

CTIF FFC Meeting 18th April 2008, Lisbon

Present Members

Mark Jones, Lee Neale (UK), Rami Ruuska (Finland), Frederic Tournay (France), Havard Sormoen (Norway), Artur Gomes (Portugal), Bela Balint (Hungary), Jan Sudmersen (Germany), Jim Smalley (USA), Allete Allard (Netherlands), Daniel Ryser (Switzerland), Tereza Findeisova (Czech Republic), Svetla Mateeva, Hrisimir Dochev (Bulgaria)


Guests and Experts

Michael Bruce, EUROFIRE (UK), Alex Held (Working on Fire/ Afrinet, South Africa), Rui Silva, Mario Manuel Silva Lourco (Portugal), Agoston Restas (Hungary)

Apologies for absence

Murray Dudfield (New Zealand), Natalia Restuccia, Giorgio Alocci (Italy), Johann Goldammer (GFMC), Mario Starcevic (Croatia), Milan Ivanic (Slovakia)

Discussion Item	Introduced by
1. Welcome, introductions, Opening remarks	Chairman
<p>The chairman opened the meeting by congratulating the Portuguese Firefighter's organisation for the excellent conference the previous day and thanking them for their hospitality for the commission meeting.</p> <p>The Chairman gave the apologies that he had received and explained that several delegates were attending an exercise in Sardinia which was at the same time as the meeting</p> <p>In welcoming both new and old member to the meeting, the chairman asked delegates and guests present to identify themselves, who they represented and what their particular interest was within the Commission. In anticipation of the forthcoming re-launch of the CTIF website, the Chairman asked delegates to send details: A photograph for the information page, a brief resume of their role.</p> <p>Action: All commission members to send brief resume and photograph by e mail.</p>	
2. Minutes of Meeting May 2007	Chairman
<p>The chair offered his thanks to Michael Bruce for his support at the last meeting in Seville May 2007. The minutes were agreed by those present as an accurate record of the meeting.</p>	
3. UN FAO Fire Management Actions Alliance	Chairman
<p>The chairman highlighted the existence of the Fire Management Actions Alliance (FMAA), and explained that the CTIF Forest Fires Commission was a founding member. In order to submit a collective response from the commission, the Chairman undertook to share the spreadsheet with members so that any national initiatives with which they are involved could be incorporated within the CTIF submission to the UN FAO.</p> <p>Alex Held stated that there is sometimes a misunderstanding that the FMAA is a UN initiative that provides funding and support, which is not the case. He stated that he would like to see a coordinated approach to raising funds for developing countries. The Chair responded by stating that CTIF are not in a position to provide funding, but it does sometimes assist with access to funding for work and may be in a position to "signpost" funding opportunities for other groups.</p> <p>Action – Chair to circulate spreadsheets for members</p>	

4. EUROFIRE Project	M Bruce, Project Manager, Eurofire
<p>MB gave a presentation on the aims and objectives of the EUROFIRE project. MB stated the important role that land managers have to play. He explained the history and advancement of the project, highlighting the partnership nature of the work.</p> <p>MB agreed to provide a briefing note and link to the website. He thanked one of the commission's members, Murray Dudfield (NZ) for his assistance in developing the approach being adopted.</p> <p>The chair emphasised that, whilst the focus of this project was somewhat focused on Europe due to the funding arrangements from the European Union, the commission's work is not exclusive to Europe – there are many other member states of CTIF from outside the EU.</p> <p>Action – MB to provide web link</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Eurofire_newsletter_1_low_res.pdf</p> </div>	
5. International Training Initiative between UK and Greece	N Sacchinidis, GREECE / Chairman
<p>The Chairman explained the international training initiative between Greece and the UK and explained that this had come about through contacts established through this commission. He undertook to provide a report to the next meeting which would give account of the outcomes.</p> <p>NS responded that the training had been driven by local need and there had been support from other countries and the University of Athens. A training manual has been produced in Greek and will soon be translated into English. Many countries are now being trained and NS would like to see even more. The training costs were said to be low because of the support from the Greek Ministry for the Interior.</p> <p>The Chair indicated the UK's gratitude to the Greek government and to ESEPA and stated that this is a good example of the practical and tangible benefits that may be derived from active participation within the commission.</p> <p>Action – Chairman to prepare report after the training has been undertaken</p>	
6. Portuguese Forest Fire Campaigns of years 2006-2007	Artur Gomes, PORTUGAL
<p>Artur gave an explanation of the national arrangements of the Portuguese fire service, and the work of the national training school in Sintra. Having learned of the large number of Fire Services within Portugal, Nikos Sacchinidis asked about standardisation as Portugal has 470 private fire associations. AG said that there are national firefighting bodies and a national standard for all associations.</p> <p>Michael Bruce asked if fuel loads are monitored or controlled and Artur indicated that there is a national programme for doing so.</p>	
7. "Working on Fire"	A Held, Chair, WoF International, South Africa
<p>Alex Held explained that the project was specifically for wildfire and involved the training of unemployed and uneducated local people. The project was explained as having beneficial wildfire outcomes whilst at the same time helping to support local economies. In <i>uplifting</i> local communities in this way, the project concentrates on training people in the use of hand tools for fire control and management.</p>	

