and fire management; its transfer to neighbouring countries of the region should be promoted.
10. Existing legislation concerning the use of fire in agriculture (pastures and agricultural residue / stubble field burning) should be re-examined.
11. Collaboration with the RFMC and the GFMC should continue and advantage taken of their capacities for strengthening fire management of Republic of Macedonia.

## ANNEX I



### National Round Table on Fire Management, Republic of Macedonia

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, Conference Room, str. Aminta Treti No.2, Skopje  
9 November 2016

#### Announcement, Background Information and Draft Agenda

##### Background and Rationale

As a consequence of climate change and socio-economic and demographic changes the countries of the Western Balkan region are becoming more vulnerable to be affected by large wildfires. The increasing threats of extreme wildfires, which may lead to emergencies and reach disaster dimensions, are calling for enhancing coordinated preparedness to manage wildfires both at national level and by cross-border cooperation.

The Council of Europe (CoE) through the Secretariat of the Euro-Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) cooperates and provides support to CoE Member States in the endeavor to enhance governance for the prevention, preparedness and management of major natural and technological disasters. In the arena of wildfire disaster risk reduction the CoE is working through the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), a Specialised Euro-Mediterranean Center under the EUR-OPA agreement based in Germany.

In order to ensure that initiatives and projects addressing wildfire disaster risk reduction in the Western Balkans are coordinated with the thematic agenda of other regional organizations and agreements the CoE and the GFMC are closely cooperating with

- the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction / United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) in the implementation of the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*<sup>3</sup>
- the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), in the implementation of the OSCE Ministerial Council Decision 6/2014<sup>4</sup>
- the Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative of five international organizations – the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Regional Environment Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)<sup>5</sup>
- the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in following up the *UNECE/FAO Regional Forum on Crossboundary Fire Management (2013)*, co-sponsored by CoE EUR-OPA, notably through the establishment of the (voluntary) *International Wildfire Preparedness Mechanism (IWPM)*<sup>6</sup>

On behalf of the CoE EUR-OPA agreement the GFMC has been a founding partner of the Regional Southeast Europe / Caucasus Wildland Fire Network<sup>7</sup> (one of the 14 Regional Wildland Fire Networks of the Global Wildland Fire Network<sup>8</sup>) and supported the establishment of the Regional Fire Monitoring Center (RFMC) at the Faculty of Forestry in Skopje in 2010.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/sendai-framework>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/intro/OSCE-Ministerial-Council-2014-Decision-6-Enhancing-DRR.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/SEEurope/SEEurope\\_8.html](http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/SEEurope/SEEurope_8.html)

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/iwpm/index.htm>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/SEEurope/SEEurope.html>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/globalNet.html>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.rfmc.mk/>

Between 2004 and 2016 a large number of activities within countries and at regional level within the Regional SE Europe / Caucasus Wildland fire Network have been conducted.<sup>10</sup> Among other the following activities aimed at supporting nations to develop a National Fire Management Policy and to foster regional cooperation in fire management, notably:

- Proposal for a Regional Strategy on International Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management in the Regional South East European Wildland Fire Network, presented at the 33rd Session of the FAO European Forestry Commission (Zvolen, Slovakia, 25 May 2006)<sup>11</sup>
- Development the *Guidelines for the Defense of Rural Populations, Local Communities and Municipality Leaders in the Balkan Region* ("Village Defense Guidelines")<sup>12</sup>
- Development of the *EuroFire Competency Standards and Training Materials*<sup>13</sup>
- Organization of two regional fire management training courses hosted by Turkey in 2010 and 2014<sup>14</sup>
- Various national and regional analyses of the fire situation in the Western Balkan countries, the last conducted in 2015 by RFMC on behalf of the Regional Environment Center (REC) (ADA/REC/ENVSEC/RFMC Project *Environment and Security Initiative: Addressing the risk of forest fires in the SEE*", resulting in the publication of country studies for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia)<sup>15</sup>

At international level the Western Balkan countries contributed to various voluntary processes and informal agreement address international cooperation in fire management, the latest including

- Continuing participation in the UNISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group (WFLAG)<sup>16</sup>
- The above-mentioned *UNECE/FAO Regional Forum on Crossboundary Fire Management* (2013), notably through the establishment of the (voluntary) *International Wildfire Preparedness Mechanism* (IWPM) (cf. footnote 4)
- The International Wildland Fire Conferences<sup>17</sup>
- The series in International Aerial Firefighting Conferences<sup>18</sup>
- Development of the International Fire Aviation Guidelines<sup>19</sup>

With these activities the CoE EUR-OPA Secretariat is encouraging its member states to intensify the dialogue on national cross-sectoral and regional cross-boundary levels to enhance inter-operability, efficiency and effectiveness of fire management, notably by sharing of responsibilities and resources.

