

## *CTIF DELEGATES ASSEMBLY 2024*

### **Annual Report of Activities, Christophe Marchal, Vice President of CTIF**

As Vice President of the CTIF, I have been fully committed to my role, actively participating in a wide range of activities throughout the year. My involvement includes attending all Executive Committee (EC) meetings and the Delegate Assembly, where I have contributed to strategic discussions and decision-making processes.

In my capacity as Vice President, I oversee the activities of two critical commissions: the Volunteers in Fire Services Commission and the Forest Fire Commission. These commissions play a vital role in addressing key issues and advancing the mission of CTIF. Additionally, I have been engaged in various other activities, which are detailed below.

### **Forest Fire Commission**

The Forest Fire Commission, under the leadership of General Controller Jean-Marc Bedogni, Director of the National School for Forest Fire in France, and Fire Colonel Zisoula Ntasiou from the Hellenic Fire Service, has been instrumental in tackling the challenges posed by forest fires.

The Forest Fires Commission held its first meeting of the year in Tirol, Austria, in December 2023. This meeting brought together representatives from multiple countries to discuss the latest developments and strategies in forest fire management. The agenda included presentations on the use of advanced firefighting vehicles, fire truck self-protection systems, and the application of retardants by both ground and aerial means. We also conducted technical tests of firefighting protective equipment and simulated forest fire scenarios to enhance our preparedness.

Our second meeting took place in Slovenia in May 2024, where we continued our discussions and shared experiences from the previous fire season. The meeting featured presentations on mega fires,



wildfire detection technologies, and the impact of forest fires on protective forests. The participants had the opportunity to visit local fire stations and crisis management centers, gaining insights into the operational aspects of firefighting in Slovenia.

I extend my deepest gratitude to General Controller Jean-Marc Bedogni and Fire Colonel Zisoula Ntasiou for their outstanding

contributions to these meetings. Their leadership and expertise have been invaluable in advancing our understanding and response to forest fires.

## **Volunteers in Fire Services Commission**

The Volunteers in Fire Services Commission, chaired by Dr. Christoph Weltecke from Germany and supported by Secretary Raphael Koller from Austria, has also been very active.

The Commission convened its first meeting in Greece in October 2023. This in-person gathering provided a platform for delegates to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on volunteer fire services, the structure of volunteer firefighting in different member states, and strategies for public relations and community engagement. The meeting was marked by productive exchanges and the sharing of best practices.

Our second meeting, held via videoconference in March 2024, focused on training programs for volunteer firefighters and the implications of the EU Working Time Directive on volunteerism. Despite the virtual format, the discussions were insightful and paved the way for future initiatives to support and strengthen volunteer fire services across Europe.

During these meetings, we addressed critical issues such as training for volunteer firefighters, the impact of the EU Working Time Directive (WTD) on volunteerism, and strategies for enhancing volunteer engagement and support. The discussions were productive, and I appreciate the valuable contributions from all participants.

I am grateful to Dr. Christoph Weltecke and Raphael Koller for their leadership and dedication to the commission. Their efforts have been crucial in addressing the challenges faced by volunteer firefighters and promoting their invaluable contributions to public safety.

## **Other Activities**

In addition to my responsibilities with the Forest Fire Commission and the Volunteers in Fire Services Commission, I have been actively engaged in several other significant activities that have furthered the goals of the CTIF.

## **Collaboration with the Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine (CCNR)**

One of the key achievements this year was facilitating the acceptance of CTIF as an approved organization by the Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine (CCNR). This collaboration is crucial for the fire and rescue services for several reasons.

First, the evolving nature of river navigation, especially on the Rhine, presents new challenges, particularly with the adoption of alternative fuels and new propulsion technologies. These advancements bring about unique fire safety and emergency response challenges that necessitate specialized knowledge and preparedness.

By becoming an associated member of the CCNR, CTIF can actively contribute to the development and implementation of safety measures, training programs, and protocols that address these emerging risks. This partnership allows us to leverage our expertise in fire safety and emergency response to enhance the overall safety and efficiency of inland navigation.

**Participation in China Fire 2023**



In November 2023, I had the privilege of participating in China Fire 2023, an event organized by the China Fire Protection Association (CFPA).

During my visit, I had the honor of presenting the CTIF to the chairperson of the CFPA. This opportunity allowed me to highlight CTIF's mission, its role in promoting international cooperation in fire and rescue services, and our commitment to advancing fire safety standards globally.

**Participation in COP 28**

In December 2023, I attended the COP 28 Climate Change Conference in Dubai as part of the CTIF delegation. This conference provided a crucial platform for discussing the intersection of fire safety and climate change. Alongside President Milan Dubravac and other CTIF representatives, I participated in high-level discussions emphasizing the role of fire services in mitigating climate impacts.

One of the highlights was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish the World Fire Emission Reduction Alliance.

CTIF's participation at COP 28 reinforced our commitment to international collaboration and highlighted the essential role of fire services in addressing climate change.



Following this participation in COP 28, I contributed in engaging CTIF with the newly established World Fire Emission Reduction Alliance (WFERA). This initiative, launched by the UAE and supported by international institutions and civil defence organizations, aims to significantly reduce fire emissions globally.

### **Participation in Organizing the first European Summit of Firefighters**

In April 2024, I was deeply involved in organizing the first European Summit of Firefighters held in Paris. This event, hosted by the French National Federation of Firefighters (FNSPF) and the Deutscher Feuerwehrverband (DFV), gathered representatives from across Europe to address critical issues facing the firefighting community.

The summit featured thematic panel discussions on topics such as climate change, the implications of the Working Time Directive on volunteer firefighters, and the need for a specific directive on civic engagement in civil protection.

My role included coordinating with various stakeholders, facilitating discussions, and ensuring the successful execution of the summit's agenda, ultimately contributing to a unified European approach to strengthening civil protection and firefighting capabilities.



### **Participation in the World Fire Congress**

From May 6 to 8, 2024, I participated in the inaugural World Fire Congress held in Washington, DC. This landmark event, organized by the United States Fire Administration (USFA) and supported by FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security, aimed to establish a global network of fire and rescue service leadership. Alongside CTIF President Milan Dubravac, General Treasurer Marc Mamer, and Vice-President Otto Drozd, we engaged with fire service leaders from 58 countries, the United Nations, and the European Union.

### **Participation in the 8<sup>th</sup> European Civil Protection Forum**

In June 2024, I attended the 8<sup>th</sup> European Civil Protection Forum in Brussels. This event, organized by the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), served as a hub for knowledge exchange and collaboration among stakeholders involved in European civil protection.

In conclusion, my activities as Vice President of CTIF have been diverse and impactful. I remain committed to advancing the mission of CTIF and supporting the critical work of our commissions and members. Together, we will continue to enhance the safety and resilience of our communities in the face of evolving challenge