Alex explained that, since its inception in 2003, working on fire had addressed issues such as;

- Training
- Aerial Firefighting
- Fire Awareness and Prevention
- Fire Detection and Fire Suppression
- Post Fire Rehabilitation
- Prescribed Burning
- Resource Coordination, and
- Research and Innovation

8. The Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)

Alex Held (on behalf of Professor Johann Goldammer)

For those not already familiar with the work of the GFMC, Alex explained the work that they undertake and the networks they facilitate. He directed members to the website, the details of which had been previously circulated by the chairman.

The chairman stated that GFMC is highly influential in global fire policy and welcomed their influence as a partner to the Forest fires Commission.

9. “Firewise” campaign

J Smalley, USA

Jim explained the inception and history of the *Firewise* campaign. He highlighted catastrophic fires that had occurred in Florida and California in 1985 and showed explained the reaction to them. The campaign’s objective is to develop strategies that reduce risk and losses from wildfire. Initially the focus was on homeowners and firefighter safety but the scope has now widened to incorporate educating home owners and communities with a strong focus on community planning. The programme has now developed into five areas and local communities have raised \$25m for the campaign. Appendix 1 gives some outline detail of the Firewise programme.

Jim also explained the role of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) in managing the programme. Jim highlighted that the Firewise campaign would be holding an annual conference in Tampa, Florida in early November 2008.

Further information is available on www.firewise.org

10. EU Resolution on the Community strategy 2007–2012 on health and safety at work

Chairman

Having circulated this piece of information prior to the meeting, the chair emphasised that this commission is not exclusively confined to EU countries. The Chair asked the meeting if they would like him to continue circulating relevant information, the meeting that this would continue.

Some discussion was held around the need to “lobby” policy bodies’ such as the EU before policy and regulation is decided. If the commission was to be influential in national and international policy development, it was clear that to await the implementation stages would not be productive.

Action – Chair to circulate information that he receives or becomes aware of.

Action – Members to send information for sharing through the chair

11. Report – Forest Fire and environmental Management	H Sormoen, Norway
<p>Havard introduced the report informing the meeting that the report concentrates on firefighting and ecological impact. It was explained as an academic work with practical applications. On behalf of the commission, the chair thanked Norway for this valuable piece of information sharing and recommended the report to the meeting. Havard agreed to send paper copies upon request.</p>	
12. International Wildland Fire Conference 2011, South Africa	A Held, Chair, AfriFirenet
<p>Alex highlighted that SA would be hosting the next 4-yearly global wildfire congress in Sun City-Pilanesberg National Park from 9th – 13th May 2011. This will be the 5th global conference.</p> <p>He explained that the conference required considerable support from the international community in order to be successful.</p>	
13. Arrangements in the Netherlands for wildfire	Allard van Gulik
<p>The Chair welcomed Allard and Allete Getz to their first meeting of the commission. Allard explained the fact that Netherlands have forests and occasional forest fires problems which are increasing.</p> <p>The Netherlands was said to be a small country, with a growing population and it was highlighted that, due to population density, small fires can have significant impacts. There was said to be a growing tendency towards less active management of forests – the result being fuel loadings increasing, combining with climate change and a growing outdoor lifestyles. Much of the open space within the Netherlands was said to be used for camping which is increasing the ignition and life risk.</p> <p>Access to forests (for firefighting purposes) was said to be difficult when fires occur due to campers, road infrastructure in rural areas and busy public roadways. Forest fires were now expressed as a significant risk and Allard indicated that the Netherlands is seeking to develop policy and would be keen to learn from other countries.</p> <p>The chairman and other commission members looked forward to the cooperation of the Netherlands in future commission work.</p>	
14. Membership update	ALL
<p>Members updated the list that was circulated at the meeting for their national contacts for forest fires. The chairman indicated that he would be writing to CTIF, encouraging member states that were not sending representatives to commission meetings to take a more active role. The chairman undertook to update the contact list for the commission. (see Appendix 2)</p> <p>Action – Chair to send e mail through CTIF</p>	
15. CTIF annual conference report, 2008	Chairman
<p>The chairman spoke of the annual delegates assembly (September 2008 in Colmar) and sought the view of commission members as to what should be incorporated in his report to the annual meeting</p> <p>He proposed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> This meeting details and the Portuguese conference The commission's involvement with EU forest fires group The fact that the commission continues to grow in interest and membership 	

- d) The EUROFIRE project
- e) South African Conference 2011

Commission members agreed that these would be suitable elements of an update to the delegate's assembly.

