



CFPAEUROPE®

CTIF



CFPA-E, CTIF and FEU Presidents' Cooperation Meeting

30.8.2013, Turku, Finland

International Association Presidents in Turku – Strength through cooperation

In August, 2013, the anniversary of 175 years of fire fighting in Finland was celebrated in Turku, western Finland. The National CTIF Committee decided to include an international element in the "Fire Brigade in Finland 175 Jubilee". The Committee invited to Turku the presidents of CFPA-Europe, CTIF and FEU – the leading European and international umbrella organisations – to discuss the organisations' potential for collaboration as regards improving the safety and security of Europe and Europeans. The meeting, the first of its kind – but certainly not the last, may very well be described as historical.

A prominent gathering at Forum Marinum

On Friday, 30 August, Presidents **Jesper Ditlev** (CFPA-E), **Tore Eriksson** (CTIF) and **Dieter Nuessler** (FEU) presented the activities of their respective organisations, including their strategies for the future, at a seminar entitled "Current Dates for Rescue Services: European Rescue Services 2025". The seminar was organised by the Ministry of the Interior and held at the historical Turku Volunteer Fire Brigade Building. It was a fitting prologue to the subsequent meeting which convened at Forum Marinum.

The meeting was chaired by **Pentti Partanen** (Ministry of the Interior), President of the Finnish National CTIF Committee, and **Kimmo Kohvakka** (SPEK The Finnish National Rescue Association) took the minutes at the symposium. **Jari Sainio**, who represents the SPPL (The Finnish Association of Fire Chiefs) in the National Committee, was a natural local host of the event. Following the meeting was a distinguished group of representatives from Nordic and Finnish associations. The group found ample topics for discussion, ranging from grand designs to minute details.

Gavels banged in unison

As there were so many presidents gathered around the table, it was only right and proper that they each were given their own gavel. With a collective bang the participants unanimously agreed on the need to further intensify and streamline the ongoing dissemination of information between the organisations. There was also much discussion about more research cooperation, with the management of research projects being identified as a practical challenge. At least for the time being, organisations relying on volunteer experts do not have sufficient management resources for demanding research projects. Still, the Research Commission of CFPA-E is a useful common platform for sharing research data.

Tore Eriksson of the CTIF brought up the issues related to the health and safety of rescue personnel irrespective of their employment relationship. The increasingly more frequent natural disasters, new technologies and new materials pose new challenges to the health and safety of rescue service workers. The new technologies can also spawn solutions that improve occupational safety, hence, more research and training is needed in order to bring these technologies online.

Jesper Ditlev of the CFPA-E brought up solar panels as an example of such technologies. Not only do they involve structural fire safety, they also have an impact on the occupational safety of fire fighters. A similar question that demands a mutually adopted solution concerns new types of insulating materials.



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Correspondingly, fire safety in hotels and comparable buildings is one of the strategic focus areas of the FEU.

Onwards to Interschutz

Dieter Nuessler of the FEU made the following practical proposal: the organisations should co-arrange a conference, for example, at the Interschutz 2015 trade show. For Europeans, the exhibition is an excellent venue for a collaborative meeting as it gathers together all stakeholders, ranging from commercial actors to common-interest associations.

The discussions at the first meeting of the presidents were lively and active, continuing late into the evening in a maritime setting on board the S/S Ukkopekka. There is every reason to believe that this forum will remain lively in future gatherings.

Mia Kunnaskari
Coordinator, SPEK

Additional information:

The material produced at the presidents' meeting is available on the Finnish CTIF webpage www.ctif.fi
> Turku Cooperation Meeting

Organisational information:

CFPA-Europe (The Confederation of Fire Protection Association Europe) operates primarily in the area of fire prevention and protection and other closely associated risks. CFPA-Europe was founded in 1974 and its membership encompasses national organisations from 18 European countries. There are four commissions in the CFPA-E: Training, Guidelines, Security and Research. www.cfpa-e.eu

CTIF (Comité technique international de prévention et d'extinction du Feu) is an international fire fighting and rescue service organisation. It was founded in 1900 and it presently includes 36 member countries and approximately 50 associate organisations. The CTIF encompasses 13 commissions and working groups operating in the areas of safety and fire brigade activities. Among other things, the CTIF publishes fire statistics and organises international events. The best known of such events are the International Fire Brigades Competitions – the 'Fire Olympics' - held every four years. www.ctif.org

The FEU (Federation of the European Union Fire Officer Associations) is an umbrella organisation of European fire officer associations. It was founded in 1992 and includes representatives from 22 countries. The principal purpose of the organisation is to facilitate information-sharing and provide a coherent view on rescue service-related topics from the standpoint of professional fire officers. Working groups in the organisation promote the FEU 2020 Strategy. www.f-e-u.org