

This document is a synopsis of  
presentations given at the first  
European Fire Safety Workshop

held in Chester

26th - 27th April 1999

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*Firesafe Europe 99*

# *Firesafe Europe 99*

*Chester United Kingdom*

*26th - 27th April 1999*

DELEGATE NAME	ORGANISATION/COUNTRY
Dennis Davis	Cheshire Fire Brigade, UK
G Liebe	Norwegian Association of Fire Officers, Norway
L Henricson	Association of Fire Officers, Sweden
J Bejerholm	Denmark
H Johansen	Denmark
I Gjesmoe	Norwegian Association of Fire Officers, Norway
W P M Urlings	Mayor of Hoogeveen, Holland
J Navarrette	Spain
G Cederholm	Uppsala Brandforsvar, Sweden
R Jonkman	FEU, Holland
F Echeverria	Avdc Ferrocarril, Spain
G Scheidweiler	Ministry of Home Affairs, Luxemburg
E Kirsch	FEU, Luxemburg
C Murphy	Tipperary S.R. Fire Service, Ireland
M Raftery	Clare Fire Service, Ireland
T McCarthy	Ireland
O Ojanen	Finland
B Aarnio	Finland
A Vilanova	APTB President Director of the Catalanian Fire School
E Barclay	London Fire Brigade, UK
D Nuessler	Feuerweher Aachen, Germany
T McGuirk	Merseyside Fire Brigade, UK
E Van Strien	Fire Brigade Eindhoven, Holland
D Farrenkopf	Hamburg Fire Brigade, Germany
L Joutsu	The Finnish National Rescue Association, Finland
J Metso	Ministry of the Interior Rescue Department, Finland
J Sterk	Holland
G Van Staaldin	Institute for Fire Service & Disaster Management, Holland
D King	Buckinghamshire Fire Service, UK
J Simonite	Buckinghamshire Fire Service, UK
T Reay	Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service, UK
P R Crayford	Mid & West Wales Fire Brigade, UK
Ms B Hartley	National Fire Sprinkler Network, UK
M Rowney	Kent Fire Brigade, UK
G O Whitworth	Fire-Stat International, UK
T Murrell	Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service, UK
G D Hills	Home Office, UK
Ian Evans	National Community Fire Safety Centre, UK
S Boddy	Home Office Emergency Planning Division, UK
CFO M L Chapman	Dorset Fire & Rescue Service, UK

DELEGATE NAME	ORGANISATION/COUNTRY
DCO R M Greet	Dorset Fire & Rescue Service, UK
B Ellis	Ellis Belk Associates, UK
Mrs A Curtis	Streetwise, Dorset, UK
A Barisich	Directorate General DG XI
L Richards	East Sussex Fire Brigade, UK
B Cole	East Sussex Fire Brigade, UK
K Cashen	Tipperary Fire Service, Ireland
S Sanders	Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service, UK
C Herbert	Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service, UK
G Torrie	Lothian & Borders Fire Brigade, UK
DFM B Allaway	Lothian & Borders Fire Brigade, UK
H Hoverd	Home Office, UK
PFSO A D Campbell	Cumbria Fire Service, UK
J M Elliot	Cumbria Fire Service, UK
G Evans	Fire Safety Advisor to FBU, UK
I Shaw	Fire Brigades Union, UK
F Maurer	C T I F, France
N Gibbins	Devon Fire & Rescue Service, UK
M Ablitt	Devon Fire & Rescue Service, UK
Dr S D Christian	HM Fire Service Inspectorate, UK
R Baillie	HM Fire Service Inspectorate, UK
G Hem	Directorate for Fire & Explosive Prevention, Norway
Mrs A Myrestol	Directorate for Fire & Explosive Prevention, Norway
H E Moholt	Directorate for Fire & Explosive Prevention, Norway
T Paish	World Fire Statistics, UK
R T D Wilmott	World Fire Statistics, UK
M Gale	World Fire Statistics, UK
A Hayes	Fire Prevention Magazine, UK
CFO J Beech	Kent Fire Brigade, UK
I Muir	Kent Fire Brigade, UK
ACO A Wroclawski	Kent Fire Brigade, UK
Mrs J Ayling	Kent Fire Brigade, UK
Mrs M Tyler	Kent Fire Brigade, UK
Mrs D Henderson	Kent Fire Brigade, UK
A Eckley	Kent Fire Brigade, UK
M Adams	Kent Fire Brigade, UK
Mrs A Wainman	Kent Fire Brigade, UK
CFO K J Knight	West Midlands Fire Service, UK
P James	West Midlands Fire Service, UK
ACO F Sheehan	West Midlands Fire Service, UK
I Blackhurst	Greater Manchester County Fire Service, UK
DCFO J Judd	Greater Manchester County Fire Service, UK

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DELEGATE NAME	ORGANISATION/COUNTRY
A Proctor	Greater Manchester County Fire Service, UK
D Rainford	Greater Manchester County Fire Service, UK
D A Lewis	Greater Manchester County Fire Service, UK
A Stoker	Greater Manchester County Fire Service, UK
N R Farnworth	Greater Manchester County Fire Service, UK
H Stamnes	Directorate for Fire & Explosive Prevention, Norway
T L Glossop	Fire Service College, UK
J Whiteman	LGA, UK
E McGuire	Louth County Fire Services, Ireland
J Donnelly	National Community Fire Safety Centre, UK
A Oakes	Surrey Fire & Rescue, UK
J Alston	Surrey Fire & Rescue, UK
P Connorton	Cleveland Fire Brigade, UK
A K Dixon	Cleveland Fire Brigade, UK
A Bettison	Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service, UK
D J Holden	Fire Times Magazine, UK
J Clarke	Fire Times Magazine, UK
W Brynhildsen	Directorate for Fire & Explosive Prevention, Norway
Elaine Mines	Consumer Safety International, UK
Molly Maher	Consumer Safety International, UK
T C Nielson	Denmark
F Delzepich	Germany
A Guest	Cornwall County Fire Brigade, UK
W Harrison	County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue, UK
D Blackett	Essex County Fire & Rescue Service HQ, UK
M Sheppard	Essex County Fire & Rescue Service HQ, UK
P Clark	BEC Display, UK
D Tiernan	Tyne & Wear Fire Brigade, UK
N O Sandberg	Swedish National Rescue Services Agency, Sweden
P Craig	Northern Ireland Fire Brigade, UK
J Azis	Colt Virtual Reality Ltd, UK
N Gibson	Colt Virtual Reality Ltd, UK
N Webley	Mid & West Wales Fire Brigade, UK
E Hough	Fire Europe Magazine, UK
R A Graham	Alliance for Consumer Fire Safety in Europe, UK
Sir G Pigot	Residential Sprinkler Association, UK
Justine Mackett	Factory Mutual, UK
B Unger	Home Office, UK
V Vlcek	Fire Rescue Dept, Czech Republic
J Horacek	Czech Republic

DELEGATE NAME	ORGANISATION/COUNTRY
L Van Rompaey	Begium
M Somers	Belgium
R Schellekens	Holland
P Corcoran	Merseyside Fire & Civil Defence Authority, UK
P Dowd	Merseyside Fire & Civil Defence Authority, UK
R Kemp	Merseyside Fire & Civil Defence Authority, UK
G Sloan	Humberside Fire Brigade, UK
N Hutchinson	West Yorkshire Fire & Civil Defence Authority, UK
K Doherty	West Yorkshire Fire & Civil Defence Authority, UK
I Youll	West Yorkshire Fire & Civil Defence Authority, UK
K Hancock	West Yorkshire Fire & Civil Defence Authority, UK
D Kavanagh	West Yorkshire Fire & Civil Defence Authority, UK
R Timpson	BAA plc, UK
T Brice	West Midlands Fire Service, UK
O Howell	West Midlands Fire Service, UK
W Williams	West Midlands Fire Service, UK
G Meldrum	HM Chief Inspector Fire Services, UK
S K Allcock	South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue, UK
A Ryder	South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue, UK
A J Holmes	Tyne & Wear Fire Brigade, UK
ACO M Overall	London Fire Brigade, UK
M Hood	London Fire Brigade, UK
Geoff Shephard	Cheshire Fire Brigade, UK
Barry Champken	Cheshire Fire Brigade, UK
Anne Veysey	Cheshire Fire Brigade, UK
Peter Matthews	Cheshire Fire Brigade, UK
John Lloyd	Cheshire Fire Brigade, UK
Nigel Taylor	Cheshire Fire Brigade, UK
Evan Morris	Cheshire Fire Brigade, UK
Terry Jennings	Cheshire Fire Brigade, UK
S McGuirk	Cheshire Fire Brigade, UK
Lyndon Harrison	MEP, UK
F Walker	Greater Manchester County Fire Authority, UK
J Smith	Greater Manchester County Fire Authority, UK
R J Kinnear	British Aerospace Airbus, UK
N Griffiths MP	Consumer Safety International, UK
S Awford	Federation of Tour Operators, UK
A Cooper	Federation of Tour Operators, UK
J Elorza	Spain
Mr Murray-Craig	Kidde Safety, UK
R Jowett	Kidde Safety, UK
C Vounasis	Greek Union of Fire Officers, Greece

## LYNDON HARRISON MEP

Cheshire West and Wirral



### *Opening Address*

Friends and colleagues. Welcome to Chester, a city the architectural variety of whose historic buildings reflect not only its European heritage, but also provide a headache for any Chief Fire Officer, conscious of the safety of its citizens and visitors.

This brings me to Dennis Davis, whose new posting means Cheshire's loss is Scotland's gain. His invitation to open today's important conference on Fire Safety in the European Union, I am happy to accept.

More lukewarm was my response to Dennis's invitation some ten years ago to visit Chester Fire Station.

Once hijacked by Dennis on the whirling, perilous platform turntable of a station fore appliance, I viewed the panorama of my home city with a combination of vertigo and incendiary panic, unseemly for a newly elected Member of the European Parliament. Thank You, Dennis!

But let me come down to earth. Fire is all around us. Two weeks ago I joined the stampede of 400 Merseyside dignitaries exiting from St. George's Hall in Liverpool, after a kitchen fire threatened to spoil the party.

A year ago, I pined for the conflagration of Venice's La Fenice Opera House, in a city awash with more water than a firefighter's dream.

And, last month, I sorrowed at the loss of 40 lives in the Mont Blanc tunnel. A tragedy that all too readily demonstrated that fire respects no national boundaries between E.U. countries: here, France and Italy.

But what have we politicians been doing to prioritise fire safety in the European Union? Have we like Nero fiddled while the Treaty of Rome burns for its full implementation, and especially in the area of fire safety.

The answer is yes and no! More often than not we have been on a slow burn on the issue of making Europe firesafe for its citizens, rather than a short fuse.

Yes, this March I and other MEPs attended in Brussels the Consumer Safety international lobby for a European Union Directive on fire safety in hotels. This was headed up by our own firebrand, Nigel Griffiths MP, the former Consumer Affairs Minister at the DTI and a frequent visitor to the European Parliament.

Yes, parliamentarians like my colleague Peter Skinner MEP have posed parliamentary questions demanding a better statistical basis for knowledge of fire hazards in the European Union.

And yes, my own question to burnt-out case, President Jaques Santer, has elicited a comprehensive reply on how far fire spreads amongst established European Union competences: civil protection, chemical plant safety, transport, and natural hazards like forest fires. Incidentally, forest fires will increase as a hazard as global warming hots up in Europe.

But no, we politicians still need to do more to encourage you the experts to set alight action on the crucial question of fire safety for Europe's citizens.

Alas, the EHLASS system for surveying household and leisure accidents, demonstrates all too illuminating that children and pensioners are the most vulnerable, in our society, to the threat of domestic fires.

An no, Jaques Santer's parliamentary reply to me still indicates considerable hesitation over the vexed and crucial question of who has responsibility for fire safety in the E.U. Is it DG III, VII, XI, or XXIV?

Chairman, we sorely need a Chief Fire Officer for Europe. I hope this can be a beacon message of this conference.

But my reaction to fire, my special burning issue to you, the experts, is the importance of underscoring the primacy of Europe's single market in highlighting fire safety issues.

Let me explain. The decision by the E.U. to create a Single Market has far-reaching implications which are all too often ill-understood, and lie unheeded. The four freedoms of the market, permitting the untrammelled

circulation of people, goods, services and capital, impact immediately on our common E.U. fire safety concerns.

For example, free movement of people. Travellers, tourists, business people expect high fire safety standards when travelling on the continent. It is a demand not a luxury.

And the market's high standards must also be met when that same consumer arrives at his/her destination. Firesafe hotels are also a right not a privilege. As Molly Maher, who is with us today, can only too feelingly testify.

A second freedom of the market are goods that can be sold throughout a barrier-free community. In the case of fire safety, -fire hose reels, fire and smoke detection systems, sprinklers, smoke extraction devices - the list is long, but the best standards must be shared in common in the Single Market.

And the 1989 Construction Products Directive, aiming at a single market in building construction materials, is still not harmonised. The diverse nature of the construction industry, and the widely differing interpretation of building regulations across the E.U. means the market stands unfinished.

Indeed, 30 different tests (and 20 more ISO test methods) used by different states, cause continuing confusion in Europe's marketplace.

Even the attempt to encourage mutual recognition of French, German and British tests, the so-called "three sisters approach", has led metaphorically to the Checkovian tragedy. Europe's cherry orchards are still being burnt down.

And within C.E.N., the classification of fire doors has been discussed for three years without resolution. This is unwarrantable.

It's time for a bonfire of the vanities of the politicians and of the experts who fail to promote action leading to increased fire safety in Europe. The market must be completed and to top standards if we are to answer the needs of Europe's citizens.

Chairman, on the other side of Europe, Kosova is on fire. Here in Chester we can help douse the daily fires of Europe which all too frequently bring misery to families and friends across the face of Europe.

I wish you all a successful conference. I hope the formal workshop sessions will be as instructive and illuminating as the informal get-togethers around the bars and the coffee-breaks.

Welcome to Chester. For today - our crossroads of Europe. Europe working together can make a difference.

With that Chairman, I light the blue and yellow touchpaper of this European fire safety conference and retire.

**Lyndon Harrison MEP**  
Cheshire West & Wirral

# *Firesafe Europe 99*

## *Fire Safety Initiatives Workshop*

### *Introduction*



*Chester's Town Crier opening proceeding of Firesafe Europe.*

1. The Firesafe Europe Workshop was held in Chester, UK on the 26th and 27th April 1999. The workshop brought together representatives from the European Commission, (who funded the event through the Leonardo Da Vinci Scheme), and Member States to address Fire Safety issues effecting the European citizen.
2. The aim of this workshop, (which is the first of its kind ever to be held), was to establish a blue print of common European Fire Safety Strategies to produce a safer environment for all European citizens by reducing the risk of fire.
3. This first meeting of professional firefighters, fire safety experts, and politicians concentrated on exchanging experiences and expertise and the sharing of knowledge, ideas, and aspirations. The outcomes from the workshop identified a series of issues that require to be encompassed into positive action plans and which will require significant action by professional firefighters and politicians both nationally, and in the European Commission to convert the may issues identified at the workshop into positive outcomes.

### *Community Fire Safety*

4. The European Commission is concerned for the safety of all European citizens, which is why the workshop and its findings are important. Fire Safety is part of Community Fire Safety. Fire is expensive in human terms, devastating the lives of individuals, families and whole communities. It results in significant costs to local and public authorities, commerce, community life, and has a major impact on insurance companies and long term health treatment and care.
5. The cost of failure of not implementing an effective Community Fire Safety Strategy is high in human and material terms. The workshop was keen to collaborate in seeking solutions to reduce damage and disruption to communities and identify and exchange best practices from across the E.U.
6. The traditional role of the firefighter has been to react to instances of fires and other rescues. There is now a clear and overwhelming case for a pro-active approach to Fire Safety in order to reduce the incidence of fires occurring.
7. This must be seen to be as equally important as traditional fire fighting and rescue. This change is essential if we are to make a safer environment for all European citizens.



*Outside safety displays at Firesafe Europe.*

### *The Organisation of European and National Fire and Safety Organisations*

8. The Community Fire Safety issues are the same in all Member states. However, the political, legal and legislative requirements, professional structures and risk assessments across the E.U. are so different.
9. Within the European Commission there is no single body which speaks on Community Fire Safety issues:-
  - DG 3 - Construction materials.
  - DG 5 - Public health and injury prevention.
  - DG 6 - Forest fires.
  - DG 7 - Transport, personal regulation.
  - DG 12 - Environment, nuclear safety and civil protection.
  - DG 24 - Safety in hotels and consumer protection.

There is no case for trying to change the structure of the E.U. to satisfy the needs of Fire Safety, but there is a conscience need to co-ordinate the various aspects of Fire Safety at E.U. level.

The E.U. expects the highest standards for all E.U. citizens whether they are living, working, travelling or visiting the region. There is a clear need to ensure that standards apply across the E.U. in such matters as specifications for fire doors, building design, building materials, fire fighting equipment and basic training.

There is a case for a European Chief Fire Officer to co-ordinate and highlight such fundamental problems.

10. Within Member states there is also a proliferation of organisation structures affecting local and national fire and rescue services. In addition there are various professional representative bodies.

11. The co-ordination of information and co-operation between these organisations even within national boundaries, is itself very difficult.

12. The E.U. is the only trans-national assembly, and therefore it must take a positive lead in supporting and promoting fire safety. The E.U. is crucial for disseminating an understanding of the problems caused by fire and in supporting the need to seek solutions through effective Fire Safety practices.



*Alessandro Barisich, Head of EU DGXII leading discussion.*

### ***Fire and Rescue Service within the E.U.***

Apart from political and organisational issues, the E.U has other differences:-

- Geographical - earthquakes, forests, landslides, alpine rescue.
- Industrial - chemical, nuclear, oil spillages.
- Communications - rail, ferries, tunnels, road and rail.
- Weather - floods, drought, avalanches, areas of lack of water.
- Other - terrorism, arson.
- Training - differing standards of fire fighting and expertise.
- Buildings and infrastructure - historic cities, types of residential and industrial complexes.

13. Despite these differences, delegates were quite clear that the majority of fires which resulted in loss of life or injury, occurred in the home.

14. There is need to concentrate on understanding the issues relating to fires in the home and to develop Fire Safety strategies based on the best practices currently operating across the E.U.

15. Members believed that one of the major problems for Fire Safety is the fact that the expertise and experience is practiced by various organisations in various locations, but that there is at present no mechanism for drawing these together for the benefit of all.

16. The co-ordination of best practice across the E.U., and the adoption of what has been proved to work elsewhere in the E.U. is the major priority for the whole European fire and rescue business.

17. In collating data, it was clear that information was held by other agencies for example Police and Health organisations. There is a need to establish dialogue with these agencies and to promote the principle that investment in fire prevention is to the mutual benefit of all.



*Alessandro Barisich, addressing audience of Firesafe Europe 1999.*

18. It is imperative to identify what data you require. the emphasis must be to:

- Improve the information we already collect.
- Improve the accuracy of data
- Improve collection techniques
- Decide on how to present and exchange data and research material.

### ***Terminology and Language***

19. Before detailed comparisons of data can be commenced and before technical work on identifying target groups and area for risk assessment can be determined, the standardisation of terminology and language must be undertaken.

20. The workshop identified variations in defining basic information such as:-

- What is a death by fire?
- Are suicides recorded separately?
- Do they record subsequent deaths in hospitals?
- How are causes of fires classified?
- Who completes fire reports? Fire/Police/Health authorities?
- Obtaining access to data restricted by confidentiality.
- As data on all fires recorded, including those not involving death or injury?
- How are property, boat fires etc. recorded, how detailed are they?
- What are the costs in effort, time and expense in collating national statistics to a standard schedule.

### ***Risk Assessment and Identification of Groups at Risk***

21. The use of statistics, data and trends is crucial in identifying vulnerable groups in society. Risk assessments help to focus attention on definable groups of people, who have been identified as vulnerable.