Action – Chairman to prepare report by July 2008.

16. EU Forest Fires Working group

Chairman

The chairman indicated that CTIF is now recognised as a contributor to this group and that he was invited to the recent meetings in Brussels. Despite not being able to attend, he was hopeful of being able to engage in future meetings of this type and would share the outcomes with commission members.

Please note that the Minutes of the meeting attached are DRAFT.



draft minutes
Brussels JRC.doc

17. Paris Conference, 7/8th March – Response to EU proposal – a civil response force for Europe

Chairman

Having attended and participated in the recent conference in Paris, the Chairman referred to the French initiative regarding an EU rapid reaction force. He stated his view that it was a good idea, which he would be keen for the commission to support but he would prefer that safeguards were incorporated. He proposed that he respond through CTIF, indicating the need for:

- Crew protection arrangements
- Common incident management and protective equipment standards
- Each team drawn from the same language speakers (or a common language used in team business)

He described the UK arrangements for international assistance for disasters worldwide in which one Fire Service at a time was on standby on a rota basis. He said that this would provide a good model as a starting point. Recognising that many “wildfire” assistance requests tend to be focused on air support, commission members asked that the response also highlighted that international support for wildfire not all about air support, much could be achieved by skilled, and well managed, ground based crews working with hand tools.

Action – Chairman to prepare response (copy below) to CTIF Europe committee for inclusion



Letter to Dennis
Davis, CTIF re Barnie

18. Specialized, highly mobile units – existence, use and design

J Südmersen, Germany

Jan Sudmersen asked members for any information that they had of the existence of specialist rapid response crews in different countries and said he would, with the chairs permission provide an overview at the next meeting. The chair said this fits well with the aims of the commission and encouraged Jan to undertake this work.

Action – All members to submit information to Jan	
Action – Jan Sudmersen to prepare presentation for October meeting	
19. Combining Aerial and ground based attack on wildfires.	J Südmersen, Germany
<p>Jan Sudmersen highlighted the need to discuss combining Aerial and ground based attack on wildfires, the chair responded by stating that there will always be a need for ground forces, indicating his view that aerial attack alone was not likley to be successful in most cases.</p> <p>Alex Held said it is important to consider need before the development of teams takes place. Experts are required not just people to operate hand tools. The chair said that he felt there is a need for sector competent officers but also firefighters to carry out the work. Artur Gomes explained the importance of positioning ground crews, as used in Portugal.</p> <p>Rami Ruuska asked what arrangements were in place for requesting international aid. The chair said arrangements were in place at government level. The chair also said that he occasionally receives direct requests, but stressed the need for each nation to exercise some discipline and go through their own official channels.</p>	
20. Any other business	ALL
<p>The chair stated the benefit of, wherever possible, combining commission meetings with other events. This view was shared by the meeting.</p> <p>In that the next meeting would be conducted in Greece in October, Nikos Sacchinidis offered to arrange workshops with professors from the local university to fit in with the meeting. The chair thanked Nikos Sacchinidis and asked that commission members submit subjects for the workshops to him by the end of June 2008 and he will forward to Nikos.</p> <p>Action – All to send proposals for workshop to Chair by end June.</p>	
21. Date and venue for next meeting	
<p>Thursday 02nd to Sunday 05th October 2008, Rizomata, Greece Subject to confirmation by Nikos Sacchinidis</p> <p>Closing remarks The chairman thanked the Portuguese league of firefighters once more for their hospitality and looked forward to the next meeting. He thanked the delegates for their good company and wished them a safe journey home.</p> <p>The meeting formally closed at 1300 hours.</p>	

All delegates are asked to submit their photographs of the meeting so that they may be shared

Appendix 1

FIRWISE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM ACTIVITIES and PROJECTS

The national Firewise Communities program is divided into five distinct but inter-related Core Programs as illustrated below.

1. The National Firewise Communities/USA Recognition Program.
2. The Firewise Website (www.firewise.org)
3. The National Communications Strategy and Plan,
4. The development and dissemination of WUI Information Resources, and
5. Firewise Program Support and Development.

