

**DRAFT MINUTES of the FEU Council meeting Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022  
MADRID/SPAIN**

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**1. Welcome**

Stephan Wevers welcomed everybody to the 52<sup>nd</sup> FEU Council meeting in the headquarters of the Security and Emergency Agency Madrid 112 (ASEM-112). 19 of 22 Member countries were present. Unfortunately, no representatives from Greece, Slovakia and UK.

The president expressed his respect for the President of the Spanish Association APTB, Mr Carlos Garcia Touriñán, and thanked him and all APTB colleagues for the hard work done so far to organise and hosting this meeting. Furthermore, he thanked Mr Carlos Novillo, director of the Safety and Emergency Agency Madrid 112 (ASEM-112) for his hospitality and all the good care to make today possible.

A warm welcome to Anna Andersson Carlin from Sweden, first time in her role as FEU Secretary. On behalf of the Council, Stephan wished her lots of success.

Stephan continued and drew the attention to the death of two former colleagues Franz Delzepich from Germany and mr Albert Vilanova from Spain. One minute's silent was held.

A special welcome to FEU guests: Robert Rocha, president and Otto Drozd, executive secretary of the Metro Chiefs from the USA. Tomorrow Robert will give an update on the Metro Chiefs. Furthermore, Stephan welcomed Ken Stuebing from Canada, the past president of the IAFC. He will join for the whole program together with Treasurer Chief Steve Locke. Stephan announced that tomorrow a Memorandum of Understanding between FEU and IAFC will be signed. Finally the president welcomed Milan Dubravac, president of the CTIF. Also with CTIF a Memorandum of Understanding will be signed to underline the collaboration.

There was a short introduction of the sponsor partners: MSA, TITAN, ITURRI and TIPSA.

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

**Setting the agenda**

- Agenda item 3d, the FEU Financial Report will be discussed in the 1<sup>st</sup> Council meeting in 2023.
- Agenda item 9, instead of Jonathan Smith, the London Fire Brigade is represented by mr Jim Davies.

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

A roll call of members attending was carried out. 37 delegates from 19 member associations and 16 *other* participants (guests, speakers, sponsors, staff) were in attendance. See the attached attendance list at the end of the minutes. Several delegates, ODP alumni and other guests were (partly) online.

**3. Formal business**

The members were requested to take note of the draft minutes and reports prior to the meeting. There were no remarks on forehand.

**3a. Draft Minutes of meeting 14/15 June 2022 and matters arising**  
**Adopted**

Finian Joyce circulated draft minutes of the online meeting held on 14 and 15 June 2022 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 June 2022 – Nov 2022**

Adopted

Stephan circulated the report of his activities from June 2022 – Nov 2022 in advance.

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

**3c. Secretary's report June 2022 – Nov 2022**

Adopted

Anna circulated the report of her activities from June 2022 – Nov 2022 in advance.

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

**3d. FEU Financial Report 2021/n.a.**

**3e. Membership update**

Stephan informed that Poland, Switzerland, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Iceland, Ukraine and Bulgaria had let him know that they are in membership. Unfortunately, none of them, for different reasons, could attend the meeting in Madrid. Hopefully they will join in Riga.

Regarding the current members:

- Slovakia: Petr informed that Slovakia is dealing with a reorganisation. They are working hard to revitalise the association, but in the next months they will have no chance to participate in FEU meetings and are probably unable to pay the FEU membership fee before the end of the year. Slovakia will prepare an official statement about the SAFO position in FEU. If they cannot afford the FEU membership fee, they have to be excluded according to the constitution.
- Jens Stiegel from Germany left the FEU. A letter to the VFDB kindly requesting for new delegates has been sent.
- Italy: Jakob has connections and will try to get in touch with the right representatives. So will Vladimir.
- Portugal: Sagrario Moreno informed about contact details from Portugal and last week an introductory mail has been sent.
- Slovenia: Milan Dubravak will try to get in touch.

