

MINUTES

FOREST FIRES COMMISSION

MEETING Valabre, France
14. January 2015 – 15. January 2015

Participants of CTIF commission wildland fires:

	Country:	Name:
1.	Croatia	Ante Sanader
	Croatia	Mario Starčević
2.	Suisse	Ryser Daniele
3.	Serbia	Vukosavljević Milutin
	Serbia	Jajić Dragan
	Serbia	Čolak Branislav
4.	Norway	Dag Botnen
	Greece	
5.	France	Christophe Marchal
	France	Charles Baldassari
	France	Robert Bardo
	France	Jean Marc Bedogni
	France	Jerome Mozziconacci
6.	Finland	Rami Ruuska
7.	Italy	Cristiano Gucciardino

Not present:

	Hungary	László Barta-Vámos
	Croatia	Slavko Tucaković
	Denmark	Kim Lintrup
	Denmark	Nanett Mathiesen
	Czech Republic	Jan Pecl
	Cyprus	Andreas Andreu
	Bulgaria	Georgi Gatev
	Portugal	Mara Jeronimo
	Sweden	Hansen Rickard
	Austria	Humer Franz

	Greece	Ntasiou Zisoula
	Germany	Alexander Held FRISK-GO
	Germany	Martin Gorski, Dr Sthamer - Schaumlöschmittel, Hannover

Item 1 Opening: Vice president of CTIF Ante Sanader and Christophe Marchal, deputy of General Secretary of the French Firefighting Association, opened the meeting.

Item 2 Voting

Because the former President of the CTIF Forest Fires Commission Nikolaos Sachinidis resigned, unanimously has been voted the following leadership of the CTIF forest fires commission:

Predresident: Charles Baldasari (France, fire-fighting commander of Northern Corsica)

President deputy: Daniele Ryser (Suisse)

President deputy: Jean Marc Bedogni (France, Head of fire-fighting school in Valabre)

Secretary: Mario Starčević (Croatia)

Item 3 Objectives and working program of the commission

The Commission's **main objective** is to promote the exchange of experience in prevention and suppression of forest fires on international level.

The Commission's **activities** regarding prevention and suppression of forest (wildland) fires shall in particular:

- target stakeholders who are responsible for prevention and suppression of forest fires;
- transfer into practice the results of research and investigations;
- promote international cooperation and mutual help;
- develop common strategy/tactics/methodology to be used on international level;
- inform and raise awareness policy makers regarding needs of the forest prevention and fire fighting.

The Commission's **working program** is:

- to include more countries in the work of the Committee, and in particular endangered Mediterranean and American countries (Italy, Portugal, Greece, Spain-Catalonia region, United States of America, Canada);
- endeavor to use a e-learning platform for education for forest fires, including simulators (from Valabre); for this purpose consider applications to EU projects;
- in the member states of CTIF identify institutions responsible for forest fires (compile an appropriate questionnaire and send to members of CTIF);
- strive to unificate strategy / tactics / methodology of forest (wildland) fire prevention and suppression, because the current problem is that different organizations / institutions in the nations addresses the problems of prevention, suppression and rehabilitation in different ways;
- promote international intervention air forces, in the sense that the competent institutions like UN, OECD and EU have to be informed of need of shortening of the

response time, their need for logistical and emergency autonomy and leveling of their use.

- indicate the need for additional protection of forests through reinforcement of prevention and suppression capabilities due to ecological forest management, which requires the absorption up to 40% CO₂ more than before.

The Commission's **activities in 2014. and 2015. will be:**

1. In the frame of the General Assembly of the CTIF in Zagreb, the Forest Fires Commission of CTIF will have its meeting on the 2. September 2015. All members of the Committee and a group of Croatian fire-fighters will be invited to participate in the education on the French mobile simulator for wildland fires, which will be possible in Zagreb from 1. to 3. September 2015. The members of the Forest Fires Commission of CTIF supported the organization of work-shops and a symposium on IT - technologies on fire-fighting on 2. and 3. September 2015. in Zagreb.
2. The representative of the Forest Fires Commission of CTIF should participate at the World Congress of forest fires, which is taking place from 12. to 16. October 2015 in South Korea.
3. The Forest Fires Commission of CTIF will organize a symposium on Incident Command System (ICS) regarding forest-fires.
4. Corsica will host of the Forest Fires Commission of CTIF in summer 2016.

Item 4 Tactical burning (presentation of Nicolas Coste, Sapeurs-pompiers du Gard Yvon Duche, Office National des Forêts, Daniele Ryser, Suisse Firefighting Association)

In terms of tactical burning, there were two lectures on the use of back-fire and preventive burning, with practical examples and analyzes from Corsica and Switzerland. The Fire Fighting School in Valabre is the leading institution for training firefighters and foresters for tactical burning. For this purpose, training for back-fires and preventive burning is conducted in courses that last 20 (preventive burning) and additional 10 (back fire) days, of which only a small part is theoretical education. In France, but also in the whole Medditeran, the use of the air - forces and modern fire fighting techniques reduced the use of back-fires. By the adoption of appropriate legislation in France in 2004, the fire fighting commander has the right to use back-fire also on private land, using the appropriate security protocol. The use of back-fire is increasing as an effective means of wildland fire suppression. Thus in France the back-fire can only be used by trained firefighters in the Fire School in Valabre.

Item 5 Eruptive fires

The French Firefighting Association showed a short film of an eruptive fire in Corsica (EGE Palasca, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrk307e4NDQ>), where firemen were killed. The occurrence of eruptive fires is not predictable (nor time, nor spatially), and is present in canyons/ gorges covered with grass, where in the bottom of the gorge smoldering for a long time, and after reaching the appropriate circumstances spreads rapidly in a few seconds under high temperatures.

Visits:

- new education center/risk simulator for forest-fires Entente-Valabre

Secretary:
Mario Starčević