

**DRAFT MINUTES of the FEU Council meeting Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021  
GHENT/BELGIUM**

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**1. Welcome**

Stephan Wevers welcomed everybody to the 50<sup>th</sup> physical FEU Council meeting in the City Hall of Ghent which was being held in a hybrid manner. Due to Covid-19 circumstances this meeting was followed also online by some members who could not participate physically. The chair expressed his thanks to the Belgium colleagues who were willing and able to organize this jubilee gathering, given the FEU's 25 years of existence 1995-2020, in their country. The FEU was not able to celebrate this anniversary meeting earlier due to the pandemic.

A big thank you to Mrs. Carina van Cauter / Governor from East-Flanders who welcomed the FEU this morning to her county and wished the FEU a fruitful meeting and great stay in Ghent in the coming days.

A warm welcome to Chris Addiers, former president and the honorary members Göran Schnell and Dieter Nuessler.

Before the agenda started, Stephan informed the delegates about the photographer in the room who would take pictures of the group but also of the individuals. Because of the Privacy law, he pointed out that the photos will be used for the website and for internal use. If one does not agree, the chair or secretary should be notified.

Stephan also advised the delegates of the three key topics down for discussion at this Council meeting, namely sustainability, climate change and collaboration.

**Setting the agenda**

- agenda item 9 Broad map project: due to the Covid 19 situation, Mr. Lund will join us remotely.
- agenda item 10 International centre for Chemical safety and security; Mr. Paturej was unable to attend.
- extra agenda item Appointment of an honorary member.

**2. List of attendees and roll call**

A roll call of members attending physically and online was carried out. 28 delegates in the room and 7 delegates online from 16 member associations were in attendance. Stephan Wevers welcomed the new delegates Miroslav Rade from Croatia and Martin Nekula from Czech Republic.

Country	Delegate	Physical / Online
Belgium	Chris Addiers	Physically
	Jan Jorissen	Physically
	Wim van Zele	Physically
Croatia	Miroslav Rade	Physically
Czech Republic	Petr Oslejsek	Online
	Martin Nekula	Physically
Denmark	Bjarne Nigaard	Physically
	Jacob Vedsted Andersen	Physically
Estonia	Margo Klaos	Physically
	Marko Ruu	Physically
Finland	Veli Pekka Ihamaki	Physically
	Torbjorn Lindstrom	Physically
	Peter Johansson	Physically
Germany	Ari Keijonen	Physically
	Sebastian Vries	Online
	Dieter Nuessler	Online

Hungary	Laszlo Barta Vamos	Online
	Zoltan Hozbor	Online
Ireland	Finian Joyce (Secretary)	Physically
	Eoin O’Ceilleachair	Physically
	Dermot Brannigan	Physically
Latvia	Kritaps Eklons	Physically
	Martins Baltmanis	Physically
	Rudolfs Azens	Online
Lithuania	Rimantas Steponavicius	Physically
Luxembourg	Serges Heiles	Physically
Netherlands	Gerard van Klaveren	Physically
	Stephan Wevers (President)	Physically
	Diemer Kransen	Physically
Norway	Ove Stokkeland	Physically
Spain	Mariano Hernandez	Physically
	Javier Vergara	Physically
	Sagrario Moreno Manzanaro Sanches	Online
Sweden	Anna Andersson Carlin	Physically
	Goran Schnell	Physically

Apologies were received from Patrice Gerber in France, Martin Blaha in Slovakia, Dennis van Zanten and Ruud Jonkman in the Netherlands, Mark Hardingham in UK, Bernhard Jily in Austria, Vladimir Vlcek in Czech Republic, Nils-Erik Haagenrud in Norway and Pedro Rios in Portugal.

Finian requested the delegates to inform him or Anja if there are any changes in the list of members or in their contact details, so every member can be kept well posted and the details can be uploaded to the FEU website.

### 3. Formal business

The members were requested to take note of the draft minutes and reports prior to the meeting. If there are any remarks the President and Secretary are open to any clarifications.

#### 3a. Draft Minutes of meeting 27/28 May and matters arising

Adopted

Finian Joyce circulated draft minutes of the online meeting held on 27 and 28 May 2021 in advance. He thanked Anja for the drafts. Minutes agreed. No matters arising.