When asked, Stephan stated that Europe has 52 countries. In 2020, the Board made an assessment and decided that any European country with an independent fire association and a certain level of fire service can become a member and whoever pays has the right to vote. The FEU needs to grow to have a strong voice. A country like Scotland is not the same as one of the Bundesländer from Germany. The president of the NFCC even agreed with the presence of the other UK countries in the FEU.

Soon the Board will discuss the list of European countries again and assess the countries that are not connected yet. Next meeting the Council will be informed about the progress.

11 member associations have fully paid their membership fees. The deadline is the end of this year, but one may pay earlier if possible.

**4. Board changes 2023**

Stephan informed that the appointment to the Board of Wim van Zele and Mariano Hernández Fernández ends by the first Council meeting in Riga in May '23. His own presidency ends by the second Council meeting in Croatia in November '23. They all can be re-elected for 3 years.

According to the constitution, Wim and Mariano have to let the Secretary know if they are in for a reappointment at least four weeks before a FEU Council meeting where the election is held (Riga

May '23). Wim informed us that he would like to continue his Board membership. Mariano is still considering his reappointment.

Expressions of interest for Presidency will be sought 12 months in advance (=this month, November 2022) of the FEU Council meeting where the election is held (Zagreb, November '23). Stephan declared that he is in for a second term.

## PROGRAM ON CLIMATE CHANGE / WILDFIRES

The president welcomed the speakers and the remoted audience! He opened the seminar on Climate change and introduced the theme. The program is divided in three parts: Mediterranean area, Northern area and Innovative equipment. Since Climate change and wildfires particularly are not a problem of Southern Europe only anymore. The temperature on earth has increased by 1.1 °C since the pre-industrial era. This has led to record high temperatures in Europe and the rest of the world. Last summer was the hottest in Europe in history. Many European countries such as France, Spain and Portugal faced devastating forest fires and other fires and, for example, health risks related to extreme heat. Even northern European countries like Sweden and the UK faced dangerous temperatures of nearly 40 degrees Celsius or even above. And global temperatures may even rise by another 3°C by the year 2100. All European fire and rescue services need resources and determination to prepare for these effects of climate crisis. This means good coordination at both basic and macro-strategic levels, updated legislation with sufficiently strong powers and opportunities to participate in resilient urban planning.

### Mediterranean area

#### 5. Climate change and the increase of storms, floods, landslides and wildfires

*Online presentation by Marc Castellnou Ribau, ass.prof. University of Lleida, Pau Costa Foundation, head of Group of Support to Forest Actions (GRAF) of the Firefighters of Catalonia. Wildfire Analyst. Marc is a fire analyst and has introduced the use of fire both as fire technique and as prescribed under-burning in Catalonia.*

According to mr Castellnou the rules of firefighting are changing due to global warming, and natural science is also adapting. Experts are analysing new data sets to help predict when and where forest fires will break out, and creating smart networks across the continent to learn from each other. Castellnou pointed out that the limits of forest fire fighting capacity have been reached. He is of the opinion that there needs to be intervened on the variables: managing the landscape, fire suppression is clearly not the solution. Take away the fuel by maintaining and managing forests. In practice, this means removing dry wood and scrub, and using controlled fires so that fuel does not accumulate on the landscape. Fires are about 96 per cent caused by people so educate the younger generations to treat the environment with care.