The fire and rescue authorities and other agencies can then concentrate their energies in developing and implementing specific action plans aimed at these groups of citizens.

22. This approach maximises fire and danger prevention resources thereby putting the greatest effort where the greatest need has been identified.

23. There is a strong link between fire and social/economic groups.

The effects of fire are often disproportionately felt by those in our society that are most vulnerable, for example, the very young and the elderly. Risk assessments identify the most vulnerable groups and targeting these groups maximises the investment in fire prevention strategies.

Target groups may be people, places, times, occupations, buildings, age bands etc.

Risk assessment can identify specific groups of people who are hard to influence for example single men and those with immobility problems.

24. Target groups relating to people may include:-

- Pre-school children.
- School children.
- Students.
- Single adults.
- Elderly.
- Whole family units.
- Smokers.
- Alcoholics.
- Home drinkers.
- Immobile.
- Drug users.



*Tom Wimott from the World Fire Safety Statistical Centre probing speakers*

25. Buildings groups include:-

- Types of buildings - tall, multi-occupancies, flats, student accommodation.
- Industrial sites.
- Major oil, chemical sites.
- Heritage buildings.

26. Building standards issues include:-

- Building design specifications.
- Engineering methods.
- Compartment building construction methods.
- Do Building Regulations need to be amended?

27. Geographical or area risk assessments:-

- The use of Geographical Information Systems and Mapping Techniques.
- Targeting groups of streets, for example student accommodation.
- Localised arson (CCTV cameras proved successful).



28. Ethnic groups identified
- Cultural and language issues.
  - Religious restrictions.
  - The role of women in society.

Ethnic groups often feel threatened by official organisations such as the Fire Service.

29. Analysis of human behaviour during and following fires:-
- Is there a need to implement people to be "Fire Aware".
  - Are there particular evacuation problems in certain situations?
  - Do we need a post fire trauma facility?
30. Are there particular issues relating to certain types of occupation or profession? For example restaurants, hotels, dance halls, outdoor events.
31. Have specific times of fire outbreaks been identified, for example chip pan fires tend to occur at 5.00pm and late evening.

### ***Risk Assessment Models***

32. Having identified specific groups who are at risk, there is a need to devise clear targets for Community Fire actions. The workshop stressed that proactive fire prevention must be based on simple priority objectives if they are to be effective. Data needs to be carefully analysed, and clear straight forward plans formulated.
33. Each group may well require separate strategies and involve other agencies.
34. Fire and Rescue Services cannot work on their own. Fires are often symptoms of much deeper rooted social problems. Fire Prevention models must have direct input from and directly involve other agencies. these agencies will often be in a better position to contact vulnerable groups and spread the Fire Prevention messages, and are important channels of communication who already have direct access to vulnerable people.
35. Other agencies will include:-
- Educationalists,
  - Paramedics,
  - Probation and custody services,
  - Social workers,
  - Professional carers,
  - Hospital burns units,
  - counselling organisations...

A positive drive for forging effective links with other agencies in crucial to the success of fire preventative policies and strategies.

### ***Community Fire Safety Action Plans***



*Allison Curtis, Streetwise, with the First European Community Fire Safety Award, Assistant Under Secretary Of State George Howarth and the Head of European Civil Protection Alessandro Barisich.*

36. The fire service knows that Community Fire Safety works!

But it is questionable whether the citizen knows or even understands what it is.

- The Community Fire Safety message needs to be make clear to the citizen.
- The purpose, and the benefits for the whole community need to be made clear.
- Set down clear Community Fire Safety targets.
- Understand your client group, liaise with other agencies.
- Employ effective publication materials.
- Utilise media, television, internet.
- Develop proven Fire Safety Toolbox principles.

37. There is a clear need for a positive message:-  
 FIRE CAN LEAD TO TRAGEDY AND DAMAGE BUT IT CAN BE OVERCOME AND PREVENTED BY EMPLOYING APPROPRIATE PRECAUTIONS.

- Most fires are accidental and therefore preventable, and a great deal can be done to prevent fires.
- Across the E.U., a significant number of fires occur in domestic properties.
- All fires, particularly those in homes, must be seen as unacceptable and priority given to eliminating them before they start.
- The populations in general are ignorant of what they can do for themselves in incidents of fire and other emergencies, and what they can do to prevent incidents occurring.
- Clear change in strategy within the Fire Services from intervention to prevention.
- Current and future fire service policy must be directed at how we protect our valuable human, material and environmental assets. This has a direct impact on the generation of social prosperity and social inclusion of all E.U. citizens.

## *Community Fire Safety Action Plans*

38. In the first instance the Workshop identified the need for all Member States to lobby and educate all Government structures, including the European Commission, and elected Members both national and local, on the importance of Community Fire Safety to the safety of communities.



*Government Minister, George Howard, congratulating the Dorset team on winning European Fire safety Award for the Streetwise Safety Centre.*

39. There is a need for frank and open discussions so that whenever new policies are devised, the concepts of Community Fire Safety are incorporated.

40. The message that safeguarding the community and the individual transgresses the boundaries of Government organisation structures.

41. In establishing clear aims and objectives for a Community Fire Safety plan, the plan needs to identify.

- Who needs to be reached.
- What do they need to know.
- How are they to be informed.

42. The target group would be identified by the risk assessment process.

In establishing the Fire Safety Plan it is important to note that it is the individual who keeps themselves safe, not the firefighter.

43. The message must be personal and appropriate.

The issue of what they need to know will depend on the nature of the message and the targeted group.

44. It is crucial that Fire Safety education for children, for instance, must be sustained over a long period. To achieve this requires Fire Safety to be included as part of basic educational curriculum. It should not be a "once in a blue moon" issue.

The message from the workshop is that you are educating young people in particular for life. The knowledge that they receive will be carried with them for 60+ years. This is a long term investment.

45. A communication strategy must be devised. The means by which the message is to be relayed will vary with the client group and the message to be transmitted. An inappropriate communication method will have a detrimental impact on the effectiveness of the message.

46. It is crucial to know your client group, children may respond better to computer based initiatives but the elderly through personal contact.

- One to one personal contact will be more appropriate in some instances, whether using Fire Service or other

agency personnel. Experience has shown that personal contact by local people for local people is essential. This applies particularly when dealing with minority group.



*Graham Meldrum, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector for Fire Services for England & South Wales and Dennis Davis H M Chief Inspector for Scotland, in discussion with George Howarth, Assistant Under Secretary of State.*

- Posters may be effective in some instances.
- Media coverage through newspaper, television, discussion groups.
- Shock impact may be effective, for example meeting victims with severe burns.
- Computer technology. The use of CD-ROMs has the advantage that children in particular are attracted to them. They simulate involvement and can be used where interactive participation is required. They also have the advantage of being seen to be fun as well as being capable of holding significant volumes of data. The pictorial presentations achievable tend to be more stimulating and visually have a greater impact.

- Internet. Most schools and many organisations have access to the Internet Audience will continue to grow, on-line updates of information is relatively easy. Internet systems are ideal for linking language, diagrams, messages, graphics, and work requiring interactive involvement. Relatively easy to be adapted for different audience groups, whilst its usage can be measured.
- Partnership/Sponsorship. Communication through the use of commercial and industrial organisation. Insurance Companies and manufacturers (of fire and smoke alarm systems for instance) may be prepared to contribute to the funding and distribution of fire safety literature.
- Co-operation with other safety organisations. Mutual co-operation can provide benefits. Potential partners include Gas, Electricity, Police, Drugs, Water, Harbour, Consumer Standards, Health, Hospitals, Ambulance, Air Sea Rescue.
- Development of "real life" experiences through Safety Centres.
- House to house calls, leaflet drops.
- Home visits after fires and rescues.

### ***Firefighter Training***

47. Need to set E.U. standards in basic training for all firefighters.
48. Incorporation of fire prevention strategies in training and in management development programmes necessary.
49. Training in identifying target groups and in the use of techniques such as geographic mapping skills needs to be included in training programmes.
50. Recruitment programmes need to emphasise the greater importance of fire prevention and involvement of the fire service in community based activities.

### ***Holistic Safety Centres***

51. The development of Safety Centres is seen as an effective method of educating all types and ages of people in the dangers encountered in every day life. Safety Centres operate by providing dedicated educational facilities for safety on all aspects of life.
52. The workshop also saw the concept of Safety Centres as a single organisation a unit which draws together:-
  - Co-ordination of Fire Safety campaigns.
  - Development of Fire Safety toolbox of resource which have a proven track record.
  - Development of Fire Safety strategies and plans.
  - Co-ordinating experiences in communications with client groups.
  - Collating experience on commercial marketing techniques.
  - Encouraging the gathering, analysis and comparison of Fire Safety information.
  - Focal point for the sharing of data, expertise and Best Practice, reducing duplicated effort and concentrating on what works!

## *Development of Key Issues and Actions*

- The issues are so wide and complex that it is essential that a holistic approach to the whole concept of community fire safety must be made.
- The size of the task is so great and will require changes to national and European Fire Safety structures that progress can only be achieved if we start small and build up from what is known to work.
- Lobbying of national fire service and professional organisations needs to be made by organisations having sufficient professional standing.
- A key element is that the E.U. is seen to take ownership of this process, and encourage its further development.
- The need to lobby national organisations to co-ordinate resources and develop access points for data collection, and to highlight the need for fire safety issues to be incorporated in all aspects of community life.
- The workshop proposed the establishment of a small group of officers from across the E.U. to produce a priority list of actions and to communicate with all the relevant organisations across the E.U. on establishing basic data requirements, definitions, practices, sharing of experiences and information.
- This team would “make it happen”, concentrating on what we know, what works in practice and on essentials and practicalities.
- Establish basis for defining and measuring outcomes of Fire Safety strategies.
- Setting targets for future strategies.
- To devise networks with other safety organisations for the mutual transfer of information, and for communicating the Fire Safety message to client groups.

## *Conclusion*

The Firesafe Europe Workshop identified many issues which now require to be expanded and actioned.

It identified a common need for effective national and European Fire Safety strategies across Europe for the protection of its citizens and assets. It identified the need for better, more informed and comparable statistics. It identified the need for wider collaboration with other agencies in data collection and analysis and in the implementing of the Fire Safety message. It recommended that the E.U. needs to take a lead in promoting the Fire Safety message, and to manage a small team of European officers to take implement these issues.

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**Dennis Davies:** Good morning everyone we are going to start in a moment we have just lost our Belgian colleagues somebody said they are at the back there are two seats at the front. No, yes there they are.

Good morning, I hope you all survived those of you who came last night anyway the delights of Chester I saw one or two raiding parties sort of moving through our high street, we have got one or two gaps but no arrests and no one in the local hospital so I hope you found the town comfortable my name is Dennis Davies if anything goes wrong don't blame me. But you will see a number of uniformed officers wearing black and white badges those people are actually the organising team, so if anyone needs any help in anyway please just shout up and ask. With those few very quick words I will hand over to begin our conference to the Town Crier of Chester.

**Town Crier: Oh Yeah! Oh Yeah! Ohhh Yeeah! Good Citizens From Near And Far I Bid You All Warmly Welcome To This Ancient City Of Chester On This Twenty-Sixth Day Of April In The Year Of Our Lord Nineteen Hundred And Ninety Nine. Friends, Romans, Vikings, Tudor Georgian Victorian, Edwardian, They Have All Left Their Mark On The Ancient City Of Chester. The Romans Built The Wall, The Normans Built The Cathedral, The Victorians Erected The Clock, The Edwardians Built The Bandstand, The Americans Built MacDonald's. In The Middle Ages The City Bellman Would Patrol The Streets During The Watches Of The Night To Detect Fire And Theft If He Spotted Smoke And Flame He Would Summon The Fire-fighters With The Ringing Of His Bell, A Hand Cart Would Then Arrive On The Scene Carrying Leather Buckets Filled With Water. I Gather The Fire fighting Technology Has Advanced Since My Day. You Will Be Brought Up To Date In This Historic City Be Sure To Enjoy The City While You Are Here. May God Bless You All. God Save The Queen.**

**Mr Dennis Davies:** If I could now briefly introduce to you Mr Lyndon Harrison who is the local member of the European Parliament. Mr Lyndon Harrison

**Mr Lyndon Harrison:** Thank you Dennis, Guten Tag, Buon Giorno, Bonjour à tout le monde, Welcome to Chester. Friends and colleagues welcome to Chester the City the architectural variety of whose historical buildings reflect not only its European Heritage but also provide a headache for any Chief Fire Officer conscious of the safety of the citizens and visitors. And this brings me to Mr Dennis Davies whose new posting being Cheshire's loss is Scotland's gain. His invitation to open today's important conference on Fire Safety in the European Union I am happy to accept, more lukewarm was my response to Dennis's invitation some ten years ago to visit Chester Fire Station once hijacked by Dennis on the whirling perilous platform turntable of a station fire appliance I viewed the panorama of my home city with a combination of vertigo and incendiary panic unseemly for a newly elected member of the

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European Parliament. Thank you Dennis. But let me come down to earth. Fire is all around us two weeks ago I joined a stampede of four hundred or so Merseyside Dignitaries exiting from St George's Hall in Liverpool after a kitchen fire threatened to spoil the party. A year ago I pined for the conflagration of Venice's La Fediche Opera House in a city awash with more water than a fire fighters dream. And last month I sorrowed at the loss of forty lives in the Mont Blanc Tunnel a tragedy that all too readily demonstrated that fire respects no national boundaries between E U countries here France and Italy. But what have we politicians been doing to prioritise fire safety in the European Union have we like Nero fiddled while the treaty of Rome burned for its full implementation and especially in the area of fire safety. The answer is yes and no more often than not we have been on the slow burn on this issue of making Europe fire safe for its citizens rather than on a short fuse. Yes this March I and other M E P's attended in Brussels the consumer safety international lobby for a European Union directive on fire safety in hotels this was headed up by our own fire brand Nigel Griffiths M P the former consumer affairs minister at the D T I and a frequent visitor to Brussels. Yes parliamentarians like my colleague Peter Skinner M E P have posed parliamentary questions demanding a better statistical basis for knowledge of fire hazards in the European Union. And yes my own question to burnt out case President Jacques Santer has elicited a comprehensive reply on how far fire spreads amongst the established European Union competencies civil protection, chemical plant safety, transport and the natural hazards like forest fire. But now we politicians still need to do more to encourage you the experts to set alight action on the crucial question of Fire Safety for European citizens. Alas the EHLASS system for surveying household and leisure accidents demonstrates all too illuminatingly that children and pensioners are the most vulnerable in our society, to the threat of domestic fire. **And now Jacques Santer's parliamentary reply to me still indicates considerable hesitation over the vexed and crucial question of who has responsibility for Fire Safety in the European Union. Is it DG III, VII, XI or XXIV? Chairman we sorely need a Chief Fire Officer for Europe.** I hope this can be the beacon message for this conference. But my reaction to fire, my special burning issue to you the expert is the importance of under scoring the primacy of Europe's single market in highlighting fire safety issues. Let me explain. The decision by the European Union to create a single market has far reaching implications which are all too often ill understood and lye unheeded the four freedoms of the market permitting untrammelled circulation of people, goods services and capital impact immediately on our common E U Fire Safety concern. For example free movement of **people, travellers, tourists, business people, expect the highest fire safety standards when travelling on the continent** it is a demand not a luxury and the market's high standards must also be met when that same consumer arrives at his or her destination. **Fire safe hotels are also a right not a privilege.** As Molly Maher who is with us here today could only too freely testify. A second freedom of the market are the goods that can be sold throughout a barrier free community, in a case of fire safety fire hose reels fire and smoke

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detection systems sprinklers smoke extraction devices the list is long, but the best standards must be shared in common in the single market. In the 1989 **construction products directive aiming at a single market in building construction materials is still not harmonised** the diverse nature of the construction industry and the widely differing interpretation of building regulations across the European Union means the market stands unfinished. Indeed thirty different tests and twenty more ISO test methods used by different states causes continuing confusion in Europe's market place even the attempt to encourage mutual recognition of French German and British tests the so called three sisters approach has led metaphorically to Chzechovian tragedy Europe's cherry orchards are still being burnt down. And within CEN the classification of fire doors has been discussed for three years without resolution this is unwarrantable. It is time for a bonfire of the vanities of the politicians and the experts who fail to promote action leading to increased fire safety in Europe. The market must be completed and to top standards if we are to answer the need of Europe's citizens. Chairman, on the other side of Europe Kosovo is on fire; here in Chester we can help douse the daily fires of Europe, which all too frequently bring misery to families and friends across the face of Europe. I wish you all a successful conference I hope the formal workshop sessions will be of instructive and as illuminating as the informal get together around the bars and the coffee breaks. Welcome to Chester for today our cross roads of Europe, Europe working together can make the difference with that chairman I light the blue and yellow touch paper of this European Fire Safety Conference and retire. Thank you.

**Mr Dennis Davies:** Thank you very much Mr Harrison for those excellent words. I now invite the representative of the European Commission for DG XI the Head of the Civil Protection Unit, Mr Alessandro Barisich.

**Mr Barisich:** Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen. First of all let me say that I am very happy to be here in Chester, arriving I discovered Roman walls I am a Roman myself, so I found myself at home. But lets say a few words about this first European Fire Event tomorrow I will try to give some answers to a fairly important question which I have been posed to ask by Mr Harrison. But to try to explain today why the Commission has supported such an event. As many of you know we have a Community action programme and **in this action programme we set up two key priorities one is the prevention and the second is the information of the public** the two fields cross each other at the moment. In the prevention one of the three key priorities is Fire. Try to whether at a Community level we can do something to reduce the risk of fire. The objective of this workshop was quite an ambitious one who are trying to set up an action plan to reduce risk of fire, to improve the safety, it's a semi-ambitious objective. Don't underestimate the meaning of this. From this morning to tomorrow afternoon you are no more working with the chairman for Chester, my British colleague is not working for UK, my French, German, Finish colleagues are not working anymore for their country, we are together working for the three hundred million European Citizens. We should see whether we are able to identify something which could bring another value to

what is already made at national level. There are national authorities dealing with fire safety. They do their best today with very good success, so we should be able not try to duplicate or make some supplementary work, **we should find something which brings an added value to what is like at national level.** So during the work today and tomorrow you must be ambitious but realistic. You should not try to convince me. I am completely convinced you should try to set up something which could be accepted by the fifteen member states with the big difference which exists in the membership: we have **some member states in which this matter is completely regionalised**, we have other member states where the fire brigade are integrated in the concept of superstructure, other member states where it is not the case. So you see how difficult it is to try to set up something, which fits in with this very complex picture, but we are very good I am sure we will succeed. You know a last point. I definitely consider that **fire brigades represents an essential pooling force to improve the Community co-operation in many member states.** Civil Protection, in practical fire brigades plus some minor supplementary point. So if we will succeed from now to tomorrow to set up this possible complete action plan, I think that we can make an important step ahead on the Community co-operation. So Mr Chairman that is the reason and the underlining elements which led the Commission to give support to very important effort. So I will just finish telling that I wish we will have a successful workshop which will have very concrete results. Thank you very much.

