

11 November 2005

## **Questionnaire to CTIF member nations and organisations on the subject of Forest and Wildfires**

Introduction, by Mark Jones, Chair, CTIF Forest Fires Commission

At the recent CTIF delegate's assembly, I was privileged to address the assembly as the newly appointed chair of the forest fires commission. I stated my early intentions to develop a questionnaire that would establish the views of member states and to investigate and develop strategic partnerships to further the interests of the commission. I now attach the questionnaire and would be very grateful if you could arrange for its completion at your earliest convenience.

If you wish to forward it to other colleagues or organisations within your nation, I would be grateful to receive their responses.

### **Purpose of the questionnaire**

The Forest Fires Commission receives varying levels of support from member states. In seeking to identify why this is the case, I am circulating this questionnaire with the intention of developing a business plan for the commission, which accurately addresses the concerns of member states.

In requesting the completion of this questionnaire, I would stress upon you the need for national level response – be sure that the responses received actually represent the views of your organisations, they will shape the strategy that is adopted by the commission and therefore need to accurately represent the real feelings and wishes of your nation. If you wish to copy the questionnaire to several respondents in your country, it may be helpful.

The findings of the questionnaire will be utilised for the purposes of:

- Developing specific terms of reference for the Commission,
- Contributing to innovations such as the handbook referred to below,
- Shaping future strategies, and
- Accurately assessing the position of each member state on this policy area

As I announced in Varzdin this July, I am attempting to gain EU support for a partnership with a German University for the purposes of production of a Firefighter's Safety Handbook for Wildfires. Whilst it is too early to predict if this bid is likely to be successful, if it proves to be successful, the views expressed within the questionnaire will help to shape the outcomes and contents of the final document.

I will aspire to conduct 2 meetings each year of the Forest Fires Commission. Meetings will be conducted at varied venues, and I will attempt, wherever



possible, to match the meetings with other related events and meetings. The next meeting of the Forest Fires Commission will be held in February 2006 (venue: to be announced).

### Questionnaire

This questionnaire should be completed and returned by e mail to myself at: [mark.jones@esex-fire.gov.uk](mailto:mark.jones@esex-fire.gov.uk)

Alternatively, it may be posted to:

Mark Jones  
Chair, CTIF Forest Fires Commission,  
Essex County Fire and Rescue Service,  
Rayleigh Close, Hutton,  
Brentwood, Essex  
CM13 1AL  
UK

#### Question 1

As chair, I foresee the key roles of the commission as:

1. Providing for the sharing of information and learning on the subject of forest and, more broadly, wildfires.
2. Contributing to the broader aims of CTIF, in the specific field of wildfires.
3. Identifying and sharing "best practices" from all nations.
4. Liaison with other similar organisations for the purposes of furthering our mutual aims.
5. Advising international groups on the CTIF's position on forest and wildfire issues.

(a) Do you think these proposed roles are appropriate?

Please comment as appropriate	
<b>Yes</b>	
<b>No</b> (please state why)	

What, if any, other key roles do you think the commission could/ should undertake?

A	
B	
C	

**Question 2**

To assist with the development of a modern set of terms of reference, it is helpful to know each member state’s priorities for the commission. What does your nation/ organisation consider to be a priority for the Forest Fires Commission?

(Rating, 1 Highest Priority, 5 Lowest Priority)

Priorities for the Commission	Rating				
Firefighter Safety					
Public Expectations of firefighters					
Political Expectations of firefighters					
Training for professional firefighters					
Training for Volunteer Firefighters					
Wildland / Urban interface					
<b>Others</b> – Please add below					

**Question 3**

**Venues for meetings** – What is your preference for the places where meetings may be held?

Proposed Venues / host organisations	
Would you be prepared to host a meeting of the commission?	
If yes, how much notice would you require?	

**Question 4**

What, if any, are the main challenges to your participation in the Forest Fires Commission’s meetings?

**Question 5**

What are the main issues for your nation / organisation in addressing wildfires? And how could the CTIF Forest Fires Commission support fire services in your nation?

Issue	Main Problems/ Challenges for Fire Services	Possible methods by which the Forest Fires Commission could assist

**Question 6**

Information from meetings. Recent commission meetings have not been well attended by a broad range of member nations. The geographical challenges are clear and it is accepted that there are time and financial omits on attendance.

To ensure that as many member states can participate as possible, the following actions are proposed. Can you indicate your agreement or disagreement.

(a) Call for agenda items 2 months prior to meetings	Agree	Disagree
(b) Circulation of agenda 2 weeks before meetings to allow submissions by members not able to attend to be received		
(c) Incorporation of the views of those members unable to attend by way of written submissions and proposals		
(d) Use of CTIF website as repository of commission business		
(e) Occasional briefings and information sharing to all CTIF members.		

**Question 7**

How would you like the Commission’s business to be shared with members?

(Rating, 1 Most Preferred, 5 Least Preferred)

	Rating				
E-mail to Forest Fire Commission Members only					
E mail to Forest Fire Commission Members only <b>and</b> all nominated country committees					
Placed on CTIF website					
Paper copies posted and e mail contact					

As you may be aware, I have moved to an English Fire and Rescue Service. My new details are:

Mark Jones  
 Chair, CTIF Forest Fires Commission  
 Essex County Fire and Rescue Service  
 Rayleigh Close, Hutton  
 Brentwood, Essex  
 CM13 1AL  
 UK

Telephone ++441277239305  
 E-mail [mark.jones@esex-fire.gov.uk](mailto:mark.jones@esex-fire.gov.uk)