**ACTION:** Adopted minutes to be uploaded to the FEU website.

#### 3b. President’s report May 2021 – November 2021

Adopted

Stephan Wevers circulated the report of his activities from May 2021 – November 2021 in advance. He emphasised two issues. Firstly, the World Police and Fire games. For the first time in its history, the World Police & Fire Games are coming to the Netherlands. Rotterdam has been given the honour of organizing this large international mixed-sport event in the world. In the summer of 2022 10,000 – 15,000 people who work in police, fire, customs and corrections departments from all over the world will compete in more than 60 sports. It’s the 3<sup>rd</sup> biggest sport event in the world. Stephan requested the members to share the event and to stimulate associations in their country to participate.

Secondly, he stressed his visit to the CTIF meeting in Marseille two weeks ago. He was invited by the President Milan Dubravac and they had a conversation about collaboration on several topics. In January ‘22 they will meet again and have a talk about renewing the Memorandum of Understanding between CTIF and FEU. The CTIF President was invited to our next meeting in Helsinki.

**ACTION:** President’s report to be uploaded to the FEU website.

**3c. Secretary's report May 2021 – November 2021****Adopted**

Finian Joyce circulated the report of his activities from May 2021 – November 2021 in advance. The Secretary emphasized the financial situation. He thanks the countries who already paid their membership fee and requested the countries who did not yet to do so before the end of the year. There are two countries in arrears, Cyprus for one year and Portugal for 3 years despite several reminders. He pointed out to the Council that this is against the constitution and steps need to be taken. The chair informed the council that he had contact with the Portuguese member, Pedro Rios, and made him clear that his membership will be frozen till he pays his debts. Pedro has understood this message and informed that Portugal will join the FEU in 2022 with two new delegates after elections. Stephan told him that the new delegates are welcome after paying the arrears. Cyprus promised to pay and be there in Helsinki '22.

Finally, Finian drew attention to the European Fire Safety Award, of which the FEU is a sponsor. 12 projects were submitted. The FEU has been asked to make a shortlist of 3 projects. The FEU management board has decided that the members Mariano/Spain, Bjarne/Denmark and Petr/Czech will do this job. They are independent, all from another country than the submitted projects. The core group of the European Fire Safety Alliance will judge and pick out a winner. The award ceremony will take place during the ISES-meeting in Dublin on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021. At the request of Rimantas/Lithuania, Stephan promised to put the 12 projects on the website for information.

**ACTION:** Secretary's report to be uploaded to the FEU website.  
Projects EuroFSA to be uploaded to the FEU website

**3d. Communications report May 2021 – November 2021****Adopted**

Stephan Wevers circulated this report in advance of the meeting. He pointed out that America has the largest group of visitors of our website.

**ACTION** Report to be uploaded to the FEU website.

**3e. Draft Financial Statutory****Adopted**

In the Council meeting in May 2020 the FEU internal auditors requested that all procedures and decisions relating to the financial affairs taken at previous FEU Council meetings would be consolidated into one document. The purpose of this document is to clarify how FEU manages its finances in terms of income and expenditure. Finian prepared and circulated the document in advance of the meeting. The document sets out clearly understood procedures as to how income is generated and managed, how costs may be incurred and how they are processed for payment. A great transparent guideline that can be updated at any moment and to be handed over to the new auditors. Thanks to Finian for the hard work. Dieter Nuessler posed a question in relation to expenditure on FEU projects. This question will be answered on a bilateral level.

**ACTION** Report to be uploaded to the FEU website.

**3f. Membership update**

As mentioned in agenda item 3c the invoices have been sent to 23 countries. Stephan will inform about the countries he tried to connect or reconnect at agenda item 4c.

**3g. Reappointment Petr Oslejsek****Adopted**

In February 2021, 4 Board members were appointed to cope with the workload of the establishment and implementation of the FEU Business Plan 2022-2026. They were appointed in a cascading way. For one year, for two years and for three years. This, of course, for continuity. The candidate who was nominated for 'one year' would be re-elected after a year, for continuity reasons and in case of good performance.

**Adoption of the proposal:** the reappointment of Petr Oslejsek was confirmed unanimously for 3 years: 2022-2025.

**4 Announcements****4a. New members Auditing Committee**

Both our auditors have to be replaced. Bjarne cannot be an advisor to the board and an auditor at the same time and Ari has the wish to be replaced. Jan Jorissen volunteered and will do the job with Ari till Helsinki next year. Bjarne was thanked for this special contribution in the last 5 years. A request to the members to inform the Chair or the Secretary if they would like to be the next auditor.

**ACTION:** Item to be included on the agenda of the next FEU Council meeting

#### 4b. **Vacancy Secretary FEU May 2022**

Finian Joyce, the current Secretary, has indicated that he intends to step down at the Helsinki meeting in June 2022. Therefore, a new Secretary must be elected to run the Federation. The members have been informed by mail earlier.