**Mr Dennis Davies:** Thank you Mr Barisich for your words. Already a great deal has been said about why we are here and I think a lot has been said about our Roman City. We call it Diva by the way and when it is existed as you have already heard the vigils were the fire fighters of the past, they tried to look after this city with very simple tools and dampened blankets and buckets and ladders and books and poles and they did quite a good job and a great deal of it has survived. Indeed the vigils themselves have survived in a great deal of Europe through St Florian who I know is used by a number of member states as a representative of the protection of the service. But why do I say this because it has got nothing to do living in the past all I want to do is simply make the point that really we have co-operated before and benefited as Europeans and we have benefited by sharing our knowledge on how we fight fire, **this as you have heard is the first strategic fire safety workshop organised with the support of the European Commission, it is also the first workshop organised by the Federation of the European Union Fire Officers Association (F E U). F E U has been established for a period of eight years with the express purpose of seeking to establish within the European Union fire focus and expertise.** Its composed of all the association in the U K of the Chief and Chief Fire Officers Association and that's been done to provide advise to each European member state to the European Parliament and Commission. So that we gain the opportunity to promote awareness within our society about fire, catastrophe, and for which the fire service must prepare its prevention strategies and its response arrangements. Collectively F E U believes it can make a difference and



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through the European Union encourage and influence change, which will improve still further the social, environmental and general well being of all the European citizens as well as improving the quality of the organised emergency services. So sharing of ideas and knowledge is a key part of that process and this first workshop here in Chester in England is the first of one small step forward. You have already heard that, that step could not have occurred without the positive efforts both of Her Majesty's Government and the European Commission and on behalf of F E U I want to thank both the UK National Officials and the EU staff in the various civil protection units for their active support over the last six months in helping us bring this workshop together. The fire service throughout Europe has a tremendous reputation that's a reputation that is built on decades of service to communities the dedication of fire fighters is therefore well known and well respected and has often taken a heavy toll of some of its members. Since historic times as we have said whenever a calamity has befallen the citizens of any town within our union the local fire service however poorly equipped or poorly trained or well equipped or well trained has done its utmost to help today you are reminded of that on the video images of your television and in the Kosovo crisis I still find it remarkable to look at fire fighters fighting each others fires. But we do share a common humanity and alone no fire service can recognise all the challenges. Alone no fire service can meet all that is required of them, alone no fire service can prevent all the catastrophes that might occur. Alone no fire service has all the answers or all of the ideas. The lessons of the past and the present remain and will continue to drive us together since together we can identify the risks better, together we can support and help each other to handle those emergency situations better, together we can work on prevention strategies better, and together we can share better practice and knowledge. But where can we start? Europe has seen many, many catastrophes. And just to start with one that drew us all together Seveso Industrial Explosions in Chemical Plants, dreadful ferry disasters explosions and fires that occurred in transport systems. In Spain, in France, and then the dreadful problems of terrorism and bombs within our cities. The accidents involving our transport, aircraft, and of course within our domestic environment caused by man made products, LPG and the devastating affect that that can have.

But most fires are closer to home in the warehouses in our cities burning across the streets and causing us serious problems in our large scale buildings, shopping centres, transport that runs out of control and crashes onto railways, and railways themselves which have problems. Fire fighters attend all of these incidents and prepare to respond to all of these incidents. They also meet environmental damage whether that is caused by oil or simply by the devastating effects of floods, again fire fighters will be there with their strategies of response. They meet road accidents, they meet fires and of course they have to meet as I say man made problems such as radiation.

All this threatens our environment, our societies and causes major difficulties, but most, most of those deaths in fire occur within peoples homes, and within

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the rooms within those homes, and it really is this message that drives the workshop, that we must address these problems as well as the response strategies. **So one of the themes that I will touch upon clearly deals with fire safety within our communities.** All that disaster all those problems occurring on our own doorstep require us to seek and protect and encourage particularly the next generation to be safer.

But make no mistake. Europe will see its people suffer. We therefore must use our combined talents and experience, we must use the strength of the European Union, we must create the widest understanding of the problems presented by fire. We must propose solutions to meet those eventualities and **we must seek to protect all our citizens firstly through education and secondly with our skills.**

That is the objective of this workshop to confront those challenges to do so **we need to identify the costs both in human and material terms**, we need to seek solutions to reduce those costs by identifying best practice within the field of fire safety. We must identify the actions which will improve human and economic well being and more importantly we must draw these objectives together as an integral part of DG XI civil protection policy.

To achieve our stated objective **five major topics** of discussion have been arranged. To look at **fire safety best practice**. To consider how we might **find and use data and statistics**. To look at **partnership arrangements** and see how these might help reduce the impact of fire. To consider our own **vocational training needs** and finally to look at **how the European Commission directorates may better assist preventative and learning strategies.**

Finally we need to draw all of those conclusions together to create that wider of awareness and propose the action that will flow into the action plan. The conclusions of this workshop will be documented and will be presented to the European Commission with the plan of development of key themes and actions the work of each of our chairmen our rapporteurs is central to that process, but so is the contribution of every delegate. Since this is the First Strategic European Workshop held under the auspices of the European Union we need to use our time well and to try and address the issues that we have selected.

We know however that you may have ideas which you see as more important than the ones that we have selected and if we do identify new issues we will seek to capture them and draw them in for future consideration. This as I say is the beginning a small step but a very important step, we also need to remember that the European Parliament is the only trans- national assembly in the world elected by all of the citizens of Europe it does with the Commission effect everyone's life. The parliament's legislative process involving the procedures of co-decision, co-operation, and consultation are important political mechanisms for seeking change where there is a mutual

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and desired interest. Currently the fifteen member states each have members of the European Parliament that Parliament will have seven hundred M E P's under the Amsterdam Treaty when it is expanded it is important that we insure that each of those M E P's and all of the people who advise them are provided with our ideas, our solutions, to the problems that we think exist and are aware of the problems as we see them.

F E U realises that to reach and influence so many people requires a tremendous commitment and energy that I think has already been partly demonstrated by F E U forming a working association and conducting the work that it has already undertaken, some of that you will hear in terms of vocational programmes, some of it has already been demonstrated and you will see in your pack a European leaflet which exists to educate young people and it is everyone of the languages of the fifteen nations. We therefore hope that the conclusions of the workshop will add and contribute to the safety of all European citizens, that is the aim of this workshop and that is the reason that F E U has sought and received the support of the European Commission. I wish all delegates, all chairmen and all rapporteurs well as they seek to carry through that mission. Finally can I simply say I wish to thank our two first speakers who gave us such excellent addresses and I would like to provide to each of them a small token of our respect?

It now gives me great pleasure to introduce the first session chairman Her Majesties Inspector of Fire Services in England and Wales Mr Bob Baillie. Mr Baillie, many of you will know, joined the inspectorate a year ago from his home country of New Zealand. You are very welcome Mr Baillie and may I now hand over to you to conduct the first session.

FIRST SESSION

**Mr Bob Baillie:** Good morning. It is with pleasure that I introduce and chair the first section of this inaugural FIRE SAFE EUROPE 99 WORKSHOP. Throughout this morning and under the overarching title of Fire Safety Best Practice we will hear from Fire Safety Officers from both the United Kingdom and France who will cover a wide range of subjects associated with the concept of community fire safety. In the United Kingdom dwelling fires continued their increase from 66,300 in 1994 and albeit at a slower rate in 1997 a new peak of 72,200 dwelling fires was reached. Around ¾ of all fires and casualties occur in domestic dwellings in 1997 an estimated 560 people dies in fires in the home and about 14,900 people were injured a 5% increase on the 1996 year.

We the fire service have been very vigilant and striving for effective fire safety law and practice to protect those working in or using commercial, industrial, and major accommodation premises and the buildings themselves against fire. However the major loss of life and injuries resulting from fire are not occurring in the types of premises just mentioned but rather in the home. If we are to be successful in dealing with this unacceptable loss of life within the home then we must place a far greater focus on the development of fire safety strategies. Legislation in the United Kingdom is still awaited which will place an obligation on fire brigades to carry our fire safety community fire safety.

However bearing this in mind there is already greater concentration and allocation of resources being given to deal with the unacceptable levels of loss. **Government in the United Kingdom has recognised the need to have a national strategy in place to help co-ordinate Community fire safety activities.** The purpose being to ensure that examples of best practice are taken up elsewhere and to make sure the community fire safety and the reduction in fire deaths in the home is given a priority. I hope that you will all have had the chance to see the strategy in the safest houses report, which has been included in your delegate pack.

Our Minister George Howard will be talking more about the Government's approach to this work in his speech to us tomorrow. The United Kingdom is of course not alone in facing deaths fire deaths in the home and it is through such avenues as this workshop we are able to share information and tactics that will assist all in turn to deal with the unacceptable loss resulting from fire in the home. We in the United Kingdom embrace a wide range of activities and programmes associated with educating and protecting those in the community with the over arching term Community Fire Safety it is based around the fact that when most fire deaths in the home are accidental and preventable and that there is a great deal that can be done to stop that happening.

The first of the sessions this morning will focus on the Community fire safety framework, this will be followed by two sessions focusing on the citizen. We

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will then break for coffee and then on our return the remaining two sessions of the morning will focus on using technology and personal responsibility not state responsibility at the conclusion of these sessions Chief Fire Officer Jeremy Beech will lead the workshop discussion and the rapporteur.

It is now my pleasure to introduce our first speaker. And just before doing so if we could keep the questions until the workshop discussion it would be appreciated. Our first speaker is Alan Wroclawski who is an Assistant Chief Officer for the Kent Fire Brigade. Alan commenced his career in the London Fire Brigade in 1973 working up through the ranks in busy central stations he soon found himself in the Central Operations Department where he established a team responsible for corporate planning and policy review. Alan joined Kent in September 1990. He has served as head of Planning and Development of the Channel Tunnel Project Team. His current interests include travel, sport and his two teenage sons. Alan will address us on the Community Fire Safety framework. Welcome Alan.

**Alan Wroclawski:** Well Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen, friends and colleagues. I have been in the fire service twenty-six years now. So I am a little impatient to make sure that we take this forward over these next two days to make not just Kent or the United Kingdom but all of Europe safer. And who knows maybe the rest of the world.

Because Europe by any standard of imagination is large it is influential and very powerful. Today I hope I can help with this workshop and seminar so some of the lessons we've learnt in Kent. I apologise for not wearing my uniform today but I have come from the Home Office where I am looking at training and the review of training for the British Fire Service and training is so important, what we are doing to prevent fires occurring in the first place.

But this is also a milestone in my twenty six years because this is one of the first conferences that I have attended or ever spoken at where we are not talking about the lessons learnt from a fire that we have had to attend or the deaths and how we have learnt from those including our own fire fighters, but this is a milestone change for me because **we are actually talking about prevention and not intervention**. So thank you for that Bob and hopefully I will keep to my twenty minutes.

There we can see Europe with a population of three hundred and seventy million people and a massive budget and massive resources there to use, but the sad thing is when you look at some of the statistics and some of the statistics are still very difficult which is something we might want to talk about during this seminar, they are increasingly and incredibly difficult to look at to make comparisons and to set bench marks. When we look at fire death in the United Kingdom we are talking about seven hundred people a year, we are talking about a billion pounds worth of lost money just in residential properties, but when you extend that across Europe you are talking about nearly six thousand people dying, I am not quite sure if I am correct so I apologise to Bonn, but I think its about the size of Bonn.

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If you look at the cost of fire we are looking at between forty and sixty billion ECU's in any respect the size of Irelands gross domestic product. Imagine if we could use some of this money to liberate our resources and our energy into Community fire safety and not just fires and the people who suffer fire loss and business loss but the environment the immense environmental damage which is caused by fires and other emergencies.

But what is our perception of disaster? I think everyone will appreciate an explosion of this nature coming from a volcano and there is very little a fire service can do about that maybe in years to come man will be able to monitor and prevent these occurring. But we also look at these types of disaster whether it is in somebody's home, whether it is in their business, or whether it is in their country, and is this natural.

I think over many years that has been a question mark in my mind whether we in the fire service think it is a natural occurrence and all that we have to do is respond once the fire has occurred. What in my own brigade in Kent my colleagues Jeremy and some people sitting over there we challenged this concept about four or five years ago and said we actually don't think it is natural, we actually think we can do something about it. So we went against our mission and started to work to really see what the cost of fire was to loss and why do we accept the inevitable ness of the avoidable victim. Whether that is a small child or an old person or a country or a business. I think one of the problems we had is that I don't really think that there is a villain we think its natural we don't think we can do very much about it, so we respond with valour and bravery and good intention.

But there is a villain that probably me laying on a beach somewhere thinking about the next fire I am going to attend and what fire appliances I need to buy to respond to those fires, but actually the villain is three main areas. There is ignorance, there is ignorance in the population to what they can do for themselves to prevent fires and other emergencies occurring, there is acceptance I think not so long ago in the fire service that our role was one of intervention and not prevention and was one of complacency I am not sure whether it is at European Commission level or whether it is at brigade level where actually we work together as a team and not just in words but in outcomes and actions ones we can measure, ones which make a tangible difference. So we are looking at something slightly different and we need to change that mind set which turns endeavour into actions and outcomes. Yes I still accept volcanos, flooding in Holland, fires maybe in Greek forests as still natural although **I don't accept that fires whether in the home or elsewhere need to be tolerated** they are certainly unacceptable in my brigade and is certainly very pleasing to hear in the fire service in this country that they are no longer un-preventable.

So what did we do in Kent and I know in many other brigades in this country and so pleasing to see when I went to Europe last year with one of my colleagues Joe to look at what Europe was doing and all of the professionals

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that sit in this room today. And one of the things that we were talking about was to develop a plan it could be seven points it could be three points but it really talks about how can we make Europe safer or Kent safer or Chester safer from the dangers of fire and other emergencies. I think it's about thinking about the issues that are important, about the citizens that we have to protect and educate and look after all of those three hundred and seventy million citizens in Europe.

We need to be thinking about proxy protection and I will be talking about that within the plan that we have produced in Kent, which is by no means rocket science but some very simple steps, but it is a coherent systematic approach to looking after our community in Kent, which has one and a half million people. It is about secure environmental protection in the work that we do and how we respond to incidents and how we can protect our valuable and finite resources and environment. It's about sustaining our traditional values and in cherishing all of the things that we do as fifteen separate but integrated member states. It's about generating social prosperity and social inclusion with all of our three hundred and seventy million people. The fire service can do all of these things with your help and support of other people in our organisation. It's about creating business success and prosperity and finally it's about fostering European harmony.

Again not just in words but I am amazed that in the time since I was in Brussels just before Christmas and talking to Dennis and people in DG XI we have been able to hold this conference today, so it can show how easy it is to make things happen when people have a single agenda and a common focus. But we are looking for a new pattern of prevention in Europe where we can work together and not just talk together about various things. I want to look at prevention not intervention all be it that we clearly need to intervene and need to intervene professionally and competently and safely when we do so. I want to talk about action and not reaction, we want to look at intelligence and not ignorance and I mean ignorance in my own profession as well. I am talking about integration and not isolation. I am talking about organisations and people like ourselves actually working together in small teams having clear agenda aims and objectives. We are looking at a holistic approach it is a term we use when we are actually looking at the whole body, if I have a pain in my finger I need to look at my whole body to see what may be causing that. And actually in Europe when we look at fire and other emergencies we need to look across the whole area of our vulnerable communities and the work that we have to do to make sure we are dealing with our jobs successfully. I don't want fragmented concepts I don't want lots of different organisations not really working on the same agenda.

So we need to focus on prevention, we need to look at our buildings whether they are tall buildings very complex buildings chemical type sites heritage sites, we are talking about Chester, as I drove in yesterday I saw the walls of Chester and when I have travelled around Europe in many other places I have seen very rich heritage and tradition, when these buildings catch fire they are lost forever as is its artefacts and its people. And right down to

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domestic properties unfortunately in the United Kingdom most of the people the seven hundred people who die a year they die in bed or down stairs in their lounges falling asleep unfortunately most of those are old people or young people who in themselves can't protect themselves very easily. So we need to look at fire safety designs of those buildings before they are even produced. We need to look at the way they are engineered to ensure their safety so we develop fire safe buildings, we need to look at fire prevention measures so that once the building is designed that they stay safe once they are occupied and working, **we need to look at risk assessment** to make sure that we focus our small resources on energies in the right place at the right time and not in areas where actually our fire protection and engineering methods are so good there is an unlikely hood of a fire occurring.

We need to look at our regulations and I am pleased to see that Europe along with many other countries are looking at a lighter touch businesses cannot create without the burden of heavy regulation, but we do need to help them with that and we do need to look at safety management and the many people in the field of safety management and the fire service can help with that with the information and the knowledge and skills we have and many of you in this room.

We need to look at human behaviour how do people react in fires, how can we educate and make them energise themselves so that they can look after themselves and their own neighbours. And we need to investigate and learn the lessons from the fires that unfortunately we will still be return and go to even following this seminar. We all have our statutory buildings and ours happens to be in Westminster but we all have ours in member states but we really do need to look at those fire safe buildings so we don't design and build buildings I have lectured and talked about fires in un-compartmented buildings where we know they are going to burn to the ground and there is a likelihood that people will die including fire fighters if we continue to allow them to be built, we have a duty to make a noise about that and to try to prevent it happening in the first place. We need to educate those occupants and once we give them the safe building they keep it safe and they know how to leave a building should a fire occur.

We need to eliminate other risks in Kent alone we have had a number of twenty million pound fire losses where the start of the fire was a plastic wheelie bin pushed to the side of the building allowed to catch fire because children put it there and we lose a whole building and somebody losses there business. We need to undertake risk assessment, we need to develop models and **I am pleased to see people at the Home Office now developing risk assessment models** but we can really focus our attention.

Now there is no reason why we can't do that right across Europe and bring out risk assessments to see where the most vulnerable people are and the most vulnerable places are. And we do need to agree European standards wherever we can in terms of training, commonality and approaches. In Kent we say this "we probably don't know the house number but with the



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information and evidence that our team can now provide me and my colleagues we probably know the road, the street, the type of person where fire is likely to occur” What we don’t know at the moment is probably the house number but if I was honest to you we probably know some of those as well, because the background of some of those people and the conditions they live in are common to us and nine times out of ten are likely places where we are going to have a fire or other emergency.

We do need to know our risks, we do need to gather intelligence, real intelligence and share it with one another across Europe. We do need to agree action and focus on the things that are most important; we need to target our finite resources to prevent fires and other emergencies occurring. We need to monitor and validate our research because it is no good working if when we actually finish our work we have actually made no difference and we can’t make any tangible changes to the way people operate within their brigades and organisations.

We need to teach our children for the new millennium, because if we can teach our children new behaviours and attitudes they will teach their parents, they will teach their friends. We need to develop this holistic approach. Its no good a fireman going to the school one day and the police officer the next and the person who teaches to swim the next day and then the following week somebody from health and welfare.

**We need to work together to develop one programme across Europe to make sure that when we talk to the children across our community they will receive the same message.** So when they leave that room or that classroom or that piece of experience they actually are safer, they can swim they do know how to create a fire correctly and they do know how to ride their bike safely, they aren’t going to be molested in their local area, because we together will make them safer children. We must co-ordinate those action learning programmes because children are bombarded with exams and classroom work so we need to work very closely together and I am looking forward really to some of the work that the Commission will be doing in educating young people across Europe in all sorts of things relating to their own safety.

We need to measure that difference my own boys at the moment are doing their GSE ‘O’ levels I am sure everyone in your own member states do that they need to be set some sort of test about their own life skills their own life learning. We need to create safer children for our new millennium they won’t do it themselves others in this room and our colleagues back in our own offices will help create that. Are we safe neighbours? We in the civil protection education programme and awareness. I really don’t see that not only in Kent but also in the United Kingdom I think it has started but I would like to see it happen in the three hundred and seventy million people in Europe. I really do want to develop safer communities so people can be energised t look after themselves because as I think Paul Condon said this morning the Metropolitan Police Commissioner. Its people that catch

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criminals not Police Officers. And it is citizens who keep themselves safe not firemen, we do need to energise Jeremy Beech my chairman used this term and I have always used it since.

We do need to energise ourselves in this room our communities our ministers all of the people we can influence to make things happen quickly. Yes we do fire fight but amongst other things and in Kent has a proud tradition of responding to other incidents and I know many of you in this room do likewise. So we need to be prepared our fire fighters need to be trained and well equipped to common standards. We need to provide and do provide a full range of service.

