



**NATIONS UNIES**  
COMMISSION ÉCONOMIQUE  
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**ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫЕ НАЦИИ**  
ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ  
ДЛЯ ЕВРОПЫ

**UNITED NATIONS**  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR EUROPE

## **UNECE / FAO Regional Forum on Cross-boundary Fire Management**

Organized by

The UNECE/FAO Teams of Specialists on Forest Fire and the UNECE Trade and Timber Division, through its Coordinator – the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), Germany, supported by the German Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection, and the Secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), and the Council of Europe through its Euro-Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA)

Venue and date: Palais des Nations, United Nations, Geneva, 28-29 November 2013

### **Preparatory Activities <sup>1</sup>**

**Status: 14 June 2013**

The Global Fire Monitoring Center (GMFC) and associated Regional Wildland Fire Networks and Regional Fire Centers within the UNECE Region are conducting consultations and pilot activities in cross-boundary cooperation in fire management to be presented in Geneva:

#### **Lon-term Projects**

- Development of the “Guidelines for the Defense of Villages, Farms and Other Rural Assets Against Wildfires” (Council of Europe) and the EuroFire (EU Leonardo) standards as examples for developing corporate materials for training and outreach work in a region, which has experienced rural abandonment and increasing wildfire hazards, but recently showing first signs of reversed migration trends
- Establishment of partnership of the Regional SE European / Caucasus Fire Monitoring Center (RFMC), the Balkan Environment Center and the Antalya Fire Management Training Center as a globally first coalition of specialized centers working under the common theme „wildland fire“ in a region
- The establishment / inauguration of the Regional Eastern European Fire Monitoring Center (REEFMC) in Kiev, Ukraine
- The OSCE / ENVSEC Project “Enhancing National Capacity on Fire Management and Wildfire Disaster Risk Reduction in the South Caucasus” aiming at confidence building in the region through regional cooperation in fire management (Phase III – 2012-2013)
- The OSCE / ENVSEC project in the South Caucasus supporting three countries to develop national fire management policies at times of moderate wildfire risk aimed at enhancing the preparedness to expected increase of wildfire threats due to climate change and socio-economic changes (Phase III – 2012-2013)
- The Regional Fire Management Training in Turkey for OSCE and CoE member states as example for corporate transboundary practical training in the region (2010, 2013)

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/intro/UNECE-Fire-Forum-2013-Draft-Outline.pdf>

- The consequences of the „International Fire Management Weeks“ in Krasnoyarsk Region in 2012 and 2013 as a successful support to a government to revise its national fire management policy
- Advances in science addressing the transboundary impacts of agricultural burning, e.g. on emission of Black Carbon and its transport to the Arctic environment (field research in Ukraine and in Russia)
- Development of fire management approaches on terrain contaminated by radioactivity and unexploded ordnance (UXO) initiated in Ukraine and Germany, with invited Russian participation

### Targeted Preparatory Events

- Meeting of the “International Working Group on Cooperation in Wildfire Preparedness and Response” (IWG-CWPR) for the development of a proposal for international voluntary standards for harmonization, standardization and promotion of best-practice and for safe and efficient sharing of wildfire emergency response resources between countries for wildfire emergency analysis & assessment, wildfire emergency advisory support to nations in distress and wildfire emergency response within the UNECE region and globally (first 2013 meeting: 14-15 March 2013, GFMC)
- Joint meeting of IWG-CWPR and the International Fire Aviation Working Group (IFAWG) to develop guidelines or SOPs for multilateral communication and cooperation to improve the safety, efficiency and effectiveness of aerial fire management (first 2013 meeting: 11-12 April 2013, Aix-en-Provence, France)
- Second meeting of IWG-CWPR (3-4 June 2013, GFMC)