### **Support by the Euro-Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) in 2016**

Following the history and experience of the GFMC in establishing and facilitating national inter-agency cooperation and international cross-boundary cooperation in fire management in many countries and regions globally, the Secretariat of the Euro-Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) proposed to support the Republic of Macedonia to organize a National Round Table on Fire Management and a Regional Consultation on Cross-border Fire Management in 2016. Both events will be facilitated by the Regional Fire Monitoring Center (RFMC) in Skopje.

The National Round Table shall convene the national actors / stakeholders, which have a mandate (agencies) or voluntary commitment (civil society) in fire management (fire management at "landscape level", i.e. on all types of lands including forests, protected areas, agricultural and pasture lands, and the interface areas between residential areas and vegetated lands).

At regional level countries bordering Republic of Macedonia shall be invited to review past experiences in cross-boundary cooperation in fire management and propose future procedures for

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/SEEurope/SEEurope\\_1.html](http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/SEEurope/SEEurope_1.html)

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/SEEurope/Strategy-WFM-RSEEFWN-2-02-05-2006.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> [http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/Manag/CBFiM\\_11.htm](http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/Manag/CBFiM_11.htm)

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.euro-fire.eu/> (BCMS language will be available by late August 2016)

<sup>14</sup> 2014 regional training: <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/SEEurope/Antalya-2014.html>

<sup>15</sup> [http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/SEEurope/SEEurope\\_2.html](http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/SEEurope/SEEurope_2.html)

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/Rationale-and-Introduction-1.html>

<sup>17</sup> The last International Wildland Fire Conference was co-sponsored by CoE EUR-OPA and hosted by Republic of Korea in 2015: <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/korea-2015.html>

<sup>18</sup> The last International Aerial Firefighting Conference was co-sponsored by CoE EUR-OPA and hosted by Croatia in 2015: [http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/course/meeting/2015/meet2015\\_03.htm](http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/course/meeting/2015/meet2015_03.htm)

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/iwpm/ifawg.htm>

enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of cross-boundary cooperation in fire management, particularly with regards to enhancing inter-operability for cooperation in wildfire emergency situations.

### **The National Round Table on Fire Management**

The National Round Table on Fire Management will be held on 9 November 2016 in Skopje. The objectives of the National Round Table include:

- Review of the national legislative and institutional framework in fire management
- Review inter-agency coordination and its effectiveness
- Discuss enhancing capacities and coordinated involvement of governmental and civil society stakeholders in fire management

Participants of the National Round Table (proposed):

- National agencies responsible for fire management (fire prevention and fire suppression in forests and other lands), emergency management and land management in general (forests, agricultural and pasture lands, other lands)
- Other relevant state institutions (public health, traffic, communication, Armed Forces)
- Academic institutions involved in wildland fire and fire-related research
- NGOs and other civil society groups, including fire volunteers, environmental organizations, etc.

Expected outcomes of the National Round Table (proposed):

- Recommendations for fostering the national inter-agency and civil society cooperation in fire management in Republic of Macedonia
- Recommendations to the Council of Europe for further action

### **Contacts**

#### **The Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)**

Prof. Dr. Johann G. Goldammer  
Head, GFMC  
c/o Freiburg University / United Nations University  
(UNU)  
Georges-Koehler-Allee 75  
D-79110 Freiburg  
GERMANY

Tel: +49-761-808011  
Fax: +49-761-808012  
e-mail: [johann.goldammer@fire.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:johann.goldammer@fire.uni-freiburg.de)  
<http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de>

#### **Regional Fire Monitoring Center (RFMC)**

Prof. Dr. Nikola Nikolov  
Head, RFMC  
c/o Faculty of Forestry in Skopje  
bul. Aleksandar Makedonski bb  
MK-1000 Skopje  
FYR MACEDONIA

Tel: +389-2-3135-033 ext. 150  
Fax: +389-2-3164-560  
Cell: +389-70-335-795  
e-mail: [nnikolov@sf.ukim.edu.mk](mailto:nnikolov@sf.ukim.edu.mk)  
<http://www.rfmc.mk/>

#### **Council of Europe**

Mr. Francesc Pla Castelltort  
Deputy to the Executive Secretary  
European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA)  
Democratic Governance Directorate  
Council of Europe – Conseil de l'Europe  
F-67075 Strasbourg Cédex

Tel: +33-3-9021-4930  
Fax: +33-3-8841-3910  
e-mail: [francesc.pla@coe.int](mailto:francesc.pla@coe.int)  
<http://www.coe.int/europarisks>