In Kent fire brigade we sell our services and our framework document we don't just provide fire fighting services its the last thing we do. Our first thing we want to do for our bit is prevent fires occurring and should they occur then we will respond but its a failure if we are responding to fires. Intervention is our last resort not our first reaction. **And we are looking at creating joint response plans with social workers, educationalists, police, paramedics and when we do respond we respond professionally and promptly in looking after our citizens.**

We are partners, I am pleased to see two or three hundred partners today listening and talking about how we make our community safer, but we do need to focus our resources. And when I think about the Commissions work plan there are so many things that you people need to be doing and my own members and ministers and my own brigade we need to have an agreed action plan otherwise the task will be too big and nothing very much will be done. We do need to engage our communities in this and talk to them and listen and see what they want not what we think they need just as professionals we need to talk and engage with them. We need to think plan and act together in harmony across Europe simple words maybe more difficult to achieve. That's the full picture as you see it we have our seven or eight steps on how we can take it forward. This happens to be pictures of the United Kingdom but it could be anywhere in any of the countries in the fifteen member states. So where do we go from here.

We have our Europe, it's more powerful, it's converging, it's developing social charters, it could and should be one of the most powerful influential places in the world in terms of community safety. If we can undertake those tasks in establishing clear aims and objectives **working together in creating a Community fire safety plan using intelligent information which we can all share including the lessons learnt from incidents** I believe we can take Europe safer and protect our three hundred and seventy million people, and use the money we currently waste on attending fires into other areas of Community programmes, including education and social reform.

In Kent we have a shared goal, I hope today we have a shared mission, in what we are trying to achieve to create a safe more aware and prosperous community for endeavour and partnership. Thank you very much.

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**Bob Baillie:** Thank you Alan our next speaker is Anthony McGuirk he is the Deputy Chief Fire Officer for Merseyside Fire Brigade Anthony or as we refer to him Tony has recently been appointed Deputy Chief Officer of Merseyside Fire Brigade. Born in 1960 Tony joined Greater Manchester Fire Service as a junior fire fighter in 1976 he has moved up through the ranks serving in Buckinghamshire, Essex and joining Merseyside in September 1996. His interests include reading and road running, he is married with two children. And if as you walk around over the next two days see somebody that looks like his double then he does have a double because he is one of a twin pair. Tony is going to address us now on which citizens. Welcome Tony.

**Anthony McGuirk:** Well good morning. Thank you Bob. As Bob correctly mentioned I am one of a twin, I hoped he was going to refer to Tom Cruise walking around Chester as the source of confusion and not my twin brother, but there we go.

Firstly can I be (*tape stopped*) I would also like to thank our Town Crier this morning for the very different but excellent introduction to the conference. I was amused to look at some of the confused expressions on the faces of our European Colleagues to see the Town Crier, perhaps a very brief explanation that is actually a very long standing British Tradition and not as some of you may have thought confirmation of the European ban on British Beef.

As Bob said I am the Deputy Chief Officer of Merseyside Fire Brigade and again for our European Colleagues and perhaps for some of our English Colleagues Merseyside as an area is the neighbouring county to Cheshire. Described I thought in a very complimentary way by one of our Norwegian Colleagues as the county across the Fjord from Cheshire. It is the first time I have heard the River Mersey described as a Fjord, and the image it conjured up in my mind was extremely complimentary to the River Mersey I am not sure it deserves such a positive description.

This morning I am going to talk about a range of initiatives Alan has already set the scene by talking about frameworks and plans for Community fire safety and I am going to talk about some of the strategies and tactics that we employ in my brigade. Which is following very much a United Kingdom approach to fire safety within our community. We've called the concept in Merseyside "the every step of the way programme" before talking about some of the specific initiatives I think it would be useful to have a brief look at the fire problem in the U K to set the context. That is always assuming that we can get the technology to work.

In 1977 we have already heard some brief statistics from Bob over seven hundred deaths from fire in the U K alone. About three quarters of these were in the home, over eighteen and a half thousand non fatal casualties eighty percent of all fires were in dwellings, forty three percent of fires were malicious. I am conscious of the fact that from my perception malicious fires

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the problem with arson in some senses is very much a United Kingdom problem, but I do believe it is a problem that does exist in Europe, it is very much a hidden problem. Ten per cent of all our calls were hoax calls, once again a hoax call in many senses is very much a United Kingdom problem, but I do believe it is a problem that does occur throughout Europe as well.

The cost of fire, Alan has already talked in some detail about the cost of fire both in the U K and within Europe. But there are other very tragic and human costs, fire devastates whole families and whole communities to an extent which few crimes will ever match beyond the human cost, fires and injuries generate huge expenditure for local authorities, the fire service, for commerce, for our communities and for insurance companies.

Perhaps one of the greatest costs falls on our health services, because serious burns victims can require lifelong treatment and care. In attempting to broadly quantify the cost of fire a recent Home Office research has estimated that the cost of fire just within the United Kingdom alone is in the region of one billion pounds, in the region of one and a half billion ECU.

Research has shown that despite these disturbing facts the United Kingdom public and I think this also applies to the European public in general feel very remote from the dangers of fire affecting them individually and personally. Whilst almost half feel that they are likely to be the victim of a burglary or a crime and around about a third think that they may be involved in a road accident only four percent, four percent consider that they are likely to have a fire in their home.

The more detailed reports of fire danger reveals that the effects of fire are not evenly spread throughout our society. Alan again has made the point about our ability to actually target the street and in many instances the individual house were we believe fire is likely to occur. There is a very strong link between fire and social and economic factors that prevail in a particular geographic area and later on in this workshop we will be looking at the use of G I S information, the systems to assist in targeting. But it is a fact that the effects of fire are disproportionately felt by those in our society that are most vulnerable by the very young and the elderly, by those on their own, and those who are socially or economically disadvantaged. **In the United Kingdom fire policy has now recognised that if fire deaths casualties and indeed all fire related events are to be reduced then this will only be achieved by putting fire prevention and fire safety education at the heart of all fire service activity in the U K. An approach, which I believe, can be developed throughout the European Community.**

But it must be recognised that we cannot do this in isolation the fire service working on its own will not achieve the desired goals. Because many of these problems are the symptom of much deep-rooted social problems, we must work in partnership with a spectrum of other agencies to get fire safety and fire safety education into the strategies of those agencies. In devising

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strategies to deal with the fire problem effectively I believe that lessons can be learned from the world of marketing.

Ken Knight will talk about this in a lot more detail in his presentation, but very briefly. Given that the resources that we have will always be limited the first stage of this process must be a thorough and intensive analysis of the problem. We must identify the most serious problem. From this prognosis it is then possible to identify and target specific groups, specific publics, specific audiences for our fire message. We must thoroughly evaluate the outcomes of those initiatives to ensure that they are reaching the audience and we must ensure we are changing people's behaviour.

A simplistic illustration of this recognition of different and specific audiences can be drawn from William Shakespeare and William Shakespeare's 'The Seven Ages of Man'. Perhaps a more up to date concept is the North American comedian Bill Cosby's version of 'The Seven Ages of Man' and he defined those for modern America but I think they apply to most of Western Society as the pre-schooler the Pepsi generation, the baby boomer, the mid-lifer, the empty nester, the senior citizen, and the organ donor. Looking around the room I think we have got most of those groups represented, but I am not going to be specific to the group. In fire safety terms each of these groups is a separate and specific audience with their own problems, life style, attitude, culture, social needs, and aspirations.

Within these very broad definitions lie more subtle nuances of social and economic factors, which must be considered in designing strategies. Messages and strategies must be carefully tailored in terms of the content and delivery technique of the message. I would then like to touch on some of the specific needs of these groups together with some of the approaches taken in my own brigade to improve our own fire safety delivery. I should say that many of the strategies I will outline are used in other areas of the United Kingdom and indeed may be recognised by our European Colleagues.

Many of the programmes are on display in the hall and I would urge you delegates to please take advantage of the chance to have a look in more detail at some of the programmes developed within the U K. First of these is the pre-schooler this is the child in the four to five year age group, its of fundamental importance that the child in this age group learns some of the basic safety rules of life. Not to run into the road, not to play with sharp instruments, and not to play with fire amongst others. The main source of this safety knowledge is the child's guardian or the child's parents who from day one will almost subliminally implant the safety message, it is of course an important part of a fire safety task to take every opportunity to raise every opportunity to raise awareness of parents and guardians as to particular fire safety issues for their young children.

But in terms of direct education children of this age they can be best accessed by nursery education by reception class or whatever the lowest age of education provision is within your country. As a consequence the very young age of the children being targeted here means that they have a limited

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attention span the message has to be delivered in a very short simple and highly visual way, and the children must be involved. Careful consideration has to be given to the content of the message, there is a danger and we must avoid the danger of the information raising a curiosity of the child beyond its ability to cope with the information in a safe way. And we must always bear that in mind.

For this reason the role of the fire service should perhaps be limited to persuading professional carers to impart the fire safety message, and for us as services to support them in the delivery of this very important message. The information and material to do this. Five years to further education with correctly targeted programmes children can hopefully be given a positive attitude to fire safety, which will stay with them for life. Success with this age group is by far the most important part of any fire safety strategy in any terms of our long-term aim of making our citizens safer and reducing fire events. The fire safety behaviour is carried by the child into their own home and even those of their extended families and hopefully will be passed on to their own children. My own brigade has a number of examples where our training and education is being given to a child of that age group has actually saved families from disaster from fire, the child has taken control. In recognition of the importance of educating this group my own brigade strategy involves every child receiving two structured inputs at school from a Specialist Community Fire Safety Educator. These inputs are given at age eight and age eleven in the future we will extend this progressive fire education into the secondary school age group this we will achieve by integrating our fire education into the core curriculum, such as in maths such as in science and using these topics to deliver a fire safety message. We must co-ordinate our efforts with the core curriculum and not place education services in the position of having to choose between the core curriculum subject and fire safety. We also need a range of specialist programmes for children and young people there is one called false calls cost lives and I will touch on that in a moment.

But we have other programmes one of those is our face programme the fire awareness child education programme. This is an education programme that is available to parents or guardians of children who are aged between four and twelve years who display an undesirable curiosity or affinity with fire. This programme has been extended to many brigades within the U K, it is delivered in the home of the child and it targets not just the child but also the whole family, the whole family owns the problem, built into the programme is a system of networking which enables us to work with other agencies, such as social services, education authorities, and the burns unit of the major children's hospital.

Another programme we work in liaison with our probation services we operate an arson programme for young offenders between age twelve and twenty two. This is a thirteen week educational programme designed to confront arsonists and challenge them about their behaviour within Merseyside this programme is accepted as an alternative to a custodial sentence, what we term as an

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alternative to putting young people into a University of Crime. We have experienced a ninety nine percent success rate with this programme in terms of none of the programme participants have re-offended in the crime of arson.

Another vulnerable type of young people is when they leave home for example to enter further education, for the first time in many instances they are living on their own, a bit like when you come away to conference. Liverpool has a very large student university population over sixty five thousand students, we have tackled the problem by working with the university to produce a video and information leaflet and at the beginning of every new academic year the fire fighters themselves talk to every student in very small groups and explain the dangers to them. They are shown the video and they are given a leaflet this programme developed by fire fighters has been extremely successful and the hoax calls alone to student homes have reduced by some forty percent.

Adult education in fire safety, this group are a very wide-ranging group from age eighteen to pensionable age, and I am conscious that the term pensionable age means different ages across the whole of Europe. But they are not readily accessed by any structured form, but they can be influenced, they can be influenced by television campaigns and media campaigns. One example of this approach and the success of this approach is the Home Office's smoke detector campaign in the U K. And I know we have representatives from the Home Office with us today, this campaign raised smoke alarm ownership from around about ten percent to nearly eighty percent in ten years. This huge increase in ownership demonstrates the power to influence the public's attitude. If a high profile well professionally researched and put together programme and well-resourced programme is undertaken.

However existing techniques and approaches have not made sufficient impact on gauging the attitude and behaviour of those most at risk. Fire safety messages have either not been heard or not been acted upon and the smoke alarm profile shows this, we may have increased ownership but they were present in only a quarter of the dwellings involving fire, they actually raised the alarm in only forty percent of these, far fewer cases. The conclusion that must be drawn and the lesson for Europe as we move forward to European Campaigns hopefully on smoke detectors is that **we need a two fold strategy firstly the general public's awareness has to be maintained by means of a national and local media campaign, we must look into the creative use of media after fires to highlight the particular dangers and every opportunity must be taken to promote the message within the community.**

One example we use in Merseyside is a house to house campaign and visit and leaflet following a serious domestic fire in an area and this is where there is a heightened awareness of fire when there has been a serious fire in a community this must be done in a very sensitive way and it must be done where it is appropriate but when it can be done it can be extremely successful

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and once again the work is done by the operational fire fighters themselves working within their communities.

**Secondly** it has to be recognised that strategies have to be designed to influence the hard to influence the main thrust of our community fire safety approach on Merseyside is via a programme of **home fire risk assessments** again carried out by both operational fire fighters and our specialist fire safety staff. This programme of fire risk assessments enables the identification of the people at risk of fire in their home, and it enables appropriate action and advice to be given. This also includes the fire brigade ourselves providing and installing smoke alarms to those people who are most at risk. One specific group is the very elderly and the infirm Merseyside and I think in many brigades in the U K this group represents the highest risk group, represents the highest fire death, and represents the highest fire injury. They have acute problems relating to age or serious disability or both. Conventional community fire safe education is unlikely to be effective assuming the person is capable of absorbing the message they may be unable to act upon it, for this group only a more direct approach is likely to be effective, they may have very little contact with society therefore are difficult to identify equally they may be suspicious of permitting fire brigade personnel into their homes to help them. Accordingly we have put in place a programme we called 'Caring with the Carers' this programme targets those people who care for these very vulnerable groups that may include relatives, friends, neighbours but particularly those involved in the caring professions the voluntary sector and the social services who have in many instances daily contact with this most vulnerable group. There are examples of the 'Caring for the Carers' available if delegates are interested in finding out more information about this programme. We offer training support information to these groups of carers and we are available to respond with further advice or help in providing smoke detectors, in fitting smoke detectors and maintaining smoke detectors.

The pilot theme that I would like to briefly touch upon is partnership and marketing, in a moment Ken Knight will discuss the role of marketing in much more detail we have entered into many partnerships with local agencies as I am sure has every brigade in the United Kingdom the development of such partnerships both locally and nationally and hopefully internationally I believe is fundamental to success. Another aspect of partnership, which we must develop, is that with commerce many national companies have entered into partnerships, which have provided viable funds and viable sponsorship to support these sorts of initiatives.

To refer back to the Seven Ages of Man analogy each of those age groups represents in marketing terms a specific target audience, a specific group of consumers and many companies are interested in working with us in targeting these groups. I believe there is enormous potential to establish symbiotic relationships with companies to further the aims of fire safety. I know Ken will pick up this theme in a little more detail. I fully appreciate the work and experience that many of our European colleagues mean not reflect



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all of that in the U K although I would be surprised if most European countries do not share at least some of our problems I would ask our European Colleagues to consider our problems and hopefully our solutions and to share their experience their solutions and their knowledge and experience with us over the next couple of days.

To return again to a theme partnership if we knew Europe could integrate our efforts it would be a great step forward in our common aim in creating a safer environment for the European Community we serve. David Harrison in his presentation talked about the idea of a European Fire Chief and I would like to introduce an idea that you can take forward from today.

And that would be the idea of a European smoke detector. I have already highlighted the success of the campaign within the United Kingdom imagine the success within Europe if we could extend this campaign across Europe for a day. The future I believe is the collective ownership by everyone involved in the service and in the European Community to develop communities (I will use a phrase that is used by Ian Evans) from our Home Office Department.

Communities in fire safety terms are skilled for life and not scared for life and I believe our aim, as a group is to endure the partner of every member of our community every step of the way and every stage of our life. Thank you for listening this morning.

**Bob Baillie:** Moving into our last session before the coffee break. It is my pleasure to introduce Kenneth Knight the Chief Fire Officer of the West Midlands Fire Service. Ken commenced his career in Surrey in 1966 and he has since served in Devon, London and Dorset fire brigades in 1993 he was commissioned to undertake a review of the Zimbabwe National Fire Service. Ken was awarded the Queens Fire Service Medal in 1992 and appointed to Chief Fire Officer of the West Midlands in 1998. Ken has been involved with European CEN Standards for over ten years and is currently the chairman of the European Technical Committee for Fire Fighting Vehicles and Equipment. Ken's subject is communicating with the citizen. Welcome Ken.

**Kenneth Knight:** Well Good Morning. I am delighted to renew the contact and friendship of friends and colleagues who share the same goals in Europe. Can I first of all chairman congratulate the Federation of European Fire Officers Safety Commission and the F E U for arranging this forum and particularly to Mr Alessandro Barisich and his colleagues at DG XI for having the drive and the will to put fire safety on the agenda of the European Union. I would like to open my presentation very briefly by advising colleagues particularly in Europe about my own brigade in the West Midlands, were the West Midlands is situated in the centre of the United Kingdom and consists of a mixture of residential and industrial property and comprises of seven cities and towns that make up the West Midlands area.

There is a population of broad social and cultural mix in the West Midlands consisting of a population of 2.6 million people and to protect the community

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for community fire safety and our interactive fire activity we have forty one fire stations we have two thousand one hundred and forty five full time uniformed staff and four hundred and sixteen non-uniformed support staff. The West Midlands Fire Service currently has a budget of eighty five million pounds 131.5 million Euro and in 1988 attended over fifty six thousand incidents, which resulted in seventeen preventable fire deaths.

The main part of my session today Mr Chairman is to talk about **communicating with the citizen** I would like to link my talk with that of the previous speaker Tony McGuirk when he talked about which citizen and we have just been hearing how to identify the citizen we should be targeting.

My presentation is aimed at how we communicate with the citizen and there is no doubt that in devising a communication strategy and environmental analysis is essential certainly in the United Kingdom we have found that social and economic factors profoundly effect the risk of the citizen this provides a focus but does not mean that socially disadvantaged people should be the only target for communication of a safety message. There is need for a communication strategy which includes tools for general public awareness as well as means for reaching those who may need the message most and they are indeed often the most difficult to reach.

So what then are the core messages that we are trying to communicate? Well first and foremost we are concerned with prevention we want to encourage safe behaviour for example by promoting safe cooking and persuading people to follow safe means particularly before going to bed and we want children to play safely and avoid fire hazards. If we can't prevent then we must be able to detect an increase in home smoke alarm ownership which as Tony referred to is over eighty percent in the United Kingdom has been demonstrated to save many lives, but as Tony has quite rightly said is not the end of the story. Once a fire has occurred and is detected we want people to know what to do. They must understand how quickly fire can develop the danger of smoke and the importance of pre planned escape routes and preparation. And I would now like to talk about some of the most important features of a public safety communication before looking at the structure being put in place in the United Kingdom.

No private company would consider marketing a product or selling a message without conducting market research. The attitudes and awareness of the audience are important to any communication indicator. So how can this be achieved by a service industry like ours, public meetings and focus groups can be useful although it should be recognised that this may often mean giving an incentive or reward to people in the target group in order to secure attendance.

It has been noted that young adults are particularly hard to reach and face-to-face market research with USA students showed the reason for this. Fire fighters they found were effectively telling the audience what to do and what not to do they felt they were being treated like children they asked to be given real world information and ultimately real burn victims were introduced

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as speakers. This applies to so many groups at particular risk who feel patronised by the public service and because of this difficulty of carrying out mass marketing research we have deprived sectors of the community. It is essential to use local staff within the community to research those attitudes this type of qualitative research can often be done effectively using a very small sample of the local population who are switched on to the issues for a particular group.

There is of course always a place for statistical information and the importance of data both in market research and in identifying problems and it cannot be over emphasised and this will be dealt with I know from colleagues from Greater Manchester from Norway and the Netherlands later in the programme. If we are going to work for a fire safe Europe in the next millennium we have many cultural issues to address. This will effect our communication strategy my own area has a broad cultural mix including many people from black and Asian communities these citizens are not ethnic minorities in my area but indeed are a substantial proportion of the community many of these groups feel alienated and patronised by organisations like ours.

