

Minutes Virtual Meeting – Commission for Extrication and New Technology of CTIF –

2nd of April 2021

Participants

Wolfgang Niederauer (Austria), Marco Aimo-Boot (Italy), Mark Bokdam (Netherlands), Jaap Molenaar (Netherlands), Ruediger Knoll (Germany), Tore Eriksson (Sweden), Jan Tiels (Belgium), Antonio Calinas (Portugal), Vendelin Cliques (France), Mikko Saastamoinen (Finland)

Chair: Tom Van Esbroeck (Belgium)

Vice-chair: Michel Gentilleau (France)

Secretary: Natalie De Backer (Belgium)

Excused: Ivana Kruijff-Korbayova (Germany), Joël Bieber (Luxemburg), Jörg Heck (Germany), Kenny Bülow (Denmark), Yvonne Nasman (Sweden), François Christnach (Luxemburg), Milan Dubravac (Slovenia), Serge Delaunay (France), Jakub Klucho (Czech Republic), Taina Hanhikoski (Finland),

Welcome & registration & approval of the minutes

1. Opening of the meeting

Tom opens the meeting and welcomes the participants.

2. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting – check of the to do's

Natalie does a quick overview of the minutes of the previous meeting, with special attention for the 'to do's' that were decided:

- **Solar panels: TO DO:** All members are reminded to **share information regarding solar panels** that is available in their country, with the others members. Sweden and France already shared some documents, but the other members not (yet). Tom reminds the members that the goal of collecting this information, is to set up a separate discussion about this topic. He receives many questions concerning energy transition, and solar panels were on of the first forms of energy transition. But if the members aren't interested in this topic, the topic will be removed from the agenda of this Commission.
Jaap explains that the Netherlands have a Community of Practice (COP) on solar panels. He will take a look into the existing documents and the possibility of translation of the most important elements.
Ruediger mentions that in the January edition of the German fire magazine, a special on solar panels is published. He will investigate how to share this with the members.
- **Ongoing TO DO: All members are asked to take action to implement the ISO standard in their own country and share best practices.** This topic will be discussed later on in the meeting.
- **New inventions:** Natalie encourages the members to **share information about new inventions**, as for example were mentioned during the previous meeting. Sharing information is one of the goals of this Commission.

Tom adds a new to do to the list: he has been in contact with Chinese firefighters, and they are very interested in best practices involving the use of rescue sheets: when is it used (during an intervention, training, in the emergency call room, in het rescue vehicle), is it used only digitally, ... He asks the members if they can share some information about this with him.

TO DO: all members are asked to share their best practices for the use of rescue sheets

The minutes are approved.

Tom presents the agenda, which is approved by the members.

Drones – The next steps by Mark Bokdam

Mark talks about the drone organization in the Netherlands. He himself is the manager of the RPAS organization for the Dutch fire brigades. He has prepared a presentation which will be shared after the meeting. He explains the structure of RPAS for the whole of the Netherlands, and mentions that about 100 people are working in this area. There are five drone teams at the moment, who are available 24/7 for 4 scenario's: fire, assistance, hazardous substances and search and rescue.

Since December 2020 a European legislation is into place, which is a very important evolution. The fire drones are now recognized as 'state aircraft'.

Mark explains the current developments in the Netherlands, such as the use of a drone with a gas sensor (possible to measure about 26 products in the air), 3D modelling and the use of a drone with a robot arm.

He also mentions the project Next Level, which is elaborated in collaboration with the high school/university of Twente. This project works on 'automatic drones', which means that drones automatically go into action, when 'triggered' and send information to the rescue services: the information is then immediately available for the first responders, for example in the car. There is the idea to provide each fire brigade with such an automatic drone. There is an experiment going on with a 'drone in a box', that is placed at a fire station, and that reacts on external triggers, gets activated automatically and goes on a flight to examine what's going on.

Mark also has a question for the colleagues about how to make rescue diving safer, is it an option to use underwater drones? They are thinking about creating an innovation platform on this topic, and Mark asks if anybody wants to work on this.

Vendelin explains that his fire department did tests with divers, with a strobe light on the helmet to check the visibility for the drone. The results were very interesting. He would like to join the proposal of Mark.

Marco asks if a drone is able to move away safely, in an automatic way, when it is confronted with a high concentration of dangerous gases. Can it protect itself and avoid corrosion or even explosion?

Mark says that the Dutch drones are not programmed for this. But they are water resistant, so they can be decontaminated when they were in contact with a hazardous good.