## ANNEX II



Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, Conference Room, str. Aminta Treti No.2, Skopje  
9 November 2016

### List of Participants

No	Name and Surname	Institution
1	Vojo Gogovski	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, Macedonia
2	Jordan Zdravkovski	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, Macedonia
3	Goran Stojkovski	PE Macedonian Forests, Macedonia
4	Sonja Nikolovska	PE Macedonian Forests, Macedonia
5	Johann G. Goldammer	Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), Germany
6	Nikola Nikolov	Regional Fire Monitoring Center (RFMC), Macedonia
7	Stefan Janeski	Regional Fire Monitoring Center (RFMC), Macedonia
8	Zorancho Mihajlov	Directorate for Protection and Rescue, Macedonia
9	Grozdanka Naumovska	Directorate for Protection and Rescue, Macedonia
10	Stevko Stefanoski	Crisis Management Center, Macedonia
11	Kire Bogdanoski	Ministry of Defense, Macedonia
12	Nikola Bojkovski	Fire Protection Union of Macedonia, Macedonia
13	Dushko Krstevski	Ministry of Internal Affairs, Macedonia
14	Cele Kostadinovski	PE Parks and Greenery, Macedonia
15	Lulaim Fejfullai	PE Pastures, Macedonia
16	Zoran Zlatevski	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, Macedonia
17	Petko Ristevski	PE Macedonian Forests, Macedonia
18	Mihajlo Ristevski	Regional Fire Monitoring Center (RFMC), Macedonia
19	Anu Sen	PE Pastures, Macedonia
20	Ejup Juja	PE Pastures, Macedonia
21	Dragan Sharovich	Directorate for Protection and Rescue, Macedonia
22	Stefanka Projchevska	National Park Pelister, Macedonia
23	Zoran Filovski	Crisis Management Center, Macedonia
24	Pejo Kartovski	Directorate for Protection and Rescue, Macedonia
25	Suza Nikolovska	PE Macedonian Forests, Macedonia
26	Shaban Saliu	Director General, Directorate for Protection and Rescue, Macedonia
27	Sretko Cimeski	Fire Protection Brigade of Skopje, Macedonia

## ANNEX III



Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, Conference Room, str. Aminta Treti No.2, Skopje  
9 November 2016

### Agenda

<b>10:00 – 10:30</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>Opening Session: Welcome and Introduction</b>	
<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Mihail Cvetkov, Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy</li> <li>- Mr. Vojo Gogovski, State Advisor for Forestry and Hunting, Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy (MAFWE)</li> <li>- Dr. Shaban Salyu, Director, Directorate for Protection and Rescue (DPR)</li> <li>- Mr. Zharko Karadjoski, Director General, PE Macedonian Forests</li> <li>- Prof. Dr. Johann Georg Goldammer, Director, Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)</li> <li>- Prof. Dr. Nikola Nikolov, Director, Regional Fire Monitoring Center (RFMC)</li> </ul>
<b>Session 1: Presentations of the National Policy and Institutional Framework of Fire Management</b>	
<b>11:00 – 13:00</b>	<p><i>Moderator: Prof. Dr. Nikola Nikolov</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organization and institutional fire management capacities of MAFWE (Mr. Vojo Gogovski)</li> <li>- Organization and institutional fire management capacities of PE Macedonian Forests (Mr. Goran Stojkovski, Assistant Director General, Sector Forest Protection, Monitoring and Internal Control)</li> <li>- Organization and institutional fire management capacities of DPR (Ms. Grozdanka Naumovska, Head of Department, DPR)</li> <li>- The Macedonian Forest Fire Information System – MAKFFIS (Dr. Stevko Stefanoski, Crisis Management Center)</li> <li>- Organization and institutional forest fire management capacities of the Fire Protection Brigade (FPB) Skopje (Mr. Zvonko Tomevski, Commander, FPB)</li> <li>- Organization and state of forest fire management in the Region – Current situation in the region (Prof. Dr. Nikola Nikolov)</li> </ul>
<b>13:00 – 13:30</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>Session 2: Discussion and Conclusions</b>	
<b>13:30 – 14:30</b>	<p><i>Moderators: Mr. Vojo Gogovski, Prof. Nikola Nikolov and Prof. Johann G. Goldammer</i></p> <p>Discussion: Strengthening fire management capacities of national agencies, academic institutions and civil society organizations, including views for cross-boundary cooperation in fire management and international obligations (UN Conventions). Consideration of traditional use of fire in agriculture and pasture management and advanced science-based need for the use of prescribed fire in conservation and landscape management.</p>
<b>14:30 – 15:00</b>	Summarizing and Conclusions of the National Round Table
<b>15:00 – 16:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>