This reflects not only on the delivery of our safety measures but also on our own recruitment and we are looking at linking these two areas into an integrated message for the fire service. We have tackled safety issues by producing informative material in Punjabi, in Hindu, in Urdu in Bengali, Gungerati, Chinese and Vietnamese. Language is only the most obvious cultural factor to be taken into consideration. And some groups value independence are suspicious of authority others have strict cultural taboos, for example against women associating with men other than in the presence of a male / female member of the family.

My officers have visited numerous countries including Japan, the U S A, New Zealand, Pakistan, Australia, as well as the countries in Europe. In order to try and identify best practice and find out how different cultures address safety issues. In Japan there is a high sense of social responsibility which some associate with the population density where the historic and continuing threat of earthquake has led to the development of a very sophisticated community development system and community safety training. Some feel that these systems would not necessarily work in cultures, which place more value on the individual, and that point is debatable but what is certain is that some techniques used in Japan and other parts of the world offer valuable lessons for any culture. The first safety education facility at the Hon Jho centre in Japan were I sent some of my officers is an example which we have learned from leading to the creation of community fire stations at the heart of at risk communities here the Hon Jho fire centre only the ground floor is the fire station the rest is the public safety centre were the public go to learn about safety issues with dedicated educational facilities.

These are not just lecture theatres but practical demonstration facilities using real flame and fire. I note the speakers from my previous brigade Dorset will

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be talking later about their own holistic safety centre in the United States of America there is a vast range of programmes designed to address the most culturally diverse population in the world and the Miami Fire Department dealt with a population which largely is based in Latin America and particularly Cuba. The single most effective action taken was to assign fire fighters of the same ethnic background onto their public safety projects in this case the valuable lesson learned was that the same education message in a different language with local deliverers worked well and suspicions were overcome.

In their book 'Reaching the Hard to Reach' the Tridata Corporation of the USA lists hundreds of examples of alternative community information strategies, there is no doubt that meeting those most at risk face to face has proved to be one of the most effective ways of communicating. In my own area in one particular high-risk inner city area Spark Hill we visited every home and created a fire free zone with a hundred percent smoke alarm ownership.

Many fire deaths in the U K are related to alcohol or drug abuse and people at risk from these are often known to other agencies and can be targeted for advice or at the very least a personal risk assessment of the home environment.

On the subject of partnership working there are some good examples of indirect communications by means of third parties, which Tony referred to earlier on. It is possible to reach the elderly and the less able through health workers and domestic helpers working for local authorities or help agencies. It is the messenger as much as the message that gives it the credibility we in the West Midlands have developed a partnership with the local health trust to reach the people most at risk.

I understand that another local authority has made participation in domestic risk assessment a condition of tendering for such work by contractors. We are beginning to learn there is a need for realistic messages in the past a variety of friendly characters have been developed, which don't necessarily bring the right message that fire can maim or kill you. These images might be appropriate for very young children but more realistic images are more likely to create the desired lasting impression the latest U K national campaign gave the message that it is easier to replace a dead battery than a dead child. This seems to be about as far as U K campaigners were prepared to go, the consumer is already getting strong messages from competing other areas of safety such as road safety, and as an example whilst this very campaign was being run on fire as being felt as far as the campaigners could go the counterparts in road safety ran a series of advertisements where they got to know the people in the car until there was a road accident and there was a person killed with a collision. Images such as this have been used with some success; **fire should be portrayed as something, which could lead to tragedy, which can be overcome with the appropriate precautions.**

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We found in the U K that when it comes to trying to reach the really difficult audience it often seems that an individual innovator sparks off an idea runs with it and makes it work, these people in all of our organisations need encouragement and support. They can be single minded sometimes and difficult to manage but the secret is to keep the balance of innovation, motivation, and organisational control. The whole organisation needs to be one message so that innovation tends to be directed at the strategic problems identified by the earlier research there is much more to discuss in terms of hands on issue but I must now turn to the communication structure which I mentioned being in place in the U K.

A Government Community Fire Safety task force will set out to review fire prevention work in dwellings because **the vast majority of fire deaths in the UK occur in the home**. The team were drawn from the fire service, communications and marketing experts and they concluded in 1997 by reducing the 'Safe as Houses Report' which the chairman referred to earlier on and delegates will find in their packs in front of them. They said that there was a questionable leadership and direction in community fire safety, in some areas there was inadequate resource there was potentially a duplication of effort and the wheel was constantly being re-invented, and that there was a **lack of effective communication with those most at risk**. It was noted that proactive preventative work was the poor relation to fire fighting and it had suffered consequently the task force recommended that communicating safety to citizens should become a core and primary activity and as part of the implementation of this report a communication strategy was proposed.

The core message of prevention, detection and escape behaviour were emphasised and the responsibilities of central government and the fire brigades were more clearly defined. The central media strategy was formulated to use for mass media such as television to communicate messages of broad appeal to mass audiences purchasing of media space and time would now be done centrally using the government Home office Central Office of Information, scheduling is done centrally with brigades being consulted about the balance of the fire safety campaigns.

And finally the timing of campaigns was also identified it is intended to run three major national campaigns a year, although in this the first year two may be likely. These major campaigns are timed to coincide with increase in instance typically at times like autumn and Christmas, and it recommended in the report that the budget was to be increased substantially for this fire safety work in the community and this year the government has provided fourteen million pounds twenty one and a half euros to allocate it for the first three years of the project. The final recommendation was from central government for there to be a national community fire safety centre which should be created. This centre now exists and in terms of communication with citizens its tasked with co-ordinating national campaigns and with the creation of a toolbox of resources for use by brigades. I am delighted to see Mr Chairman Ian Evans the centre co-ordinator with us at this important seminar. This

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toolbox would achieve a great consistency of approach and will allow the application of marketing brands to campaigns.

Fire brigades now have a responsibility to produce a communications plan to include work with local media it is intended that fire brigades will tailor and combine elements from the toolbox using their own local knowledge and assessment of use in the community the delivery of hot spot campaigns were a particular area is known to be at risk and quick strike campaigns are designed to take advantage of increased awareness in the immediate aftermath of a serious incident that Tony referred to. These changes are aimed at retaining the best of local knowledge and introducing a strategic focus on prevention rather than cure, it is early days and already the concept is starting to evolve a five year performance indicators have been set to test the achievements of the new communications structure and to allow monitoring of the centre to take place, if the targets are achieved there will be four hundred and fifty people still alive in the United Kingdom who might otherwise be dead many thousands will escape injury and hundreds of millions of euros will have been saved.

This cannot be classed as best practice on a national scale yet but just think of the excess that could be achieved on a European wide basis. **Sharing of best practice or even common policy across Europe could be beneficial in terms of clearly defined messages** resourceing and economies of scale in marketing terms this policy will always have to be interpreted by those in touch with local cultural issues even down to the level of individuals in the community.

What has been found to be universal in all cultures is the tremendous power of our brand of industrial marketing directors would give a great deal for our public image and this should never be underestimated in any campaigns that we undertake? A wide variety of community fire safety communication methods have been developed and I know that you can see some excellent examples in the exhibition area and talk to some of the innovators there that are responsible for them I hope Mr Chairman that delegates will take the opportunity to do so and I hope that this forum will provide a new thrust for sharing the best practice from today onwards. Thank you.

**Bob Baillie:** We are going to take this opportunity to thank Alan, Tony and Ken for the excellent contribution that they have made this morning to developing and bringing out the various aspects of the themes which we are driving through at this conference. Thank you very much. It is now time to break for coffee, we have twenty minutes if we could be back sharply at five minutes past eleven, we are keeping excellent time at the moment and if we can keep to that it will enable more time to develop some of the themes during the workshop discussions. Thank you very much.

**Bob Baillie:** Fire master he represents the Institution of Fire Engineers on the Scottish Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council. Welcome Harry.

**Harry:** Good Morning. Using technology, we are all aware of the significance and the dependency on technology in our modern day lives, be it at home, at work, or for leisure.

My paper today will relate to one small aspect of Information Technology utilisation of one area dealing with the production, storage and **communication of information utilising computers microelectronics to promote fire safety education.**

Cheshire fire brigade has for many years had a very proactive approach to education as it relates to fire. In particular we have a well-established fire safety education programme within all our schools particularly at key stages one and two of the national curriculum. It was evident with CD Rom optical disc technology with its capacity to store vast amounts of data the speed of access and the selectivity that could be used offered tremendous potential for fire safety education and educational purposes in general and was therefore the appropriate platform for us to further develop our educational programme. There can be no doubt today the optical disc is a very powerful and cost effective communication and therefore education tool. The National Council for Educational Technology the advisory body to the Department for Education on Information Technology in their report CD Rom in school scheme evaluation and development published in 1993 recognised from the reports from their respondents to the survey that the choice of curriculum relevant discs available to education professionals was inadequate.

The brigade therefore took the decision that in 1994 to develop and **interactive multi media computer based programme for fire safety education and fire safety awareness** by alignment of the educational content of that package the key stage three of the national curriculum the primary age group being eleven to fourteen year olds. Multi media applications to facilitate the generation of varied and stimulating educational content thereby fulfilling the need to reach children through channels that they would find both enjoyable and entertaining. Children are increasingly sophisticated users of IT they amongst everybody are very aware of major development and multi media is at the forefront. Their IT awareness their ability ensures that students can intuitively understand screen prompts and are able to work with confidence in this medium and therefore navigate through the programmes.

And so over the next three years we have developed our CD Rom culminating in 1997 in the launch of 'Fire Chester', which is an electronic town, which offers students a full range of hazards that they might encounter. Fire Chester followed the practice of many software producers in that it provides conditions where learning is achieved through doing and the disc is dual formatted and run on PC's or Macintosh. All of the elements as I said align to the requirements of the national curriculum making them a key stage

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threes, specifically and particularly to English, Science, to History to IT, and to Social Education PFC. Whilst the package feels like a game there is a very strong educational full dimension to it, fire safety message permeate every element.

We have built a series of scenarios around it and a number of hazards with particular attention devoted to number nineteen that is the house in which all manner of typical hazards are found and explored.

The Fire Research Institute in this contains five laboratories and is particularly relevant to the science curriculum and here students are encouraged to investigate the underlying principals of fire and fire related topics and subjects.

There is a library, which provides extensive research material comprising museum text videos and photographs. The students can also visit a social area, which starts a disco, which recreates the events of one night in Dublin in 1981 when forty-seven young people lost their lives in a fire.

Throughout the programme students progress is recorded and on completion of the programme a record of achievement certificate can be produced and presented to each student.

Fire Chester is designed heavily to help children to develop their English skill in reading, in writing and in speaking and a variety of tests require them to read a wide range of information and to write about many fire related topics both in a factual and a fictional way. Their listening skills are also tested and called on to summon the instructions and information that's open to them by characters within the programme. That's particularly useful for special needs children.

Fire Chester itself fulfils several aspects of the national curriculum at key stage three for science within the context of exploring the subject of fire and its related topics and these include, systematic enquiry dealing with and coping, investigation, deduction, analysis and presentation.

The application of science in particular Fire Chester encourages the understanding of how science has helped us to understand fire and prevent the dangers associated with uncontrolled fire. Communication by demonstrating a number of ways of presenting scientific information and test results and health and safety by showing examples of fire hazards in a variety of forms settings and encouraging students to relate these in their own experience and their own environments.

Students are also invited to run number of computer models and scenarios within the package so that they are able to experiment with fire in the safety of the desktop. And these cover electrical safety, the dangers of smoke and smoke movement, oils and fats, materials and petro chemicals.



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Fire Chester assists pupils also in understanding the capabilities of multi media systems it demonstrates the capacity of sound, text, pictures in the form of stills, photographs, and animation to be brought together in a directive package that offers the user considerable scope for choice. It enables the students to use IT to generate, amend, organise and present ideas to save through the notebook facility and inform with the desktop publishing facility and to access all stored information within the context of the pictures or text. It also allows students to manipulate IT based models and simulations within the package to help them understand the outcome of various scenarios and the decisions relating to fire and fire hazards.

In the context of history Fire Chester sets four tests that are directly relevant to the key stage three curriculum, fire fighting through the ages, great fire of London, fires during the blitz during the second world war, and the stardust disco fire, all of which are designed to show the understanding of chronology, historical enquiry, and organisation and communication. Students are required to investigate the historical sources, synthesise the situation and then present their conclusions in the form of a narrative account.

That's a quick skate through. At this point what I would like to do is take a pause and give you a whistle stop tour of one particular aspect of Fire Chester. Thank you Phil.

*(Music)*

*(Birds)*

*(Helicopter Sound)*

*(Birds)*

*Welcome to Fire Chester. You can move around Fire Chester by pointing and clicking with a mouse. When your mouse is over something that can be selected the pointer changes to a hand. You can also move to the different rooms or buildings also called scenarios using the scenario menu. If you are not sure what to do in any particular room you can select a text book where only the pages relevant to the scenario you are in will be shown. This text book also suggests the written tasks you can perform using the material in Fire Chester, there is even a notebook for you to record at any time your thoughts or relevant and useful information, which you can then print out if required. If you click on the balloon at any point you will be taken to this overhead view of Fire Chester whilst the back arrow when it is available will take you back to where you were before. The school provides access to the user manual, which is also available as a text and word document in the documents directory or folder on the Fire Chester disc. However it is the house number 19 that is essential to Fire Chester, the garage comprises a discovery task and you have to find three typical hazards. Once inside the house the under stairs cupboard in the hall provides a related identification task. By clicking on and opening the box in the hall an equipment placement task is revealed, here you have to find the best places for fire extinguishers and smoke alarms as well as a fire blanket. The kitchen is a task undertaken on three levels where you have to find the best way to extinguish a chip pan fire within the allocated time for each level. The lounge provides a discovery*

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task based around the fire triangle where sources of air, fuel and ignition have to be found. It also provides an activity where you have to match up family characters with sources of ignition and fuel to reveal a story. In the teenagers bedroom there are electrical hazards to find all of which can be investigated in the electrical laboratory of the fire research institute. The laboratories in the fire research institute all relate to the rooms in the house. The electrical laboratory provides activities where the correct fuse has to be found for a variety of electrical appliances and the wiring of a plug has to be checked. The composition of the hazards found in the garage are investigated in the petro chemical laboratory, there is an activity where you have to match oil products to the appropriate fractions in an oil distillation column. The chip pan fire in the kitchen is explored more detail in the oils and fats laboratory as chip pan oil is heated until it catches fire. Placing fire safety items in the hall task such as a smoke detector is explored in the smoke laboratory and a three dimensional model of a smoke detector is used to explain how these detectors work. In the materials laboratory a three dimensional model is used to explain the three primary methods which heat is transferred during a fire. Graphs of heat release rates for various sources of fuel such as bookcases and seats in the lounge are shown in this laboratory. It was the seats in the Stardust Disco in 1981 that caught fire leading to a catastrophe that Dublin will never forget. The Sparks nightclub allows you to explore the history and cause of the disaster. You can write and print letters, brochures, reports and newspapers about the Stardust disaster or any other topic from Fire Chester using the facilities in the Fire Chester Flame News Room. In the library there are more than two hundred pictures of fires and accidents and you can incorporate any of these pictures into your document in the Fire Chester Flame News Room. The library also provides several videos of major fires and accidents as well as an extensive text library, which is available for your research and use. You can simply click on headings, use the hypertext links or search for words, whether you are interested in cooking, fire works statistics or emergency calls. Of course no town called Fire Chester without an opportunity to answer emergency calls. In the control centre you have to choose some of the questions the control operator asks a caller in an activity that stresses speed as well as accuracy. The fire brigades of the past did not have today's modern control centre or even telephones and the Fire Chester Museum provides an opportunity for you to research the history of fire fighting and even write and present your own summaries in date order. As you work your way through Fire Chester your progress and marks will be recorded in your file, which you should save often using, save in the file menu. If you try a task again your marks will only be replaced if your new result is better than your previous saved marks and so you should feel free to try an activity as many times as you wish. Next time you use Fire Chester you must open your file as soon as you begin so that any new marks in any one scenario are in the same file as your other scenarios. You can even password protect your file and print some or all of the results. Fire Chester will also print a record of achievement although only the teacher's password allows access to this. Remember if at any point you are not sure what to do open the textbook with this button and read the instructions.

(Birds)

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**Harry:** The primary aim of Fire Chester is to foster a safe and sensible attitude to fire and fire hazards and the package has been designed to educate students in a cross curricular way about the dangers of fire, what actions are appropriate in certain situations and the need to be alert to potential fire hazards both in the home and elsewhere. It encourages investigation into the relevance of scientific facts about ignition, combustion, smoke and heat spread all relevant to student's lives. It strongly discourages playing with fire and tries to drive home that hoax calls can and do cost lives. Technology provides unparalleled opportunity to promote fire safety awareness and education in a format, which is relevant, challenging, entertaining and enjoyable for students.

It is evident from this morning already that the energy, the enthusiasm and the commitment to fire safety within brigade and the ideas is absolutely overflowing. What's required is to harness all of that, but the service needs to co-operate and co-ordinate its approach so that we can maximise available resources to insure that full potential and cost effectiveness of this particular medium are realised.

Each of you in your delegate's package will have a copy of Fire Chester

**Tom McCarthy:** Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen. Its a very great pleasure indeed to have the opportunity to speak to an International audience on the subject of Fire Safety an issue that transcends the barriers of state, politics, culture and language, an issue which is close to my heart and which has occupied a great deal of my energies over the past three years, particularly in my previous role as the chair of Cad Force Community Fire Service Working Group. I am especially pleased to have the chance to talk albeit briefly about the ways in which **new and emerging technology** can assist us all in tackling the wasteful loss of life and property, the over arching theme of this two day seminar. The particular slant on technological applications to fire safety that I will outline for you today is a radical departure from the traditional my contact is not the engineered solution to an environmental fire safety that have so improved our ability to create safer work places and public buildings. My subject is the distinct but complimentary approach the concept of the fire safe person. This is the world of human behaviour. Attitude to fire risk is the key area on which we must focus and communication is the tool by which we can influence the future. Communication in particular with our young people who after all are the future.

In the United Kingdom alone we have fifty nine million people, three hundred and seventy million as we have already heard today in the European Union.

I would like to just pause here and offer an apology to our European Colleagues, I did try to get on this slide a map of Europe coming out of the World, it was a little to big, then I tried for one of the U K coming out and that didn't work either, so I am afraid we are stuck with a slide showing Scotland.

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Perhaps something not too unusual bearing in mind the events of the next couple of weeks. Being a little bit concerned I did decide to consult and I spoke to that well known European Dennis Davies or Dennis McDavies as we are now starting to call him. And Dennis of course said that it was okay, so we have got a slide of Scotland coming out of the World.

As I said in the U K alone we have fifty nine million people each of whom has the potential to adopt the life style and specific behaviour patterns that can determine the future trends of the fire loss statistics that were shown to you this morning, and in order to influence the profile of that behaviour by providing education, information and advice on fire safety we must first of all reach them with our messages.

As I have said communication is the key. We must find ways of reaching the public in their homes, schools, workplaces, and clubs wherever else we can find an opportunity to bring our fire safety messages to their attention. I am pleased to say that this objective is now being vigorously pursued by fire brigades up and down the United Kingdom and I am sure across the European States represented here today. However I happen to believe that we are only beginning to develop our expertise in this field. Only beginning to exploit the available options for delivering our messages and this is perhaps the key issue of importance to our success the ways in which we appreciate and put to use the whole range of communications media that are available to us. It is my view that to be successful in our task we must access and use all of the various routes that are available to reach our audience, from television adverts to poster campaigns, from the innovative CD Rom that has already been described to you, to the direct teaching of young people in schools, and as far as technological solutions are concerned we can't afford to ignore the most exciting and rapidly evolving of them all, I talk of course of the Internet.