#### 6. Coordinating emergencies caused by climate change in Spain

*By Ángela Iglesias Rodrigo, head of the Department of Defence Against Forest Fires of Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge and supports the Multidisciplinary approach to create new wildfire strategies.*

Mrs Iglesias Rodrigo informed the audience about the procedures on wildfires strategies and coordination plans in Spain. Spain has 50,60 million of hectares in total. Forestry surface: 27,60 Mill. ha. (54,60%) Trees: 18,6 Mill. ha. (67,39%) and Shrubs and pasture: 9 Mill. Ha. (32,61%). In 2022 almost 10.000 wildland fires = 260.006 hectares. There is wildland fire management on national and regional level. Mrs Iglesias Rodrigo works at the National level and gives support to the regional level on demand. The regions have budgets on 4 divisions: Prevention, Detection, Extinction and Restoration. She informed about the number of aerial resources in summer- and wintertime. There is interadministrative coordination Wildfires by CECO (Coordination national committee) and by CLIF (National Wildfire Committee). Then there is HERMES: a cooperative network for the exchange

of aerial assets data in wildfires and the National Wildfire preparedness program. There are also Strategic Guidelines for Wildland Fire Management. For action nationwide, there is a need for a common framework, able to integrate all public and private actors with varying degrees of responsibility on this issue.

Internationally, Spain participates in specific wildfire groups and projects. (FAO, GFMC-UNISD, USFS, DG ENV-JRC, DG ECHO). They also take part in international interventions.

#### 7. **Preparing for the acceleration of wildfires in the EU - DG ECHO perspective**

*Online presentation by Joao Silva, DG ECHO – Unit A2 Brussels, Capacities and Operational Support. Responsible for Transport and Logistics and rescEU Aerial Forest firefighting*

Mr Silva emphasised the geographic spread of the fires, they have become a serious pan-European challenge. The fire danger index will continue to increase in the coming years. Therefore there is the UCPM Action plan; a new wildfire risk management strategy to enhance prevention and preparedness. There is an increased need for air and ground capacity in the short term. In the years 2023 to 2028, there is a particular EU-wide challenge and a specific shortage is expected in the centre of Europe. The ministerial meeting agreed to accelerate the procurement of the heavy helicopters for the permanent rescue fleet so that they are available as early as 2024/2025. It also proposed doubling the air response capacity available from summer 2023 under the EU Rescue Service Transitional Fleet and expanding the number of member states with air capacity and geographical coverage beyond the Mediterranean.

In short, the major increase in forest fires can only be addressed by working together and sharing equipment across the Union.

### Northern area

#### 8. **To be prepared for the (wild)fire of tomorrow**

*By Hans Hazebroek, senior researcher firefighting - National Fire Academy, Netherlands*

Hans took the audience through his reflections in the light of climate change: shouldn't we fundamentally ask ourselves whether we are still doing the right things now and in the future; after all, we are now mainly preparing for 'yesterday's fire'? To keep countries safe for the future, it is of great importance to know more about the effects of climate change and how we can most effectively start controlling wildfires. Steppingstones in an uncertain future:

- Instead of only do more of the same, we should also do different things
- More prevention: trying to contain fires without FRS deployment
- After initial attack: start removing fuel instead of cooling down
- Prepare how to protect houses/ other functions
- Create a system which can manage lots of incidents
- Different public messaging
- Develop and exchange knowledge

#### 9. **London weather fires 19-20 July 2022**

*By Jim Davies, deputy assistant Commissioner London Fire Brigade, UK*

Mr Smit shared his experiences and lessons learned at the London weather fires 19-20 July. Picture the London area July last, where temperatures exceeded 40C for the first time. 9 million residents, 4.3 million daily visitors, diverse cultures, Area of 1,572 km<sup>2</sup> (607 miles<sup>2</sup>), 47% of Greater London is 'green'. More than four hundred firefighters battled at least nine blazes. The London fire brigade declared 'a major incident' as firefighters battled a surge in blazes across the capital in the record-breaking heatwave. The mayor of London said the service was under immense pressure owing to the number of serious incidents on the hottest day ever recorded in the UK. The LFB received 3485 calls, attended 852 incidents. 12 of the 15 incidents happening simultaneously over a 6-hour period. It seems that 'fire weather' (drought, heat, wind) not only causes an increase in (large) natural and roadside fires, but also promotes development of other fires in, for example,

homes and industry. This puts additional pressure on the fire and crisis management system, which is already heavily burdened at the time of large wildfires.