### Targeted Preparatory Conferences in 2013

- **A Regional Round Table in the Eastern European Region:** Inauguration of the Regional Eastern European Fire Monitoring Center (REEFMC) in Kiev, Ukraine, associated with a regional seminar “Wildfires in the Eastern European Region: Science, Policies and Management” in which neighboring countries will develop recommendations for priority action for a “Regional Eastern European Cooperation and Action Plan on Fire Management” (Kiev, Ukraine, 4 March 2013)<sup>2</sup>
- **Joining capacities of Regional Fire Centers of Excellence:** Cooperation launched between the Regional Fire Monitoring Center (Skopje, FYROM), the Balkan Environment Center (Thessaloniki, Greece) and the Regional Fire Management Training Center (Antalya, Turkey), on coordination and sharing resources in enhancing fire monitoring and fire management capacity building in fire management in the SE Europe / Balkans region (Kickoff: Thessaloniki, Greece, 9 March 2013)<sup>3</sup>
- **3<sup>rd</sup> GOFc-GOLD Land Monitoring Symposium:** Formal decisions of close cooperation between providers of satellite fire monitoring and early warning information to the end users in fire management (Wageningen, Netherlands, 15-19 April 2013)<sup>4</sup>
- **35<sup>th</sup> Session of the Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management:** Initiation of the transition from the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Fire to the Global Wildland Fire Network (United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, 23-25 April 2013)<sup>5</sup>
- **A National Round Table and associated activities in Greece and the neighboring SE European Region:** The National Greek Round Table on Fire Management, in conjunction with the Chios Initiative of Captain Panagiotos Tsakos and the development of the “Guidelines for the Defense of Villages, Farms and Other Rural Assets Against Wildfires”, as an example where civil society at all levels are becoming increasingly involved in taking responsibility in

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/intro/about4\\_2013.html#March](http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/intro/about4_2013.html#March) and <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/intro/REEFMC-Opening-4-March-2013-Agenda-print-ENG.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/intro/about4\\_2013.html#March](http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/intro/about4_2013.html#March)

<sup>4</sup> <http://gofc-fire.umd.edu/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/intro/Report-UNECE-TIM-EFC-35-Session-23-25-April-2013.pdf>

the reduction of wildfire disaster threats, at times of economic difficulties (Athens, Greece, 13 and 14 May 2013)<sup>6</sup>

- **4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction:** Participation of the ToS Leader / GFMC at the Consultation "Scientific and Technical Platforms/ Networks: Achievements and Future Goals" (United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, 20 May 2013)<sup>7</sup>
- **Second "International Fire Management Week" in Krasnoyarsk Krai, Russian Federation:** Organized by the Russian Federal Forest Service *Rosleskhoz*, the National Aerial Forest Fire Center *Avialesookhrana* and the GFMC in the frame of the UNISDR Regional Eurasia Wildland Fire Network / UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Fire<sup>8</sup>
- **UN/Germany Expert Meeting on Space-based information for Early Warning:** With participation of the CFS-GFMC Global Wildland Fire Early Warning System (Bonn, Germany, 26-27 June 2013)
- **Preparatory Conference of UNECE Member States:** International Conference and Trade Fair on Forest Fire and Climate Change "Challenges for Fire Management in Natural and Cultural Landscapes of Eurasia" as a major regional preparatory event of the Geneva Forum (Novosibirsk, Russia, 11-13 November 2013)<sup>9</sup>

### Targeted Publications

- "Prescribed Burning in Forestry in Russia and Neighbouring Countries of Temperate-Boreal Eurasia". Editor: GFMC. Forestrybooks, Kessel Publishing (2013)<sup>10</sup>
- "Vegetation Fires and Global Change: Challenges for Concerted International Action. A White Paper directed to the United Nations and International Organizations". Editor: GFMC. Forestrybooks, Kessel Publishing (2013, in press)
- Translation of EuroFire (EU Leonardo) standards to other European languages (status March 2013: Armenian, Azerbaijani, French, Georgian, German, Russian) and publication on the EuroFire website. Editor: GFMC<sup>11</sup>
- Translation of an English Handbook for Training of Trainers in Fire Management to Russian (Pushkino, Russia, 2013, in press) (Co-editor: GFMC)

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/intro/Greece-National-Round-Table-Fire-Mgmt-Press-Release-Agenda-14-May-2013.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/intro/GPDRR-4-Scientific-Technical-Platforms-Networks-Consultation-20-May-2013-Agenda.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/intro/about4\\_2013.html#June](http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/intro/about4_2013.html#June)

<sup>9</sup> [http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/course/meeting/2013/meet2013\\_11.htm](http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/course/meeting/2013/meet2013_11.htm)

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.forestrybooks.com/>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.euro-fire.eu/9>