Vendelin says that test on this topic are done in the USA.

Ruediger asks some more information about the legal aspect: does the state allow the use of drones?

Mark explains that the drones are recognized as state aircraft, which gives a lot of possibilities. This is possible via this new European regulation, and thus also possible for other countries.

Wolfgang wants to know how Mark can fly in a no-fly area such as an airport.

Mark says that it is possible as a state aircraft. But it is important to inform the airport security about this, and ask for the 'go'.

Ruediger wants to know the type of license Mark has – Mark will look it up. In the Netherlands, specific training programs for firefighters to fly drones exist.

TO DO: Mark will share some more information on the Dutch project with the members.

IEDO by Vendelin Cliques

Vendelin presents himself, he is a French firefighter officer and he created two drone teams (in his old and in his new fire team). He is regional drone advisor, and a member of the national drone working group. Finally, he is also president of IEDO since 2018.

IEDO, the International Emergency Drone Organization, is a partner from CTIF. They signed a memorandum in order to develop together the promotion of the use of drones for the firefighters. IEDO is a network of public safety drone pilots. The main goals are: promoting drone uses for saving lives, facilitating exchanges of experience and being more efficient in saving lives and supporting incident commanders. In the future, they would like to develop training and a certification system for international rescue drone teams.

He shows a document with best practices on drone use. This document will be updated each year with best practices from different countries.

He is looking forward to collaborate with this commission. Tom welcomes the idea to collaborate and suggests that Vendelin does a presentation on the Delegates Assembly or another seminar of CTIF. It would also be very interesting to get an international recognition for these best practices.

Open forum: MOU and set up coordination between two organizations

Tom would like to know from the members how they see a further collaboration with IEDO. Ivana could not participate today, but she will do a presentation during a next meeting. She wants to introduce a colleague who is also an expert in this area. He wonders if Mark and Ivana can be assigned as liaison for this commission in IEDO? What would this mean?

Vendelin appreciates every form of collaboration, but warns that it takes some time to do real work. It is really important for IEDO to promote the use of drones, with a special focus on the safe use of drones: to avoid accidents of problems. He will contact Ivana, Mark and the vice-president of IEDO to make a small working group.

Hydrogen: feedback on remake European Emergency Response Guide – HyResponder project

Tom sent out some of the lectures made by Ulster University, Natalie sent the EERG that ENSOSP (fire officers school in the south of France) made – both documents are linked to the European HyResponder project in which Belgium and CTIF participate. We received some feedback from Yvonne and Tore, but he asks if Tore can give some more information about the hot/warm/cold zones that were mentioned in their mail?

Tore explains that the terminology hot, warm and cold zones are internationally known, and not only used for fire interventions. In Sweden this terminology is also used for technical interventions, to indicate the different safety distances. He proposes to keep this terminology, and not to change it as is proposed in the EERG. Hot/warm/cold is very clear and also easy to make visible.

Tom will give this feedback to the European project. He also asked the HazMat commission for input, and they didn't mention this issue with the terminology.

Tom passes the word to Wolfgang, who already sent an e-mail to the members concerning an important problem. A German company, Ellerman, has not only received a patent for the containers, which are used to cool down batteries after a fire, but also for the method of cooling down. Because it is a German company, the company doesn't bill to German fire brigades, but it has already sent bills to the Austrian fire services when they saw this type of intervention on the internet.

Tom proposes to make a general letter, which stresses that this method is common and should be free of charge for all fire brigades. The commission members can give input to this letter. But it is also important that each member checks the legal part of it.

TO DO: Tom will make a draft letter

TO DO : All members will give their input for this draft letter and check the legal aspects for their country

ISO Working group

Tore refers to the questionnaire about best practices in the implementation of the ISO standard. He already received some answers, but it would be interesting if more countries would fill it in. It could be very helpful to support more countries in the implementation process.

Tore also mentions a new small working group that is focused on how to create support to this Commission, in the dissemination of the information about the ISO standard. This working group contains some members of this Commission, such as Tom, Mikko, Michel and Tore himself as chair. They don't want to take over the work of this Commission, but work for example on the website in order to make the information available in an easy way.

Tom is very happy with this step, he hopes it will lead to more countries implementing the standard. He adds that the working group will also work on how to contact the local transport organizations.

More information will be shared in the next meeting.

Closure of meeting

Tom thanks all participants for joining this meeting. The minutes will be shared as soon as possible.

The next meeting will be on the 4th of June 2021. Tom asks if the members want to do a presentation or have topics they want to discuss. Every input is welcome!