Regarding the procedure for electing:

- The term of office shall be for a period of 3 years.
- An association can send the nomination to the FEU President at least 6 weeks before the FEU Council meeting in June 2022 – deadline 1 May 2021.
- Nominations must be made by full members (association and/or state fire service)
- At the Council meeting of June 2022, the voting for a new Secretary will take place.

#### 4c. **Countries to (re-)connect**

As Stephan had mentioned before, in agreement with the NFCC, he contacted Scotland and Northern Ireland and they are willing to join the FEU. As well as Iceland. They were invited to join the meeting today to experience the FEU meeting and family and to make an informed choice of membership, but were unfortunately, due to short notice, unable to join, but are invited for Helsinki in 2022.

Furthermore, he contacted the following countries and had suggested membership to Switzerland, Bulgaria, Romania, Malta, Portugal, Italy, Luxembourg, France, Poland.

From Poland he knows that they are aware of the importance of the membership but are too busy to re-join.

Patrice Gerber from France has changed jobs and a new member will join us in Helsinki.

Bulgaria is considering membership, as well as Malta. But the chair is unsure about the Maltese firefighters' association, it looks more like a union.

By Switzerland Stephan was informed that the CFO is absent for a period of time due to medical reasons, but they will come back to us later.

Pedro Rios has let us know that first there have to be elections in his country before his national fire service association can nominate new members to the FEU.

Italy is not reacting on emails, several addresses have been used, maybe a letter in the Italian language will help. Dieter will share his Italian contact details.

Finally, he contacted the delegates from Croatia, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Slovak Republic, Slovenia and France to find out why they did not attend the meetings despite being a member. Croatia and Cyprus have been too occupied but luckily, we have Croatia and Luxembourg back on board.

#### 5. **FEU Decoration system**

**Adopted**

Stephan explained the background to the document on the new FEU decoration system he had prepared and circulated in advance of the meeting. FEU needs to express its appreciation for those who have made a special contribution to the FEU. This appreciation may also be visible, both at a festive moment of presentation of the decoration, and when worn on the uniform or civilian clothing. These medals can also be granted to non-members.

Stephan asked the Council to agree to the procedure. The expected annual costs in case of approximately 5x small and 5x large decorations = € 650,00 per year. This amount will be included in the year budget 2022. The development costs and the first decorations to be handed over is a one-time donation from the Netherlands / from the President.

**The new FEU decoration system was adopted unanimously by the FEU Council.**

**Inserted agenda item, outside the presence of the person concerned:****Appointment of an honorary member**

Adopted

On behalf of the Management Board, Stephan asked the Council to agree to the proposal to make Chris Addiers an Honorary delegate due to his distinguished services as a member and former presidency to the federation.

The FEU Council agreed unanimously to appoint former FEU president **Chris Addiers** an Honorary member.

**6. Presentation on the theme Climate Change:****6a. Wildfires in Southern Europe Summer 2021 – Mariano H. Fernandez**

Mariano gave a presentation on Wildfires in Southern Europe. He addressed issues like the high temperatures due to climate change, the vicious circle of it. How to face the challenge from an organisational point of view. The equipment that is available and/or necessary and how things go in practice once a notice of a forest fire has been received. In the Council meeting in Madrid next year, more information will be presented at the theme of Climate Change.

**6b. Flooding Belgium/Netherlands – Luc Burette/FB Liège**

Luc held a presentation about the flooding disaster in Liège. In broad terms: he described the circumstances in which the flooding took place. He called it a disaster rather than a crisis given the size of the area, the population involved, the lack of culture, the interests of the various stakeholders, the needs exceeding the resources and the enormous material damage. He went through the timeline in detail, the different stages in relation to the evolution of the situation of the water level and the great confusion between the regions of possibilities of rescue, evacuations and water damage. International aid was necessary. The conclusions, according to Luc are a wide pallet of corrective actions in many fields.

A discussion ensued in the room as to whether a statement on behalf of the FEU should be released regarding the issues mentioned today about legal measures towards the FRS. Some delegates proposed to stress that *the FEU views with great concern a trend where, from a legal approach, the professional integrity of the fire and rescue service is questioned and where it is alleged that the fire service employees do not do their best, no matter what difficult and impossible conditions they work under. The FEU wishes to call on all responsible decision-makers to ensure that the reliability and professional integrity of the fire and rescue service cannot be challenged in cases where the fire service alone has done its duty. Otherwise, we risk damaging the confidence of the fire and rescue service and its dedicated employees.*

The President wrapped up the discussion by stating that he could well imagine the reaction of the members after the moving story and knew of the examples given in other European countries but called for a thorough investigation before giving such a signal. He suggested to set up a committee to get involved and put it on the agenda next meeting.