Before I go on to describe our work in this area in a little more detail I would like to make the point that our activities in discovering and developing this range of communication tools are in no way competitive or even mutually exclusive. On the contrary this has to be recognised as being a complimentary effort a multi directional attack on the same target, our chances of success are enhanced enormously with the exploitation of the route through which we can deliver the message. The message that fire is an enemy but an enemy that we as the fire community have the will, the capability, and the power to defeat. That in fact is the message that we have woven into an education programme for ten to eleven year old children on the Internet it is a message that the dedicated staff on my own brigade had been delivering directly within a core of fifty-two primary schools within our brigade area. But in order to spread the message more widely potentially to every school in our brigade area or dare I say it every school in the European Union, we required an alternative solution that solution was and remains the Internet.

**Our objective was to translate the key themes of our core safety education programme into a form that could be delivered on the world wide web**, our close working relationships with other brigades in Scotland quickly confirmed that the demand for such a facility was much wider than our own immediate interests and our ambition became a site that could be used by all Scottish brigades in order to pursue their own project interests however the realisation of this ambition was not within our grasp without considerable assistance having come up with the idea we needed professional advisors from within the educational establishment in order to ensure that our product would meet the demands of its intended audience. Having determined that the proposed material was suitable we then needed experts from the world of Internet technology to translate this into an operational web site or extranet as the techies call it. And with everything else in place our most critical need became that of funding.

It is for me one of the most pleasing aspects of this project that our partnership included colleagues at national government level whose understanding of this issue and appreciation of its importance resulted in Scottish Office funding on behalf of all eight brigades north of the border. So what have we got that doesn't exist elsewhere, well firstly we have a programme that potentially can be accessed anywhere in the world currently ten brigades are signed up to use the site as part of their fire education programme and each is now marketing it within their own area, twenty nine other United Kingdom Brigades have expressed a firm interest in using the net in their programme. So this year will see the site being used from the north coast of Scotland to the south coast of England, and as schools Internet access becomes more widespread the potential audience will grow accordingly, until I am sure every school in the country will be accessing and using this site and if anyone of you remains sceptical about the incredible speed in which this technology is becoming integrated into education the example of my own local authority in Edinburgh where every classroom will have Internet access this year is as clear a signpost as we could hope to see.

The second thing that the Internet provide is the ability to update our messages with ease, literally at the touch of a button and at negligible cost the programme that is now on the net can be amended added to or edited to reflect any new issue or emphasis that we or any of our host brigades may deem appropriate. This inherent flexibility will ensure that the life span of the programme is not limited by the risk of its messages, languages or graphics becoming dated all of these can be regenerated to ensure that the relevance of the programme to its audience and to our own agenda can be maintained and improved.

Finally and probably most importantly the Internet provides us with the ability to measure both the use of the programme and its impact on the fire safety awareness of the children using it. Geographically specific data on the number of users is available to each brigade alongside this the scores achieved in the tests at the end of the various sections of the programme are also captured by the main site server and again can be accessed by brigade

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at a touch of a button so we can actually start to measure the effect that we have had with our education programme, both at school, both at brigade level and indeed at national or international level. So that we can start to do some of the work on measuring the performance and bench marking that people are so keen to develop today. Add this data to local fire statistics and you have all the raw material necessary to carry out the type of quantity evaluation that has rightly become a theme of auditing and insuring best value in the fire service. So having outlined the programme for you it would seem appropriate now to let you see exactly what it looks like in action. And hopefully it will now come up as if by magic on the screen.

What I have got here are two different demonstration modules from the seven modules that are available to schools. The first one is called 'Causes' and it is a score point and click programme which highlights the three main hazards in the home how they work and most importantly how they can be avoided, its concentrating on electricity, smoking and cooking. Children identify and eliminate the hazard and at the end there is a quiz to confirm and measure and therefore record the achievement of the school children for the class, school, brigade and national level. It was developed with two schools within our area so the graphics have actually been designed to a certain extent by the school children themselves and we are told by them that this is very suitable for ten and eleven year olds. It attracts them in terms of the graphics and it doesn't patronise them or speak down to them in any way, its totally interactive and they work at their own speed. The second module is one called 'Stay Safe' and this is based on a fire incident room children actually gauge the cause and effect of a real incident an incident which happened within our brigade in our area and one in which lives were actually saved, we have tried to put forward a positive message through with this. The main lesson here is that closing doors saves lives. We considered using colour photographs but in fact the children told us that the black and white ones were more effective in driving home the message in this particular part of the module. Again at the end we have a quiz to confirm, measure and report each child's progress. If any of you are interested in actually seeing this working live we do have a demonstration module out in the exhibition area where one of my colleagues will be happy to run through the entire module with you, in the short space of time we have today I'm afraid I can't show you at all. As I say the final message was because this door was closed the child who slept in that room was actually rescued by the brigade. And finally at the end of it there is just a little confirmation of the main points that we want to get over. So what of the future well as I have said the module is now available to anyone who wishes to use it. It is customisable so it can be adjusted to suit any of the brigade areas in the United Kingdom it is also capable of having the language translated to any language within the European Union I have to say at a small fee however that work is quite easy to do I am reliably informed.

I am also pleased to announce today that we have achieved sponsorship from the fire prevention association to start work this year on the next block of modules which we intend to aim at thirteen to fourteen year olds, and that

work will start in the autumn and hopefully by the beginning of next year we will have another module which we can show you. That's all that I have to say today, but I would encourage you to go and actually see it working live on the net its much more impressive that just a short run through that I can show you today. Thank you all very much.

**Bob Baillie:** It is now my pleasure to introduce our last speaker of the morning session Lieutenant Colonel Chief Fire Officer François Maurer. François commenced his career in Paris as a National Service Fire Fighter in 1977 and served on Mulhouse in charge of fire prevention. He later joined Nobuss Fire Brigade as Chief Fire Officer and was subsequently appointed Chief Fire Officer of the Brigade of the Rhine County in 1988. François is a Civil Engineer and has an M A in Civil Engineering Management he also plays a prominent role in the C T I F serving as General Secretary and President since 1997. François subject is personal responsibility not state responsibility. François.

**François Maurer:** Mr Chairman Ladies and Gentlemen. Dear Colleagues and for some of you Dear Friends, hopefully for all of you in a few minutes Dear Friends.

My paper deals with **responsibilities in France**. I'll go through first the political and administrative organisation of the country then the fire and rescue authority what are the fire services missions and then an analysis of the responsibility. The country counts 36 000 communes in a wide range from small villages to large cities, each of them being managed by a municipal council. By the way, 36 000 is the same amount of communes as all other fourteen European Countries. The municipal council votes the budget and makes decisions the mayor will have to execute. The communes belong to a county, the hundred counties including overseas in France are managed by the County Council also called General Council, Conseil Général. The councillors are elected by the people of the district consisting of several communes, so that all urban and rural areas are equally represented in the Council. Between County and State there are other institutions like regions but they have no financial responsibility in the fire service organisation.

At the upper level of the country is run by the Government, which is nominated by the President of the Republic. The Parliament passes laws and exerts a control on the government action. A particularity in France: the Prefect, in each county the government is represented by a Prefect he has a double role he is the manager of all national services working in the county, roads and motorways, health care, social care, police, for instance and he oversees the legality of local authorities decisions, municipal and county council for example. Before the de-centralisation law of 1982 he had also to approve the budget and the decisions of all local communities prior to execution. Today these institutions are considered as responsible adults and the prefect only has the possibility of taking local authorities to an administrative court if he has reasons to think a decision is not legal

regarding to procedures or to fields of competence. If it is the case the court will quash the decision.

The law introduced by the Socialist Government and issued from the elections of 1981 brought an important change in the traditional political and administrative background in France, a transfer of some of the Prefects powers to Local Political Authorities.

This was the case also in our fire and rescue organisation, the decisional power in non-operational management has been transferred to a board of directors made up of twenty two members elected amongst and by mayors and county councillors. This board of directors makes decisions on the budget of the county fire service. The municipal code gives to the mayor the responsibility of the municipal administrative police; police must be understood as maintenance of order in a very large sense that is safety, security and public health. This means that the mayor has to take all appropriate measures in order to prevent by suitable precautions and put an end by distributing the necessary assistance to accidents and all calamities as well as pollution's of all natures, such as fires, floods, dike breaks, landslides, rock falls, avalanches or other natural accidents epidemic of all countries, illnesses provide emergency all assistance and relief measures and if necessary instigate action of the upper level of administration. That is the Prefect.

It is quite a challenge to translate a legal text into another foreign language. The first words of the sentence 'Prevent by Suitable Precautions' must be underlined, it means that the first duty of the mayor is prevention. It is important to note that these goals are very much wider than only fire fighting, they include also emergency medical assistance, rescue, disaster relief, etc.

The Prefect is the upper level administrative authority in the county he will take the command of an operation in the following cases. On request of the mayor himself if the mayor does not react to a situation if the event affects two or more communes, since there is no hierarchy between mayors and if the situation requires activating pre-planned measures what is called a County Emergency Plan? At a National Level the Prime Minister is the executive for authority responsible for all of these matters, of course his powers are delegated to the Minister of the Interior for who works the civil security and civil defence direction.

We have seen the mayors and the prefects responsibilities, the fire service are the technical tool to assist them in taking on those responsibilities but obviously a fire service cannot be the universal solution for all problems and the missions have been described in a law of 1996. Fire services are in charge of fire prevention, fire protection and fire fighting with other concerns services and professionals they concur to the protection and fighting against other accidents disasters and catastrophes to the evaluation and prevention and technological and natural risk as well as to emergency medical aid. As part of their competencies they exercise the following missions, prevention



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and evaluation of all civil security risks, preparedness of safety measures and organisation of rescuing and assistance means, protection of goods persons and environment, emergency aid to persons with accidents, disasters or catastrophe and evacuation.

That means evacuation to a hospital. From this it is understandable that fire protection is an evolved mission exclusively to our fire brigade, while other missions are fed with other services. You may note that the law gives no limit to what can be or has to be done by fire fighters, it must be appreciated by the officer in charge in each case, he must balance himself with the chances of success of the mission and the level of risks reported by the rescue team. It must be noted also that all emergency operations are by law exempted of charge. This is a basic principle in the French right.

The first responsible authority is the mayor and he was given the legal means to act in case of an unusual situation, this means that in case of an accident, fire, major incident or disaster he can be sued by victims of all by insurance companies and condemned to repair the damages if it can be proved that he has not taken adequate prevention measures whilst it was possible to do so.

Or if the fire fighting rescue operation was not conducted properly because of commanding mistakes, or for using inappropriate or defective equipment for instance. In the second case the fire service could also be sued either directly by the victims or by the mayor himself if the mistake is purely linked to the fire service management. A classical example is a fire brigade unable to use a water tender because it was not maintained properly or a wrong order of the officer in charge.

Exactly the same principal could be applied to the prefects case, the mayor actually the commune, the prefect, actually the state or the fire service have been condemned in the past only if the mistake was appreciated as a heavy mistake because the church used to say fire fighting or rescue operation is obviously run in difficult and unusual conditions therefore the responsibility should be modulated according to the actual difficulty.

Nowadays this principal is changing the church tends now to pull down the limits between a light and a heavy mistake we start feeling that later the light mistake will be sufficient to be condemned is a consequence the responsible authorities will be more and more condemned for damages. The sentence may nevertheless be diminished partially or totally if it proved that the victim itself has showed unquestionable imprudence this is also true in the case of false measure that is due to unpredictable, external and irresistible conditions.

In some cases not the function but the person will be sued by the public prosecutor, especially in case of death or bad injuries to human being, but also and this is new, just for putting somebody else in danger. Nevertheless casualty rate and the deliberate corrupter of the act must prove, the

condemnation will be a jail penalty or a fine and of course in this case applied to the person who has made the fault.

But the new penal code opens a possibility to sue a legal entity if the fault has been made on behalf of the entity by one of the official representatives. A special case of individual responsibility must be mentioned in addition to that failing to assist a person in danger. Everybody has the duty to bring help and assistance to a person in danger the minimal duty would be to at least call an emergency service.

By way of conclusion I wish to raise a question that could be discussed if you have a few minutes, this question remains very open in France. We have had to create assessments and risk cover plans we consider that a risk will be covered when some standards will be reached in terms of means that is appliances plus qualified person arriving to the scene in a certain amount of time. Precisely what about risk covered by delays, what could happen if the fire service was designed to cover risks in lets say less than twenty minutes and if the first appliance arrived in twenty five minutes nobody really knows because the case was not brought to a court so far, we only know that the judge will try to establish first if damages are actually due to an additional delay and second what were the reasons for needing more time, a snowstorm, or a disorganised fire brigade could make a big difference, in the meantime all fire and other emergency service authorities tend to avoid giving official cover dealings.

**I have tried to point out three major changes since the early eighties. First a transfer of powers from the state to local authorities, second a re-organisation of the fire services with a transfer of responsibilities from municipal fire brigades to a county fire service, and thirdly an evolution in the judges mind who are considering that the fire services have nowadays an obligation of results and not only an obligation of means.**

You may have heard the story of these three alpinists who had been blocked in the mountain for about eight to ten days last winter, after they had been rescued and a short stay in a hospital they went to a press conference and the question of the costs of the rescue operation was raised, and the three sportsmen didn't like the question and they left the press conference. It appeared that they had sold their story to the famous magazine Paris Match for three hundred thousand French francs and of course the question was the cost of the operation on one hand and the risk the search and rescue teams engaged and on the other hand people making money from that operation.

How can we be sure that next time this will not be pre-organised? Now to really conclude my speech I feel the legal system in France except for some cases like arson or false alarms is still in a state, fire authorities and fire service responsibility approach much more than in a citizens responsibility. Thank you very much for your attention.

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**Bob Baillie:** We will now move into the workshop discussion and if I could ask Tony Allan and Ken to join the other speakers for this session please. This session will be headed by Jeremy Beech and Jeremy is extremely well known he is the Chief Fire Officer for the Kent Fire Brigade, he joined the Fire Service in 1965 and has served brigades in Hampshire, Essex, East Sussex, Gloucestershire and London and coming through to his present occupation of Chief Fire Officer for Kent Fire Brigade in 1998. In the year of his appointment to Kent he led a rescue team to the Armenian Earthquake Disaster and subsequently represented the United Kingdom in the United National Disaster Relief Organisation Project, who established International protocols for conduct and control of the scene. Jeremy.

**Jeremy Beech:** Well thank you very much chairman. I was sitting listening with great interest and attempt to pull some of this together. We have been making notes as our various speakers have spoken and I think it would probably be a good idea if we can put a summary of those on the screen, and perhaps also if these two things are not too uncomfortable we could lift the lights a bit, because the purpose of this session really is to sum up some of the messages coming out of this morning. And although I think we have a firm basis for our discussion from Mr Barisich and from Mr Harrison and from our various speakers much of the experience that has come out today has come from United Kingdom and from France and it would be very interesting to hear the views of the much wider delegate ship that we have here today to make sure that in setting the workshop in the right direction for the sessions that follow that what we are actually bringing together is a set of ideas which has a sufficient consensus among the delegates here this morning can we see if we can bring up the slide please and see what sort of conclusions we have.

Now you need to see these as a first draft, these will evolve over the next two days and I think the first point that I would want to make is this. That it does seem to me that if we are going to go forward then there really must be some sort of effective sustainable basis for taking forward the ideas from today and for progressing the outcomes of this workshop. **We needed as we were told by Mr Barisich this morning to start concrete proposals that are going to add value to the Community of Member Fire States and to contribute to the safety of all European Citizens.** But if we are going to achieve that, how are we going to achieve it.

**The vehicle would seem to be a group of representatives from Member States who will be able to take forward the outcome from this workshop and to convert and shape the ideas into specific strategies and actions.** We have done some brief terms of references to what those might be, they must also enable the development of European initiative which are relevant and acceptable to all member states.

The point has just been made I think by our French delegate just illustrates the difference in local administration between the UK and France as only two

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members and you can see this question of relevant and acceptability is terribly important for us to have a sustainable programme. We have got to be able to learn from each other and from the worldwide experience of fire and its prevention to better understand the evolving fire problem. That came out from several people this morning and we must ensure that best practice 'What Works' is shared between one member state and another. And perhaps an important issue here, here we are the fire world and we are delighted to have Mr Barisich with us for this first real focus on fire discussion.

But how do we secure and maintain the ownership within the European Union of all that emerges from this and the importance of fire in the future and the value to be gained from an improved community fire safety. Now we have got to spill out into some positives actions. I am going to give you a quick snapshot of the actions and then we will go to contributions from the floor. If we look at this task list if we create a task tool to take these issues forward, well what is it going to do, some ideas will have already emerged from the contributions this morning.

The first of these was a European Centre to gather and share information and best practice. I have already said that to provide concrete proposals but the group itself needs to be tasked to bear that firmly in mind to commit energy together, this is not going to be a talking shop this has got to be a genuine determination properly resourced and supported by member states and it is going to deliver.

To deliver a detailed health fire safety framework, we believe in that and it was interesting to hear a commonality message coming for a detailed fire safety framework. If we move on to the next bullet point, 'Clear Targets' the delegates will probably know that within the U K we do set clear targets for community fire safety we mentioned the seven stages of life, I think this is an issue for debate, does the Bill Cosby's seven stages of life or even William Shakespeare's or whether there are seven stages of life or more than that, in reality **the important thing is to be able to communicate with the citizen** in an appropriate way according to the group of citizenship that you are addressing and obviously a few speakers have spoken about the information technology, and I think I will probably slightly change that I think what we mean is, 'to use in the IT age' I apologise to our foreign delegates that the IT hasn't got the dots on there. 'To use in an Information Technology Age **new technology**' **that's really the message there.** To rely cost effective and high quality fire safety education programmes.

That's the distillation so far and we now throw it to the floor, I presume there are microphones out there, we throw it out to the floor and indeed to our group of distinguished speakers today who might want to comment on this first draft set up of proposals. *Signals from the floor yes just here on my left thank you very much.* Do we have a microphone, its just coming to you sir.

**Tony McCarthy from Ireland:** Ireland is a small country with a small population and a small fire safety budget but the problems are the same and we have looked at fire education in our country and we have put forward proposals that would take us into the National Curriculum we have one Education Committee in the country and we want to put fire safety and our curriculum, but there are many people competing for the small amount of space on the curriculum and it looks as if fire safety will not succeed in that area. But I would be proposing that something would come out of this whereby a European input into education curriculum on fire safety would form part of the European curriculum, and it would help us. Thank you.

**Jeremy Beech:** Thank you very much, Tony I think before I put that up can I just see if we have got other questions and then we will put a group of questions to the panel. Other issues. Tom Wilmot you addressed me earlier, where is Tom Wilmot, Tom you were going to make a point I believe weren't you. The microphone is on its way to you.

**Tom Wilmot Welfare Statistic Centre:** Thank you chairman. First could I congratulate Dennis Davies and all concerned on this brilliant conference, which is on a subject very close to the heart of the Welfare Statistic Centre? And it seems to me chairman that your proposals for following up the seminar are ideal. There are two ways in which the Welfare Statistic Centre would be happy to co-operate, first we would be happy if it were felt helpful to organise perhaps in a years time a seminar in Geneva for say two or three dozen opinion formers who could consider the conclusions reached today in Chester and look at follow up action and one possible way that may be Chester could consider follow up might possibly be in three stages it seems to me that its crucial to know that there is top level support in Europe in the way that in the States President Nixon started America burning by his own message. This means that the President of the Union could say that fire is an important priority, then he could set up a working party of fire experts which would obviously include some of the people here today who would recommend ways of attacking the fire problems, and then smaller groups could be set up to look at problems discussed today like community fire safety problems, statistics, arson and crime prevention, fire fighting. Thank you Chairman.

**Jeremy Beech:** Thank you very much Tom. I don't see any other hands up at the moment, sorry one in the front row please.