The Dynamic Cover Tool (DCT) is fed with the live status and location of resources. The DCT is a decision support tool that allows users to:

- Identify the impact of potential standby moves
- Make efficient and effective use of resources
- Ensure that risk is minimised
- Monitor and maintain coverage

Analyses of historical incident locations and travel times are also fed into the DCT. Given vehicle availability and location, the software calculates expected coverage on a live basis.

The LFB is currently conducting an organizational review, as part of our operational review process, to determine what lessons can be learned.

Although it is early, some of the key areas of focus include:

- 1) Update of local risk registers, urban/rural interface, a lot of work to evacuate bigger areas of private home
- 2) Review of risk management planning process:
  - Prevention activities
  - Protection activities
  - Response activities

## Innovative equipment

To keep our countries safe and resilient, innovation is a must. FEU's vision on innovation is 'identify, share and connect'. Movement is needed to anticipate crisis management, firefighting but certainly also risk management for the future. Movement to realize cooperation, actively share knowledge and experience and make new connections between crisis partners and professionals. Four APTB partners share their knowledge and experience on innovative equipment.

10. **Firefighting techniques against modern fires**  
*By Hugo Arceo Campoy/Titan-Airtractoreurop*
11. **Safety concepts in forest firefighting vehicles**  
*By Nicolás Martínez/Iturri*
12. **Outdoor individual protection equipment for emergencies caused by climate change**  
*By Gema Moreno Carrasco and Aurelie Favre/MSA*

### Firefighting equipment

*By Ramon Maria Bosch/TIPSA*

13. **Conclusive discussion and FEU Statement**

A draft statement has been drawn up on behalf of the FEU. To summarize the findings of this day, it could be concluded that the estimates were correct and were well reflected in the statement.

Members were given the opportunity to preview it. There were some suggestions for improvement and the statement was modified accordingly. Many thanks to the Voice Committee!

It will be sent to the FEU mailing list and posted on the FEU website and social channels. The audience was asked to share it in their countries and on their social channels.

The Board is of the opinion to give a follow up to it. Like to the DEI statement, the European Diversity Conference is organised in April 2023. The Board thinks that making a statement is necessary, but not enough if you don't look at yourself and reflect on your own decision-making and actions. Ask yourself what are you doing, or have you done to address the problem? The Voice

committee was asked to consider a way of how to follow up on this by creating moments of reflection, sharing information and best practices (on the website).

**Closing remarks** (Stephan)

The president thanked the audience for their enthusiastic contribution this afternoon. Many important aspects were addressed and there were many good, forward-looking discussions on the subject. Thanks for the team who organised the seminar. He wished everyone a pleasant evening and looked forward to the second day of the Council meeting.

DRAFT

### Attendance list FEU Council members 3 November 2022

Members	Country	Assoc	Name	Present 3 Nov
1.	Austria	OBFV	Bernhard Jily	+
2.	Belgium	H. Mem	Chris Addiers	-
		NB	Jan Jorissen	-
		NB	Wim Van Zele	+
		NB	Bert Bruggemans	-
3.	Croatia	HVZ	Mario Starcevic	-
		HVZ	Goran Frankovic	+
		HVZ	Sinisa Jembrih	+
4.	Cyprus	CFA	Dimitris Loukaides	-
		CFS	Polyvios Hadjivassilio	+
		CFS	George Pouzoukkis	+
		CFS	Andreas Kettis	-
5.	Czech Rep	CAFO	Vladimir Vlcek	+
		CAFO	Petr Oslejsek	+
		CAFO	Martin Nekula	+
6.	Denmark	DB	Bjarne Nigaard	+
		DB	Jakob Vedsted Andersen	+
7.	Estonia	EAFRC	Mart Haljaste	-
		EAFRC	Margo Klaos	+
		EAFRC	Marko Ruu	+
8.	Finland	SPPL	Ari Keijonen	-
		SPPL	Veli-Pekka Ihamaki	+
		SPPL	Torbjorn Lindstrom	+
		SPPL	Peter Johansson	-
9.	France	FNSPF	Sylvain Besson	+
10.	Germany	H.Mem	Dieter Nuessler	-
		VFDB	Sebastian Vries	+
		VFDB	Wolfgang Schauble	-
	Greece	EAPS	Konstantinos Tsigas	-
11.	Hungary	NDGDM	Zoltan Hozbor	+
		NDGDM	Laszlo Barta-Vamos	-
12.	Ireland	CFOA	Finian Joyce	+
		CFOA	Celina Barrett	-
		CFOA	Eoin O'Ceilleachair	-
		CFOA	Dermot Brannigan	-
		CFOA	John Keane	+
13.	Latvia	SFRS	Martins Baltmanis	+