**ACTION:** set up a committee and put the issue on the agenda of next FEU Council meeting.

**7 Business Plan 2022-2026**

Adopted

**7a. Presentation of the Business Plan 2022-2026** – Stephan made a powerpoint presentation on the outline of the plan for the coming years. He pointed out the process, the FEU-goals/programs and their milestones, the organisational structure and a timeline. Every year there will be a report on the implementation and the progress of the Business Plan.

**ACTION:** Copy of the presentation to be uploaded to the FEU website.

**7b. Install committees and working groups and their members**

The President called on all members to invest time in participating in joint activities and in supplying knowledge and information for the various committees. One can give his/her preference of the

committee to be involved in. The general idea is that committees come together physically twice a year on the day before the two-day Council meeting. Online meetings can of course be held as needed in between Council meetings. The ultimate plan is an international congress in 2024.

Jakob Vedsted Andersen, Wim van Zele and Petr Oslejsek briefly presented their implementation plans for the three main themes of the plan, namely Leadership, the Voice and Knowledge Exchange.

Jakob stressed that he is looking for committee members who can bring leadership development skills, it may be experts on the theme from outside the council. He will be supported by a project leader from Copenhagen, Ms. Asli Lillehammer. He will give an update on ODP at the 2<sup>nd</sup> council day. He is looking for five committee members.

Wim van Zele will use the same structure as Jakob and will start with setting up a communication plan, keeping the website filled and up to date and providing a page for each association.

Petr Oslejsek asked for committee members who can help create information on the fire brigade compendium for fire services all over Europe. All kinds of data have been collected in the last decade. This will be assessed for usefulness and placed on the website.

After a round of positive feedback, the Council agreed with the proposed Business Plan and declared it adopted. The President encouraged delegates to join the various committees.

**ACTION Presentations to be uploaded to the FEU website.**

## **8. FEU-Projects**

### **8a. LINKS project**

Dieter Nuessler made a presentation on the progress of the project. Dieter reminded the council that the task of FEU is to set up the advisory board for the project (LAC). This will be enlarged for practitioners in the autumn of 2022. After the review the FEU was asked by the consortium leader to also become task leader for task T7.5 (Integration and communication with other networks). Because of the additional work load an additional person months budget (ca. 4 PM) will be allocated to FEU in due course. Dieter is still looking for more FEU delegates to become involved at that point. Dieter will contact Denmark, Netherlands and Germany (countries which are not actively involved in the consortium yet) on a bilateral level.

Dieter requested the members to share the link within the associations:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/LINKSSurveySMCSinDisasterManagement>

Dieter was thanked by the chair to stay on the topic and keep the members involved.

**ACTION** Presentation to be uploaded to the FEU website.

Share the link to the survey

### **8b EU FireStat project**

Stephan Wevers informed the meeting that this pilot project had been funded by the EC. The aim of the project is to map data collected and best practices in Member States. The Commission believes that setting common definitions for fire statistics will help in sharing the best practices and lessons learnt, and support regulators in decision-making. All delegates were invited to “spread the word” about the project, participate actively in the different phases of the project and to provide input for its successful execution. Since this project perfectly fits into the Exchange programme, Stephan has asked Petr to represent the FEU from now on.

**ACTION** Details of the project will be made available on the FEU website in the future.

### **8c BFireSafe@School project**

Finian Joyce made a presentation on the project which was concluding in October 2021. FEU had provided a Letter of Support at the start of the project. The programme content had now been finalised and was translated into 10 European languages. A new Learning Management System had

been produced to facilitate ease of navigation around the content. The programme was being rolled out in European schools starting in September. He encouraged FEU delegates to spread the word about the new fire safety education programme for post primary schools in their countries and to register on the website ([www.bfiresafeatschools.eu](http://www.bfiresafeatschools.eu)) as fire personnel to get access to the programme. He asked for delegates assistance in creating awareness of the programme and in attending final dissemination events planned before the end of the project. He agreed to send the presentation to delegates to help them create more awareness of the programme in their own countries. In the future there will be a project consortium: a willing coalition of project partners and experts to keep the program going. They have a commitment from LearnKey to keep the project website, LMS and social media going. Finian demonstrated online how easy the website works with several modules and for the different user groups. One can even do an exam and get a certificate if you have more than 70% of the answers correct.