**Dieter Nüssler from Germany:** Thank you. You are collecting a lot of questions I have some not remarks some questions I pick up some things. European smoke detector day is that an idea that the audience would support, so I pick up your comment that was 'what works should be shared' this should be an added value to all the others. We have heard a lot of interesting things another note that I have toolbox for campaigns, take this toolbox and make it available and this could be a starter for campaigns for the younger people. The next thing access to the Internet side. Take it, inspect it, make it available in other languages, and to refer to François you

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know I think we have different approaches for fire cover and safe cover so we should agree on the common understanding about that also with respect all liability and responsibility of the fire officers in charge a lot of really interesting projects I suppose and I would like to hear your comments.

**Jeremy Beech:** Thank you very much indeed. Well let's hold the questions over for a moment and go to our panel. The first point was asked from Tony McCarthy was about fire safety and the creation of a European Agenda which would certainly help as Tony was suggesting Ireland as a Member State. Who would want to pick that up first of all? Yes Alan Thank you.

**Alan:** In my introduction we were talking about the difficulties even in my own county on how you educate the young and maybe one of the ways that we could bring forward to doing this. I was in Brussels just before Christmas I understand that DG XI and France were looking at education in particular. Now the problem that we have in this country I assume it is the same across the fifteen Member States is that children have an awful lot to learn to cram into their educational lives whilst they are at school from the ages of three up to the ages of university at twenty one, twenty two. And teachers in every country are having increasing pressures on them to deliver the core curriculum in the basic needs of English and mathematics and sciences etc. what we are suggesting in our framework is that working together we don't just work as a fire brigade, I mean part of the message was not said well by me today we are not just talking about fire service here we are talking about learning for life and everything that we do in our community. So whether it is to do with learning everything to do with social skills, or fire safety skills, education skills, it must be included in a holistic way in our educational programme and fire safety measures quite properly said by our Irish colleague can't be bolted on it has to be included into the curriculum and therefore we need to talk to teachers and the children and governments to make sure that we are not in competition for this space in education time but actually work with them to build something into it that teachers and children can work with.

**Jeremy Beech:** Thank you very much Alan I wonder if we might broaden it because, I think that the message that came out earlier which we did include in our slide was that there does need to be a development of European Initiatives and clearly **there was a suggestion that the task group should develop at Europe wide education programmes for children** and a point that Alan was making and I think it comes out loud and clear is that we must not see ourselves in isolation just dealing with a fire problem this is actually about integrating fire as one of the many, and other speakers have made reference to this, is one of the many part of the citizenship training of a young person when they are growing up. Can we just move I think to the last question and then come back to the question about ownership from the top and when we do get to that third question it might be appropriate Mr Barisich if you wanted to comment on that. I think we would certainly welcome a contribution from you on that point. If we can just move

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to our German contributor about the smoke detector Day, there have been several suggestions both in the main meeting and indeed in the margins of the meeting. That as a first step and not withstanding anything else that we do as a first step that the thing that we know is a successful strategy and will bring benefit to the community which is a European smoke detector campaign but there are also the other points which were made about the use of Internet sites in various languages and the fire coverage was picked up. Tony you are looking in my direction does it mean you want to speak on that.

**Tony:** The issue of the European smoke detector alarm although on the surface it might seem a small concept even that concept can become fairly complex I know we have got colleagues from Belgium and I know for example just agreeing on the right type of smoke detector to use in a domestic property is an issue in Belgium and so I think just trying to achieve a common day for just promoting the use of something like smoke detectors is quite an ambitious project across Europe. But I do think it is one for the year 2000 to signify and symbolise that in the new collective style across fire safety we think it is one agenda that can be taken forward.

**Jeremy Beech:** Thank you very much. Ken I think you were trying to get in.

**Ken:** Yes thank you chairman. I was first of all going to endorse that point that Dieter raised but the interviewer made a point I think it would make a very tangible part of this seminar to have come and said that there will be a formal smoke detector day throughout Europe it could have a very powerful message for local fire brigades local countries to add to that their local campaigns. If I may though chairman I just wanted to add something to what Dieter said he said 'If It Works Let's Use It' and I think there is a very good message in that about sharing the best practices out of this seminar so that we don't keep re-inventing the wheel and re-inventing toolboxes and try to take the best from amongst this room today and the rest in Europe and develop that to become even better rather than keep doing our individual activity.

**Jeremy Beech:** Yes I think that's a powerful point even in the U K we have numerous characters almost sort of cartoon characters for example in one aspect of our fire safe campaigns which have been developed by individual brigades to sell the fire safety message to young people and there must be greater scope for sharing experience in that and not actually not re-inventing all of the time. Brian

**Brian:** Mr Chairman I would subscribe to the comments that were made from the table today to what Ken has just said and I would like to focus in obviously on the Internet and the exhibition that I have demonstrated today I would be quite happy to make the commitment here today to make that Internet site available on a trial basis to anybody that wants to see it if you visit the stand outside there is a leaflet there that will tell you who to get in touch with and how that can actually be done. In terms of translating it into

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different languages the company that we work with say that that can be done they do say there will be a minor fee for this I am quite happy to make that available to anybody who wishes to see it.

**Jeremy Beech:** Thank you very much Brian. I am conscious that we have to draw our discussion to a conclusion I just want to say. We have got one last question which I want to do if I can deal with the other points which have come up which we are now going to move on from in relation to the standards of fire cover and it was a point that was made by Francois and it was an issue he put on the table and said we need to discuss this and I would agree with him and I think you have also raised a point and suggested that there is an issue there that we need to deal with probably not in this session but we do need to, outside the community of fire safety discussion talk about much more commonality of standards and shared experience in relation to fire risk and response. But if I can come back to a question posed by Tom Wilmot suggested Mr Barisich that you might wish to comment it was about the question of how we get ownership, we know that we will put together a rival from the discussions of the group and the issues forward but the suggestion was I think that we really need to follow the United States example and maybe get the Presidency to endorse what we are doing. I wonder if you would care to comment on that.

**Mr Barisich:** It is not an easy question to comment. I think we are really at a very early stage of our work so I would prefer to take a clear position at a later stage particularly at the end of the seminar. What I can see here two three points which are very strong which will definitely lead us to some very positive conclusions. Can I say of a lesson learned in the process or something like that with something, which definitely will go through the workshop? But there are some problems which will raise quite important questions, you know I am not very good at super tech's I am not good at all in fire safety, I am a civil servant but I'm good to detect for the early detection of potential contradiction, of potential difference of a position amongst the value of Member States. I see two or three potential contradictions we will have this afternoon and tomorrow. We will end up with two or three very vertical specific points. Such they as ?? for early detection. I am not sure that it is a good idea. We have some difference in the approach when I heard the police thing sanction, this is a sanction which sound for me very, very well but the police needs sanction was pretty different in the north and the south if you take fire risk in Italy or in Greece could be at the fourth, fifth, position in the rank of the risk, which are the risk to which Italian Greek are spoke. So I think we should go further with the discussion. Tomorrow morning I will try to explain how we are approaching this matter of European Civil Protection. We have tried to set up a global system for information but **we think that the fire brigade are one of the best factors to bring information to the public**, the young person, I am not sure that we should bring only from information on fires if you are in the region where you have fire, floods, earthquakes, volcano's, landslides we have one hundred and fifty millions of citizens in the Union which have this situation. I am not sure that specific information on fire would be the best approach but I am not a specialist in the matter of



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communication. So what I would like to say at this stage let the discussion go on, try to see if we can have a good balance with some specific initiatives and some very global approach. I will give you an example of the one that it took twenty years between the first resolution of the conference of telecommunication and implementation of one word. I think we should have the same aspiration when we start to speak in terms of information. but I will not be so long this is your workshop I am here as an observer.

**Jeremy Beech:** Well I do thank you for those very wise words of caution we have to draw to a close but I think that's a very helpful point of which to end. We have shared a great deal of information this morning, the wider picture as you so rightly say is less clear to us and I think the points you have made are very clearly in our thoughts as we go forward. So I would conclude then we will give this draft to that which we have spoken this morning into the workshop process and it will now continue to evolve in the next two days and I now hand back to our session chairman H M I Bob Baillie.

**Bob Baillie:** Thank you Jeremy. I have one last very pleasant duty to perform as the chairman of the morning session and that is to make a small gift in appreciation to each of our speakers. I am sure you will agree that individually and collectively they have made a major contribution to our workshop particularly in setting the themes, which we will now mull over today and tomorrow. Thank you.

**Dennis Davies:** The final one of course is to Bob for chairing the session you are only eleven minutes over time which I think is brilliant considering the amount of detail but I do just want to make one point and I know Bob will appreciate it. Will you please come back on time so that we can start the next session on time and just to remind you that on the second day pretty well the most of the afternoon until 3.30 will be spent debating the issues. Mr Barisich will be there and we will actually try and pick up these themes that we are now working for. But your thanks please for your first session chairman. Lunch is outside so please make yourself comfortable but back at twenty past one.

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**Dennis Davies:** Our third session chairman Ali Van Strien is the president of C.P.I.B. our counterpart in the Netherlands who will take you through this second session  
Mr Chairman.

**Ali Van Strien:** Thank you very much. Ladies and Gentlemen I would like to start that I am feeling very honoured to be your next chairman especially at such a special organised event we have heard now by the FEU and I would give my compliments for the FEU and especially to Dennis McDavies as I heard this morning.

Ladies and gentlemen one of the goals of the F.E.U. is putting fire safety on the agenda of the European Union to make it safer in Europe, but when we speak about fire safety what are we talking about? Do we mean the same things with the same words? There is a difference when we translate things by translation, there is a difference by interpretation, and there is also a difference by expectation of the level of safety.

We heard this morning discussion about a smoke detector programme all over Europe and when you do not have the facts and the figures to compare then you do not know what you are talking about. One of the things the smoking alarm programme is, when you go to Norway we know that **97% of the inhabitants of Norway use a smoke detector**. The type of programme has to be different there than for instance our colleague in Spain told me that the **coverage in Spain is about 0.001%**, now there is a quite different approach, but you can only make this type of programme if you have good facts and good figures to compare.

There are several things that are important to compare to make the same definitions even when you talk about what is a fireman you could say well that's obvious in every country. No it's not true in one country you talk about a fireman as just a transporter of water and in another country you talk about a fireman as somebody who is a safety manager. A safety manager where you do not talk about fire safety but integral safety, of physical safety, and what do those words mean and what do we mean with them.

I love Europe I really do because there is quite a difference between the countries, but if you want to do business with each other we have to take another approach and we have to make sure that we use the same data, the same definitions, and the same interpretations.

I live in Holland a fairly small but beautiful country and it takes me only two hours to visit five countries, and I don't speed up too much with my car I don't think I drive too hard. That means that in a small area in Europe we have to find out things together with five countries, five cultures, five different ways of doing things, five different interpretations, five different languages, and that gave us the idea to do a lot of things together and that's the reason of this workshop.

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The workshop will say finding useful data about statistics, about risk mapping, about systems of fire cover so that we can share and compare and finding strengths to do things together. I think that it is an interesting congress and an interesting workshop we are going to this hour and let us start to listen to the three speakers from behind the table. The first speaker I would like to introduce to you is Mr Helge Stamnes; Mr Helge Stamnes is in the directorate for fire and explosive prevention in Norway. Helge graduated from the technical university of Norway and has worked within the national administration in Norway for several years. The directorate for fire and explosive prevention is a main public authority within the field of fire and explosion prevention and preparedness in Norway. The area of responsibility also covers liquids and gases under pressure and the safety aspects of the transport of dangerous goods. The directorate's basic strategy has in the 1990's been to encourage fire prevention measures. May I ask you to start with the first lecture?

**Mr Helge Stamnes:** Thank you Mr Chairman. Well ladies and gentlemen at this conference I have been asked to talk about **fire studies** and also to touch if there is a need for a prospective joint fire study systems we all know many countries keep some **fire statistics** in some form or other in Norway for example we have kept fire statistics on national level for many years and in today's standardised structure since 1986. Let me as an introduction give you a short description of that system in Norway. In Norway the municipal fire services are required to report to the directorate which means that the national fire statistics are based upon reports from all 435 municipalities, which is a lot for a small country. But been in function for many years the system is well tried by the fire services, and we estimate that the number reports submitted to the directorate is approaching 100% coverage talking about incidents that are obliged to be reported. And in addition information from the interest company's containing figures from interest damage payments of a certain sum is also included. Reports from industrial enterprises on accidents involving explosives and Flammable goods are also included and also the police authority report causes of fire found during investigation and I may tell you at the present we can tie the causes of fire given in the police reports to approximately 70% of the fires reported from the fire services.

The fire services submit information on four individual reports the first is a call out report, which is to be, completed at all call outs and is primarily an internal report for the fire service themselves. And then their is a report on fires in buildings this one is to be completed after all call outs to buildings and is sent to the directorate with a copy also to the district police authority. This report contains relatively detailed information not only to conditions surrounding the call out itself but it also contains the information in identifying the fire with date address and respective position were the fire was extinguished what stopped the fire from spreading and so on and so forth. Also deaths and injuries and the estimated sum of damage also shall be included.

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We have also a report on accidents involving transportation of goods, which also has to be completed after all, call outs to such accidents and this report is also relatively detailed and shall be sent to the directorate.

And at last we have a quarterly report on call outs and accidents, which is an accumulative report, which is submitted to the directorate at the end of each quarter, which means four times a year. And in this report are situations which have not been covered in the other reports described like call outs to traffic accidents and so on, and states only number of call outs to each type of incident.

So all of this information is very much useful to the fire services themselves as they are on a national level. In the directorate the statistics are called upon when planning for example fire prevention initiatives and analysing the effects of initiatives taking the fire statistic system is crucial. For you who are interested I have brought with me some duplicates of a shortened English version. It is a short version of our published descriptive statistics for 1997 and I think this is after the room from my colleagues from Norway.

Now this statistic material is used in many ways for example our fire statistics played an important role in 1991 when we in Norway established a new descriptive national fire safety strategy the background was as follows. In the 80's we experienced a steady increase in fire loss in Norway, not in life loss but in material losses the main problem was increasing loss due to fires in industry too many fires were allowed to be large fires. The fire statistics told us that. So we established a set of goals as seen on the screen that by the year 2000 you should see a 30% reduction in life and 30% reduction in material losses and with a special focus on large or big fires where we should see a 50% reduction in material losses compared to the period 1985 - 89 and in addition to defining these goals we also defined a strategy with focus very much focus on fire prevention work on competence and more effective use of available level resources.

Now today the picture is like this. The steady increase in the eighty's was replaced by a distinct fall in the ninety's this shows from 1990 - 98 a distinct fall trends in the fire damage payments and the goals that the year 2000 is shown here with a red line which are set at 30% representatively at the right hand side 50% reduction compared to the second half of the apex. As you certainly understand this has been a very interesting time and interesting process to find measures and not least to try to go through with them in practical life and it should be of very much interest also to discuss with you. The use of goals and strategies in the fire safety work I think that is another lecture. As you see we have not yet achieved the expected results that we are talking about fatalities above that even though special public relations initiatives were taken last year with pleasant results, so the challenge is now to find measures which are as much as possible protective, and this respect we have started a study in which we utilise the information gathered in our fire statistics together with information found in various other data banks, like for example demographic data banks which are found in our Central

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Institution of Statistics in Norway. Would it be possible to identify and particular characteristics attached to buildings even people when talking about the likely experience of fire, and in this respect based on statistics. But again I that's another lecture. My point is such studies may be carried out when having fire statistics on which you can trust.

There is challenge in making optimal use of information available in the fire statistics and in connection to that we also have an ambition to make comparative studies with other countries and we are perhaps not alone with such wishes but before such studies can be made of course there must be confidence about the material compared. So the question is asked is a joint European fire statistic system realistic and will such a system be useful, will the pains be justified so to say.

The idea about international fire statistics is not new common summaries based upon national statistics are already published from many years you know that UN World-wide Statistic Centre in Geneva publishes summaries of fire statistics and also national fire costs from many countries and the C.T.I.F. publishes similar types of summaries and both of these publications are interesting and also exciting reading but as I understand both publishers point out due to the different systems for collecting data at national level caution must be exercised when making comparative studies taken from this material.

So the Federation of the European Union Fire Offices Association FEU have carried out discussion for some time regarding the need for a joint European fire statistics and the feasibility of establishing such. I am here and on this occasion allowed to quote from that work even though I am not a member of that organisation the **FEU estimated needs for a joint European Fire Statistics system** is based upon several factors their main reason are that a joint system would provide larger quantities of data which again would give a better background for drawing the right conclusions. A joint system would also give us the possibility of making comparative studies between countries, which in turn gives the opportunity we can learn from a greater variety of undertakings made, but there are of course challenges.

In a survey carried out by the FEU in twelve European countries it emerges that all those who were interviewed keep national fire statistics also that all attendance's are reported in these countries that the team leader is responsible for the reports in ten of the twelve countries, and the police authorities investigate causes in nine of the twelve countries, and that a unique identification of incidences in five of the twelve countries, one can argue much on such a survey. But it nevertheless underlines that when the different systems are more closely compared significant differences in content, in form, and teams for reporting emerge. **Terminology itself is a main problem** words and expressions are interpreted differently from country to country, so due to the differences in the systems at national level the FEU conclude that the prospective future joint European system has to be uncomplicated and limited in detail, give priority to what should be vital

information establishing a common terminology is a necessity and uniform collection and registration of data should be sought as far as possible. It is essential to find a balance between usefulness and feasibility. They also state that **a future joint system must of course allow individual countries to register data they consider relevant for their own use in addition to the basic requirements needed for an international system.**

So ladies and gentlemen this short introduction is not meant to be a complete and thorough introduction to the topic as such nor to the FEU's work the intention is rather in line to a short exchange of use about the need for more consistent joint European fire statistics system and about the possibilities to establish such. I suppose the subject is of interest amongst the delegates some systems are already existing others sufficient the FEU has started some development work towards the topic but as I understand they do not feel it correct to go further as a solo worker so again as a concrete proposal could it be then sense to try to establish a European group of experts on this matter which would bring this work one step further forward. Mr chairman I would like to leave the topic there. Thank you for the attention.

**Ali Van Strien:** Thank you very much. We shall come back to the interesting points in the discussion. I would like now to go on further with the programme and I would like to introduce the second speaker Mr Alan Stoker. Mr Alan Stoker is the Fire Safety Commander from Greater Manchester County Fire Service, Alan joined the Fire Service in 1933 and was promoted through the ranks in both operational and fire safety posts a period as Station Commander was followed by experience in Divisional Officers ranks which fire safety and command with overall responsibilities of both division and fire service headquarters location. In his current role as Fire Service Commander he is responsible for the development and monitoring of policies and procedures to make sure that the fire authority meets its objectives concerning community fire safety enforcement and fire investigation. He is a graduate of the Fire Institute of Fire Engineers and a member of the International Institute of Risk and Safety Management. Please go ahead.

**Mr Alan Stoker:** Mr Chairman. Ladies and gentlemen the Greater Manchester Fire Authority encourages a pro active strategy in fire safety or fire prevention to reduce the number of fire incidents before they occur the philosophy of community fire safety prevention is better than cure is one that is actively promoted to achieve some of its objectives. The demand for accurate management and operational information is fundamental to the implementation of these policies when you are dealing with a brigade that comprises of a population of two and a half million in a area of five hundred square miles, comprising of nine hundred thousand plus residential properties and ninety thousand commercial properties that all offer particular fire problems. Forty-one fire stations delivery the service into two hundred and fourteen administrative wards averaging populations of twelve thousand, and this is really the emphasis we are looking at when we are looking at when we target through to numeration districts. Trends in fatalities and casualties and statistics are used to set up prevention programme targets

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and to monitor the success or failure of initiatives to identify lessons that could be learned. I am going to touch on that point later if I may.

Whilst to date the Community Fire Service safety programmes have been based upon empirical evidence provided each month from incidents attended by the forty one fire station areas it was felt that more detailed knowledge of the distribution and pattern of fires, casualties and false alarms etc. against geographical areas was deemed necessary so that the targeting of resources against problems. Problem communities could be carried out more effectively.

