

REPORT OF OTTO DROZD III, VICE PRESIDENT OF CTIF

Introduction

Dear CTIF members, it was a great honor to be elected Vice President of the CTIF at last year's Delegates Assembly (DA) in Vienna, Austria. For those of you that I haven't had a chance to meet. I wanted to provide you with my background information. I come to the CTIF with over 38 years of fire and emergency service experience having served 21 years as a Fire Chief in the United States. I currently serve as the Executive Secretary of the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association (Metro) which is part of the National Fire Protection Association and the International Association of Fire Chiefs. The Metro is a partnering agency of the CTIF through a long-standing Memorandum of Understanding that was renewed in 2023.

Meetings and Participation

- Since last year's DA, I have participated in the majority of the Executive Committee's (EC) bi-monthly meetings.
- I served as the EC liaison to the CTIF Firefighters Health Commission, coordinated with the Commission Chairman Tommy Beakgaard Kjaer, and participated in their virtual meetings when available.

Key Initiatives

- I assisted in reviewing and editing the article titled [Sleep Healthy - Optimizing Sleep for Firefighters](#), posted on the CTIF website.
- I work with Bjorn Ulfsson to identify translation alternatives for our CTIF meetings.
- I had the honor of serving alongside CTIF President Milan Dubravac on the World Fire Congress Executive Steering Committee. The inaugural event took place on May 7-8, 2024, in Washington, DC, where representatives from nearly 60 countries gathered to address critical global fire and emergency service challenges. These challenges included topics such as Structure Fire and Firefighter Response, Climate Change Impacts, Fire Risk of Emerging Technologies, and Firefighter Health & Safety.

The event concluded with participating nations signing a [Statement of Founding Principles and Objectives](#). Additionally, they agreed to convene in London, UK in 2026. During the interim period, the primary challenges will be addressed by assembling communities of practice to tackle these issues.

[CTIF made a presentation at the World Fire Congress in Washington](#)

Conclusion

Having served on the EC over the past year, I've gained valuable insights into the crucial role that CTIF plays in meeting the needs of our members and the broader emergency services community. I eagerly anticipate collaborating to further enhance CTIF's value as a resource for our members in the years to come.

Otto Drozd III
Vice President

REPORT OF HEALTH COMMISSION

HC 2023-2024 report of activity

The Health Commission (HC) welcome our new members and the changes of members.

We are now 10 countries connected in HC (<https://www.ctif.org/commissions-and-groups/ctif-firefighters-health-commission> (the web page needs to be updated as Finland have changed their member))

Last year we had our physical meeting in Vienna on the same dates as The Delegates Assembly. We found that to be a good idea to make the meeting as it is possible to meet with CTIF members and to make HC visible to debate issues of concern and expand our network. HC want to continue having our physical meetings which is why we are also here in Oslo this year.

We visited a fire station in Vienna with the focus on prevention and procedures to minimize exposure to cancer causing carcinogens and cross contamination within the fire station.

Shortly after Vienna HC published our 2nd article. This time "Sleep healthy - Optimizing Sleep for Firefighters" (you can download the full article here: <https://ctif.org/node/2288>)

In between our physical meetings we have several web-based meetings as well where we have been debating several issues such as:

- Occupational cancers in firefighting and prevention.
- Psychological health.
- PFAS free turnout gear and better fit for female firefighters.
- Active carbon underwear for smoke diving for better protection.
- Sufficient cleaning of contaminated turnout gear.

To meet CTIF expectations HC have tried to organize ourselves with a vicechair and a secretary.

However, we still only have a chairman. This will hopefully change in time.

It is our hope for the future that other commissions will be inspired by this and make their meetings the same dates. This way we will be able to communicate between commissions, and share knowledge when it makes sense. Maybe in a special Commission chair meeting as it has been the idea from CTIF.

It is also our hope that in the future HC will be informed in good time about the DA-year meeting as it takes planning to set up our HC meeting.

HC would appreciate a budget to at least cover expenses and makes it possible for the HC-members, that doesn't have an organization to cover that, participate in our year meetings.

HC wants to remind the CTIF member countries that they/you can ask questions about health issues to the HC, and we will try to answer.

Thanks to CTIF for the support to HC

Tommy Beakgaard Kjaer
Chairman Health Commission