**ACTION** Presentation to be uploaded to the FEU website.

#### 8d **International Safety Education Seminar (ISES) 2021**

Finian Joyce gave a short presentation on the preparations for the 6<sup>th</sup> International Safety Education Seminar which is taking place in Dublin on 7 and 8 December 2021. This forms part of the third European Fire Safety Week 2021 being organised by European Fire Safety Alliance. FEU is a sponsor. More information on the programme on [www.ises2021.eu](http://www.ises2021.eu). He asked delegates to support the seminar by attending it and to disseminate awareness of the seminar to colleagues in their own countries. At the time of the meeting there were no restrictions regarding Covid 19 that may affect holding the seminar.

**ACTION** Presentation to be uploaded to the FEU website.

#### 8e **Report Legal Status of (on-call) Volunteer Firefighters in Europe**

Gerard van Klaveren informed the delegates about the report available on the website as a result of research on the programme Volunteering/trajjectory 5: Recruitment and retention of (on-call) volunteer firefighters in Europe – Challenges and solutions. The most important conclusion is that the legal status of volunteers is not equal in any of the countries. Other results:

- Norway and Austria are on both side of the spectrum
- In the countries are different rights and obligations
- some countries volunteers receive a remuneration for ‘consignment duty’ or “on-call duty”
- The discussion is not limited to the Part-Time Work Directive. Working Time Directive, “Matzak and “Jaeger” are also taken in account
- The degree of discussion differs from country to country (no discussion in Norway)
- Task differentiation is in all varieties in the respective countries
- No indications that task differentiation is a key for creating a different legal status for career and voluntary firefighters

**ACTION** Presentation to be uploaded to the FEU website.

#### 9. **Broadmap project – David Lund/Board member of Public Safety Communication Europe**

David made a presentation about the Broadmap project realising Operational Mobility for Europe’s First Responders. He drew the attention to the PSCE Conference on 30 November and 1 December 2021 in Brussels. He expressed the pan-European need for Operational Mobility and how to realise this with whom. Their procurers supply crucial communication services to ~1.4Million European responders, across 11 countries. He called on the delegates to get involved in the Practitioner Evaluation Team and register at the website [www.broadway-info.eu](http://www.broadway-info.eu).

The European Parliament highlights the importance of secured critical infrastructure, including digital and communication infrastructure; calls on the Commission to proactively plan for the research, development and deployment of new technologies for ensuring EU internal security. Future plans: Member State representatives will work together to prepare governance for the BroadNet Organisation, legal framework, financial model, operating standards, polices, rules, and for highest level political support.

**ACTION** presentation to be uploaded to the FEU website.

**10. International centre for Chemical safety and security**

This agenda item was cancelled by the absence of Mr. K Paturej, head of ICCSS.

**11. Closing remarks**

The President thanked everybody for their participation during Day 1. He looked forward to tonight's jubilee diner and tomorrow's theme meeting on Sustainability.

DRAFT

4-nov	Full Name	Country	5-nov
1	Jan Jorissen	Belgium	1
1	wim van zele	Belgium	1
1	Chris Addiers	Belgium	1
1	Miroslav Rade	Croatia	0
1	Martin Nekula	Czech Rep.	1
1	Bjarne Nigaard	Danmark	1
1	Jakob Vedsted	Danmark	1
1	Margo Klaos	Estonia	1
1	Marko Rüü	Estonia	1
1	Ari Keijonen	Finland	1
1	Veli-Pekka Ihamäki	Finland	1
1	Peter Johansson	Finland	1
1	Torbjörn Lindström	Finland	1
1	Finian Joyce	Ireland	1
1	Kristaps Eklons	Latvia	1
1	Martins Baltmanis	Latvia	1
1	Rimantas Steponavičius	Lithuania	1
1	Serge Heiles	Luxemburg	1
1	Diemer Kransen	Netherlands	1
1	Stephan Wevers	Netherlands	1
1	Dennis van Zanten	Netherlands	1
1	Gerard van Klaveren	Netherlands	1
1	Ove Stokkeland	Norway	1
1	Mariano Hernandez Fernar	Spain	1
1	Javier Vergara Vergara Falc	Spain	1
1	Anna Andersson Carlin	Sweden	1
1	Göran Schnell	Sweden	1
27			26
14 countries			13 countries

+ Eoin O'Ceilleachair. Ireland  
 + Dermot Brannigan Ireland  
 Online: Dieter Nuessler / Germany Petr / Czech  
 Sebastian Vries / Germany Sagario / Spain  
 Laslo + Zoltan / Hungary Rudolf + Marita / Latvia