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> November

		FRS	Elvira Smukste	--
		SFRS	Oskars Abolins	+
		SFRS	Rudolfs Azens	+
14.	Lithuania	NFOA	Rimantas Steponavic	+
15.	Luxembourg	FNP	Serge Heiles	+
16.	Netherlands	Brandweer Nederland	Stephan Wevers	+
			Diemer Kransen	+
			Dennis van Zanten	+
		H. Mem	Ruud Jonkman	-
17.	Norway	NBLF	Nils-Erik Haagenrud	+
		NBLF	Ove Stokkeland	+
		NBLF	Marianne Juul	-
		NBLF	Knut Birger Bakken	+
	Slovakia	SAFO		-
		SAFO		-
18.	Spain	APTB	Mariano Hernández Fernández	+
		APTB	Javier Vergara Falces	-
		APTB	Sagrario Moreno- Manzanaro	+
		APTB	Aitor Soler Zimbreló	+
		APTB	Ignacio Perez Prado	+
		APTB	Carlos García Touriñán	-
		APTB	Gabriel Muñoz Simal	+
19.	Sweden	SBB	Andreas Hoff	-
		SBB	Anna Andersson Carlin	+
		SBB	Lina Holgersson	-
		H. Mem	Goran Schnell	-
	UK	NFCC	Mark Hardingham	-
		NFCC	Sabrina Cohen- Hatton	-
19 countries				

<b>Non-members</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Present 3 Nov</b>
1.	NIPV	Hans Hazebroek	+
2.	EC DG Echo	Joao Silva	+
3.	CTIF	Milan Dubravak	+
4.	General Directorate	Angela Iglesias Rodrigo	+
5.	GRAF	Marc Castellnou Ribau	+
6.	LFB	Jim Davies	+
7.	Metro Chiefs	Robert Rocha	+
8.	NFPA	Otto Drozd III	+
9.	IAFC	Ken Stuebing	+
10.	IAFC	Steve Locke	+
11.	Min. Of Interior (F)	Laurent Alfonso	+
12.	TITAN	Hugo Arceo Campoy	+
13.	TITAN	Rafael Selma Beltrán	+
14.	ITURRI	Nicolás Martinez	+
15.	MSA	Gema Moreno Carrasco	+
16.	MSA	Aurelie Favre	+
17.	TIPSA	Ramon Maria Bosch	+
18.	Brandweer Twente	Sandra Wegman	+
19.	FEU/Brandweer Twente	Anja Strootman-Baas	+