Firewise Communities® is a national interagency program that plays a critical role in areas outside the jurisdiction of government entities: private land in the wildland/urban interface (WUI). Through its facilitation and information resources, the national Firewise Communities program has been a model of cooperation among federal, tribal, state, and local government; private industry; non-profit organizations; and community groups. At the heart of the program is a focus on personal responsibility. Communities are encouraged to adopt a long-term, proactive approach to protect their homes and resources from the risk of wildland fire – before a fire starts

Approach to Motivating Change

Agencies and organizations responsible for wildland fire management agree: we can reduce loss of lives, property, and resources to wildland fire by building and maintaining communities in a way that is compatible with our natural surroundings. While this is a common goal across the U.S., there is no single solution to achieving it. Rather than prescribing a national solution, the Firewise Communities program emphasizes a local decision-making process whereby diverse interests can come together and determine solutions that are most appropriate for their community. Firewise encourages community representatives, including home owners, to develop their own plan for achieving a set of common goals with guidance from land management and fire officials. The most successful wildfire mitigation programs are driven by the individuals who will be most impacted by their efforts: the residents.

Firewise Communities/USA Recognition Program

Firewise Communities/USA provides a framework for America's fire-prone communities to work together with local fire and land management officials to develop and implement a wildfire mitigation plan, and recognizes them for their efforts. Firewise Communities/USA is administered with assistance from 40 state forestry liaisons and two regional Bureau of Indian Affairs liaisons. Following is a list of program criteria:

- Enlist a WUI specialist to complete a hazard assessment and work together to create a plan to be implemented by the community.
- Organize Firewise board/committee that includes homeowners and fire officials. Participation by planners, land managers, urban foresters, and/or members of other interest groups is also encouraged.
- Observe a Firewise Communities/USA Day dedicated to a local Firewise project.
- Invest a minimum of \$2.00 per capita annually in local Firewise projects.
- Submit an annual report that documents continuing compliance with the program.

Firewise Communities Partnerships

The national Firewise Communities program recognizes the importance of partnering with other organizations that share similar interests, working with them to develop that speak to the needs of their constituencies. For example, the American Planning Association has explored Firewise concepts in its publication *Planning for Wildfires*, aimed at the nation's professional planners. It explores the role of wildfire hazard mitigation and land use planning in reducing the potential for losses as a result of wildfires. The Association's Research Division has surveyed Firewise Workshop participants to evaluate the impact of the workshop series, and its Annual Conference has welcomed Firewise at a forum where the program can reach over 6,000 participants each year.

Information Resources

The online Firewise Catalogue offers more than 30 audiovisual and print items for agencies, homeowners, landscape architects, community planners, builders and developers and others. New resources are continually being developed and added to the catalogue. More than 1,000,000 pieces of literature have been distributed since the introduction of the online ordering centre in May 2003. Most materials are free of charge, with modest shipping and handling charges.

Highlights of the 2008 program include:

Specifically, we will be offering five additional Home Ignition Zone workshops - two in high-risk California locales, and one each in the southeast and northeast where existing or developing Firewise program participants can increase knowledge and skills. The fifth will take place just prior to the third national **Backyards & Beyond Firewise Communities Conference**. For more information, go to www.firewise.org/conference08 to look at the program and register online.

We will be working with key partners to leverage resources and capabilities to help accomplish Firewise efforts through new and diverse networks and outreach.

We'll provide program accomplishments and activities through innovative and useful tools such as updates of the piloted digital version of a Firewise Resource e-Book (using Sanborn Maps Geobook software) and distributed interactive areas on the Firewise website.

Lastly, we will launch a multi-tiered Firewise recognition for communities working on mitigation programs yet not directly working for national recognition. Special commendations for local efforts will begin to accomplish an earlier objective of encouraging communities to move toward national recognition by praising local actions that can lead the way to national recognition.

For more information, go to www.firewise.org or contact: Jim Smalley, Manager, Wildland Fire Protection, NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy MA 02169, 617-984-7483, jsmalley@nfpa.org

Appendix 2

April 2008 Update of membership of the CTIF Forest Fires Commission

Delegates

Country	Name	Contact Details
UK	Mark Jones, Chairman	Mark.jones@essex-fire.gov.uk
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Guest Organisations / Associates / Partners of the Forest Fires Commission

Country / Organisation	Name	Contact details
GFMC / Max Planck Institute	Johann G Goldammer	johann.goldammer@fire.uni-freiburg.de
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