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1.	Austria	OBFV	Bernhard Jily		
2.	Belgium	H. Mem	Chris Addiers	--	--
		NB	Jan Jorissen		
		NB	Wim Van Zele		
		NB	Bert Brugghe-mans	--	--
3.	Croatia	HVZ	Mario Starcevic	--	--
		HVZ	Goran Frankovic		
		HVZ	Sinisa Jembrih		
4.	Cyprus	CFA	Dimitris Loukaides	--	--
		CFS	Polyvios Hadjivassilio		
		CFS	George Pouzoukkis		
		CFS	Andreas Kettis	--	--
5.	Czech Rep	CAFO	Vladimir Vlcek		
		CAFO	Petr Oslejsek		
		CAFO	Martin Nekula		
6.	Denmark	DB	Bjarne Nigaard		
		DB	Jakob Vedsted Andersen		
7.	Estonia	EAFRC	Mart Haljaste	--	--
		EAFRC	Margo Klaos		
		EAFRC	Marko Ruu		
8.	Finland	SPPL	Ari Keijonen	--	--
		SPPL	Veli-Pekka Ihamaki		
		SPPL	Torbjorn Lindstrom		
		SPPL	Peter Johansson		
9.	France	FNSPF	Sylvain Besson		
10.	Germany	H.Mem	Dieter Nuessler	--	--
		VFDB	Sebastian Vries		
		VFDB	Wolfgang Schauble	--	--
	Greece	EAPS	Konstantinos Tsigas	--	--
11.	Hungary	NDGDM	Zoltan Hozbor		
		NDGDM	Laszlo Barta-Vamos	--	--
12.	Ireland	CFOA	Finian Joyce		
		CFOA	Celina Barrett	--	--
		CFOA	Eoin O'Ceilleachair	--	--
		CFOA	Dermot Brannigan		--
		CFOA	John Keane		
13.	Latvia	SFRS	Martins Baltmanis		

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				3/11	4/11
		FRS	Elvira Smukste		
		SFRS	Oskars Abolins		
		SFRS	Rudolfs Azens		
14.	Lithuania	NFOA	Rimantas Steponavicius		
15.	Luxembourg	FNP	Serge Heiles		
16.	Netherlands	Brandweer Nederland	Stephan Wevers		
			Diemer Kransen		
			Dennis van Zanten		
		H. Mem	Ruud Jonkman	--	--
17.	Norway	NBLF	Nils-Erik Haagenrud		
		NBLF	Ove Stokkeland		
		NBLF	Marianne Juul	--	--
		NBLF	Knut Birger Bakken		
	Slovakia	SAFO		--	--
		SAFO		--	--
18.	Spain	APTB	Mariano Hernández Fernández		
		APTB	Javier Vergara Falces	--	--
		APTB	Sagrario Moreno-Manzanaro		
		APTB	Aitor Soler Zimbreló		
		APTB	Ignacio Perez Prado		
		APTB	Carlos García Touriñán	--	--
		APTB	Gabriel Muñoz Simal		--
19.	Sweden	SBB	Andreas Hoff	--	--
		SBB	Anna Andersson Carlin		
		SBB	Lina Holgersson	--	--
		H. Mem	Goran Schnell	--	--
20.	UK	NFCC	Mark Hardingham	--	--
		NFCC	Sabrina Cohen-Hatton	--	--
20 countries					

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3.	CTIF	Milan Dubravak		
4.	General Directorate	Angela Iglesias Rodrigo		-
5.	GRAF	Marc Castellnou Ribau	online	-
6.	LFB	Jim Davies		-
7.	Metro Chiefs	Robert Rocha		
8.	NFPA	Otto Drozd III		
9.	IAFC	Ken Stuebing		
10.	IAFC	Steve Locke		
11.	EFSCA	Kenny Essers	-	online
12.	SESU	Serhiy Kruk	-	online
13.	Min. Of Interior (F)	Laurent Alfonso		-
14.	TITAN	Hugo Arceo Campoy		-
15.	TITAN	Rafael Selma Beltrán		-
16.	ITURRI <sup>NICOLÁS MARTÍNEZ</sup>	David López Coronel		-
17.	MSA	Gema Moreno Carrasco		-
18.	APTB	Marta García Touset	-	-
19.	Brandweer Twente	Sandra Wegman		
20.	FEU/Brandweer Twente	Anja Strootman-Baas		
21.	TIPSA	Ramon Nebosh		
22.				
23.				
24.				
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