It is much better when they come in ones this has given you an indication of the background into the workload in the Brigade for 1998, you will see there in issues and the impact upon the community what we are trying to do is get more background information about the issues that impact.

There is a comparison on workloads on two-year periods 1995 and 1998; you can see there that things that are going on are reductions. One significant reduction there is the FDR3 fires (grass and outdoor fires) that occurred in 1995 with a significant reduction in 1998, it was a hot summer in 1995 and for those who remember it that is blue skies and sunshine.

To achieve the maximum benefit from the resources available it is necessary to identify those at risk groups whether on the basis of age, whether on housing conditions, geographical areas, or other factors the SSA the Standard Spending Assessment which supports fire brigades in funding fire safety work does it indicate certain classification of groups that should be targeted, but it doesn't actually tell us where they are so this is what we are trying to develop.

As a brigade there is an element of targeting in structure as you can see from the slide on the screen that the brigade comprises of ten metropolitan districts which are big areas in their own right serviced by five fire divisions with forty one stations. To assist the process of small area psychologist can be used to get a better understanding of the degree of variation in patterns, the consumer behaviour, social problems, and other life style characteristics observed amongst different social and economic groups. That's the split down now so you can imagine coming from the county boundary at the periphery five hundred square miles we are now starting to move in to specific areas we are down to forty one target areas in this particular issue based on the fire station areas within the county of Manchester. This typology of groups have emerged from more effective manipulation of national census data together with significant improvements classification methods, again you take the county down the issue of boundaries breaking down to all the elements I have described we are now into the metropolitan districts, the City of Manchester with the breakdown of wards, as I say there is two hundred and fourteen in the county, and there are breakdowns within the wards introducing numeration districts, these groups are structured within the numeration districts from the census data which is the most

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comprehensive set of demographics of social conditions at small area level the smallest territorial unit for which the census data is available in England and Wales in the enumeration districts.

Indeed to be contained within three hundred to six hundred residents in about two hundred households and less within the larger areas of structural wards, the above principals are also known as target lifestyles and are used by companies to develop marketing strategies for products or services, following a successful pilot study a conclusion was reached between the Greater Manchester County Fire Service and the Department of Civic Design at the University of Liverpool to undertake a project with a three year research period using the wealth of detail from the recorded fire incidents within the GMC some eight hundred fire incidents had been recorded over a ten year period since we started with the records, up until this current research project GMC fire service have been unable to break down the statistics in small areas to reveal how fire risks vary in Greater Manchester and its ten metropolitan districts this can clearly represent a significant gap in the strategic information which needed to be filled the previously referred to pilot scheme filled the information gap by identifying for each incident the electoral ward and enumeration district in which the incident occurred in the 1996 reporting year and the Greater Manchester comprises of approximately five thousand enumeration districts as I have said.

When we start to evaluate the working year this is an excellent indication to target resources. We take information there based on the percentage of households in the county a break of 10% of all the households and actually then start looking at the fire activity that has occurring within those enumeration districts and electoral wards you can really start to focus in and we are starting to use this method on our current review in the Community Fire Safety Offices by putting old time equivalents to how we feel the workload and the capacity and the need is and you can broaden that right down and when you actually look at 50% of the fire load or fire activity in Greater Manchester it is on average within 20% of the housing stock within the county.

Once established the total number of incidents can be calculated for each small area and the resulting totals can be related to the population in the areas to produce a fire incident rates for different types of incidents, eg. Residential fires per thousand households and malicious fire calls per thousand population calculation of incident rates for particular types of fires for unwanted calls can result in significant different conclusions from those that arise from consideration of numbers of incidents the rate is usually the more correct basis on which judgement should be made regarding the allocation of resources.

Now this is a resource indicator, a workload indicator, for the Metropolitan District of Manchester and basically what we are doing here is replicating the population of the county as a whole and the frequency of population within the Manchester Metropolitan District, and then incidents brigade wide



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working on a waiting sort of basis you come up with an indicator, frequency index on the right hand side which indicates against an average of one county wide what sort of workload is being taken in that particular area that you are viewing. Actually to going down then into the central ward within the Manchester Metropolitan District again frequencies there of particular issues incidents, all incidents particularly high when you look at the one as the average significant workload then in false alarms and malicious calls start to look at the areas start to indicate initiatives that you want to apply to monitor the outcomes. All fire brigades as fire brigades we can use this well proven approach when selling fire safety education in conjunction with operational intervention to those groups in the community the fire related activities has shown to be at risk we can do this from a community fire safety issue from our impact we have done recently to the crime disorder act and interrelationship inter-working with local authorities and local police forces.

Having regard to the above background and principles a three year project involving GMC Fire Service and the University of Liverpool to examine the relationship between fire incidents and the social, economic and environmental risk factors and implications in terms of resources, allocation operational response and community fire safety programme. The primary purpose of this research being to cross reference data on the fires with appropriate denominators and social, economic environmental indicators at small area level within the enumeration districts I have referred to. To identify residential and other area types most vulnerable to fires, which we are starting to do with great interest now, to develop models, which can explain and predict fire risks in terms of social economic and environmental risk factors. To examine a range of alternatives for improved targeting of resources through risk factor evaluation. And just to move onto the issue of measures if we look as fire brigades we have generally measured success on the number of fatalities that was recorded at the year end and we have started now to record casualties and basically what we are saying in Greater Manchester and I am sure other brigades share this view is that the casualty banding can vary from somebody being in a fire and at risk but suffers no harm to somebody that is exposed to severe risk and dies as a result of exposure. We have tried to band down, look at the performance of fatalities in Greater Manchester in the last few years, it is obviously in a downward trend which is very encouraging in fact when you look at figures from 92 and carry that to the progress that was achieved thereon the actual down trend that we have obtained since then has resulted in what we feel is that there are two hundred people alive today that could have actually died in fires if that had continued. When we break incidents and casualties down into groups we have to measure them and one of the ways we do this, what we do we look at it from the point of view could we have done anything to influence the saving of that particular life or that threat, really the issues that we measure against the ones that I have indicated up there are

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I will count the control of murder suicides another time. We break down the casualty base then to the bands that you see before you three broad bands in real terms Casualties treated at the fire ground, which is 1, 2a, 2b, 2c, and again indicated in there under 2b, we have made commitment to training of fire fighters into trauma technicians and we record every opportunity where that has been used and the public have benefited in 3, 4 and 5, we are talking about people who have been sent to hospital and 6 and 7 covers those who either die in hospital or die at incidents. I will just give you a breakdown there of the issues that tend to happen, you see a lot are given a precautionary check up at the fire ground and that is an area when you look at the total numbers, because if I were to say to you that in 1998 two thousand and twenty three people were injured as a result of fires you would think well hang on we are doing all this targeting and spending thousands and thousands of public service money on education but look at what we get it to two thousand and twenty three, and the issue we are coming from is really looking at that to evaluate it and make it meaningful issues, even on the hospitalisation of 795 a lot of those when they get to the hospital climb out of the ambulance and go home on the bus or whatever they don't even wait and get into the system again with local work with health authorities we start to cost the issues on fire, and again as a percentage of casualties that main core just emphasises cooking as fires in the places we are dealing with and again in there issues with cooking related injuries on the casualty band that we talked about earlier what the actual breakdown was.

In summing up I would just like to say that we feel that there is a tremendous advantage to be gained by dealing with fires and education alternatives in a targeted fashion. There are social links that need for multi-agency working but most of all identifying those at risk and targeting the resources. First of all we have got to determine the risks. We are talking about proactive fire prevention and really we will be doing that when we have enough information to get us there two minutes before the fire starts. Thank you.

**Ali Van Strien:** Thank you very much. I would like to proceed and introduce to you the third speaker from Holland Mr Robert Schellekens Chief Fire Officer of the City of Sheldorff. Robert was born in 1967 in the Netherlands from 1989 to 1996 he studied at the University of Andover during this period of time he studied Chemical Engineering and Economics both at the same time. He graduated in 1995 and one year later in 1996 for both. In the early nineties he entered the fire brigade of Sheldorff as a volunteer fire fighter at the city were he still lives and in 1996 he started to work for my brigade the Regional fire Brigade in Andover as a specialist for fire emergency preparedness. His most important task was to develop carry out and introduce new response systems about which he is now going to talk. From the 1<sup>st</sup> of April he is the new Fire Chief in the City of Sheldorff, Robert go ahead.

**Robert Schellekens:** Thank you Mr Chairman. Before we start with my presentation I will explain to you that it will be a little bit different than the two other speakers we have heard this afternoon because it is not only about

statistically data but we have used the statically data to **improve the response times** which I will talk to you today. Secondly of all I will have to apologise for my English I will give the best shot today for you so if you do not understand please ask me after my presentation. As you already can see I do have a very difficult name it is Schellekens you can call me Schellcuss or call me Ronald I prefer. Before we start with my presentation I want to say as all the speakers have said before that I am very pleased to be here today and tomorrow amongst all of you friends and colleagues at this first European Fire Safety Workshop which is quite an initiative. Today, this afternoon I would like to introduce to you the fire cover model with which the fire service community in the Netherlands improved and are still improving their organisation the main reason it has already been said before why I am going to tell you something about it is because as you can read in the book I was involved in the matter for three years, and my most important task in the Regional Fire Service Organisation at Eindhoven was to develop and to carry out and introduce a new response system. And as I have already been told I start working at Regional Fire Service Organisation in 1996. In 1998 two years later I was detached as Chief Fire Officer from the region Eindhoven to one of its local municipalities Keldorff, since April 1<sup>st</sup> (which is not a joke) of this year I am the full time Chief Fire Officer of Keldorff. This was the first part of my introduction the next part I will show you something I will tell you something about the national policy and the shift in thinking. Because that is a very important part of my presentation. Second of all I would like to tell you some of what research of present day working matters also the past working matters, then I will explain you the four regional goals before we start our improvements I will show you something about our approach and relation to the goals. I will show you some operational and political reasons, and last but not least I will tell you something about the next millenium.

National Policy in the Netherlands the Home Office supervises the fire service and disaster management. The Home office, which in the Netherlands supervises the fire service and disaster management, decided in the early nineties to put all of the research into the mode of operations of the national fire service. There was no special motive like a disaster or something else to do this they just more likely asked every local and regional fire brigade face the mirror and ask yourself when you do the job good, when you do the job fine, average or excellent. That was the first motive. One of the most important issues the Home Office wanted to research at was the degree of effectiveness and efficiency of each local and regional fire service and of all the national fire service. But there was a shift in government thinking and it happened to be from 1988 to 1990. I will use these years' data to show you that it wasn't a one-day situation, we started in 1988 and our first results were in 1998. The government they want some tools to judge the product of fire service and what did they want to judge about. Efficiency and effectiveness of the whole organisation of the fire service. They want to do it at three levels of course the national, the regional and the local level and in order to develop a tool in 1990. This resulted at the beginning of 1992 in a manual and a computer software programme which allowed us a detailed description of the geographical areas that need covering both the regional and local level, the

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programme would provide an inventory of various classes of buildings with regards to the fire risks the fire frequencies the fire causes and above all it would provide an inventory of the same classes of buildings with regards to the financial and economical damage of casualties. The purpose of this all would be to gain insight into the various risks of each area later in my presentation I will show you what I mean to say with an area. Starting by making an inventory of each area and overview of the result of the municipality. Starting with the local community overview with a result of the entire region. One of the most striking results of this visual approach was to underline the degree of inefficiency of the response times, arising from the fact that each fire brigade within our region would restrict itself to a narrowly defined area such as its own municipality or villages. I will explain because historically seen the fire stations were built in the town centre, but today's situation is significantly different because the town has grown it has grown a lot industrialisation has shifted the edge of the town and you have more citizens the infrastructure is more complex. So that's why the problem would be within the municipality, so as you will see at the end of my presentation in our new approach municipal boundaries are ignored due to solve the local problems like an operation and instead of these imaginary boundaries are created based on the outcomes of the computer programme, and these imaginary boundaries are so called operational boundaries.

Research has been done by an agency called Safe Consultants Science and they have done some scientific research of fire causes second of fire frequencies and fire risks they have done some research about financial and economical damage and of course about casualties. They have done as I have said before in my presentation research by foundation in data this is really important for computer software programme later on they have done some research on the job to order an sufficiency of men and machines in order to cope with an emergency.

All have been done in conjunction with the members of the fire service organisation without them we could not manage. One of the first reasons for this research, of course it resulted in computer software programme called Fire Cover 1.0. Second of all it was very helpful to gain insight into the various risks of each area an area is a narrowly defined part of the municipality later on it will help to gain insight into the various risks into each municipality, and the latest part it will help us to gain insight into various risks of the whole entire region for which twenty two municipalities belong. It is a very unique programme, which is, integrated with a G I S (Geographical Information System) nothing product to provide a total emergency management solution. This is one of the sheets of the programme right above you can see a fire station here we have the G I S mapping product and this is the police station of the results the illustrations are not so very good that is because I had to make a conversion. The four regional goals, first of all we had to start with making, telling some regional goals and the first of the regional goals before we can make them before we can develop them we have to translate the government policy into both regional and local policy plan. That was the first job we had to do within our region. Of course this

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gave a large discussion about a fire cover subject for over a year with the twenty two fire chief officers within the region but the result was a better understanding for the problematic nature and of course a clear insight into the bottle necks of the entire region and of course the local problems. One of the first regional goals one of the four regional goals was they we want to develop a broader oriented a well-equipped emergency response organisation. Second of all we want to insure that the fire service will be fully firmly embedded within the local community and its administration. And in the third place we want to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the fire services on local level, regional level and later on national level. We can only do that to remain organised around key and well-trained volunteers supported by professionals. I will have to explain just a little that Mr Chairman has already said because its pretty unique in the Netherlands we do have approximately 23 500 volunteers and we are supported by about 4 500 professionals and we want to keep and remain that. We could only make one final conclusion and that is you've already read it we can only improve our organisation on a local and regional level by co-operation and the last goal is the most important one. After formulating these goals we could only have the final definition the approval fire service.

Something about our approach first of all we have to describe and define the areas that need coverage, second we had to describe and design the data, which is necessary to give some data acquisition. The third we had to make checklists and forms. The fourth we had to accumulate the data, and we have done for two years from 1993 to 1995 later on the data had to be passed on processed and entered into the programme that took about a year. From 1995 to 1996. This data was passed on to the regional fire service to the section fire prevention awareness processed and transferred which focused on specific municipalities, there you will see the illustration of the response times of the first water tender or called first pump of the local fire brigade of Eindhoven. We had visualised the same for the second and the third up to twelve of water tenders but this illustration will only show you the response times for the first water tanker. As you can see there are many, many white areas but there are a few red. And the red eyed areas are problem areas on the agenda you can see that area will be 19 minutes Response time from the first pump and that will be prospective to make. I will further explain because in our region in the Netherlands we have made objectives for response times for each different premises each different building the red areas within Eindhoven there are few of them. I can explain by telling you that in Eindhoven we do have professionals and the professionals do have a response time one minute, with this response time I will mean to say one minute after the alarm call the professionals are into the engine and make a trip to the location where the accident took place, for volunteers it is three minutes. So on the one hand the professionals they can manage it in one minute from the alarm call till the vehicle and drive and the volunteers will have to manage it within three minutes. This is one of the results of the visualisation of the first water tender we have done that twenty two times for each municipality we have made a plan like this now you will only see today the first water tender. When I give you an overview of the

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entire region you will see that we do have more than one problem area. Perhaps I can show you this area is within the entire municipality of Eindhoven the smaller one that one is Sheldorff of which I am the Chief Fire Officer you can see on the sheet it is like an overview of twenty two municipalities and the red areas are the problem areas which we will have to resolve. The next sheet I will show you only the problem areas and those are the problem areas the black spots you can see are the local fire stations within our region we do have twenty two municipalities we do have about thirty four fire stations because some of the municipalities are clusters of villages. We can only solve the problem as I already said by co-operation and working on the basis of imaginary boundaries so called operational boundaries this is the situation before implementation on working on basis of operational boundaries. Now I will show you what happened when we are going to work and we are still working on the basis of operational boundaries we had to reduce we had to decrease the problem areas with at least ninety percent this is one of the most striking results. Of course I have already told we do not only have operational results we do have also some political results because when I can show the local authorities which are my problem areas of my municipalities of the region I can do my job better and I have asked to do the next phase. First of all within the region we have now twenty-two full time professional fire chiefs and they are supported by one or more professional fire sub-officers before we did have twenty-two volunteer fire chief officers. But after the implementation and after the visualisation of our problem areas we could go to the local authorities and tell them that we need to professionalise. We do have twenty-two local policy plans and one regional policy plan we do have twenty-two fire brigades, which are full and ready within the community administration. And we do have twenty-two municipalities working on the basis of operational values supported by the local authority. For the next millennium we will fine tuning our plan zero and we will do further acquisition of both of the areas that need to be covered and the necessary data and of course we will still be working on the basis of operational values between the municipalities within the next millennium we will start to develop a new programme so it allows us to work on the basis of operational boundaries between the regions. We can only succeed by doing this by one word and that is the key to success and it is called commitment. Commitment is the key word and I tried to visualise by this illustration that's what we are committed to. You are asking the guy in a red suit its a fireman with a diving suit the cow you see probably you are thinking that within the Netherlands we do have on the one hand the inhabitants and on the other hand we do have the cows. And we do have a lot of them. May I thank you for your attention I will give the word to Mr Chairman. Thank you.

**Ali Van Strien:** Based in the North West of England and in his present post John has been focusing on developing the links between analysis and the investigation of fires, using the information systems for better development and target fire safety campaigns; both in terms of enforcement of legislation and community fire safety education. John has come to help us to make the conclusions and summary and I would suggest that John that I

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first ask you to make the first summarize if you can and then I would ask if there are any questions.

**John Jordan:** Thank you Chairman. The brief I was given was a considered distillation of comments and views expressed by our formal speakers and so that is what I am here to attempt. I think first of all our Chairman spoke about language, and I'll come back to that later if I may, and the need for a common language. I think we have a common language. Our first speaker spoke about the comparative statistics in Norway and their apparently sophisticated data system which meets Norway's needs, and he went on to speak then about the possibilities of us having a European system. He actually asked if the problems were worth the pain, or the value of the common system would be worth the pain. Alan then moved on to - Alan Stoker went on to talk about the need to move from empirical data to geographical analysis and National Sensor state are providing the means by which we could look at social and economic work and our research with the Liverpool University has given us a means of focusing on where we need to allocate our staff and our resources and our programmes. And he spoke about our frequency index in terms of how that powerful tool could enable us to do that. He also briefly spoke about the difficulties of, even in the U.K. about having a common language, about what a casualty is. A casualty in one part of the Brigade might mean someone who has ingested some smoke; in another part of the Brigade it might mean someone with very severe injuries. Finally Robert spoke about fire cover standards and the tools that could help us judge the fire service and talked about Risk Assessment processes. He spoke about frequency and consequences, and there I think is where we move into this common language, because I think what we've seen here this afternoon is the common language of Risk Assessment, which is I think very well understood throughout Europe. So, here on the board here we have three recommendations, which are our preliminary thoughts in terms of where we should be going forward. I think at this point I should like to ask delegates to consider those and raise other issues with us that will compliment or support or perhaps even attack some of those recommendations up there, so can I hand over now to the audience of the delegates and ask the audience on those three recommendations. Are there any questions?

**Tom Wilmott:** Thank you Chairman, I am sorry to speak again but briefly. Tom Wilmott from the World Fire Statistic Centre. Could I briefly say how delighted I was to hear of the enlightened Norwegian use of fire statistics to reduce fire loss, and if the proposal for the FEU to organize some research into a European Fire Statistics System, the **World Fire Statistics Centre will be delighted to co-operate** to the best of our ability and finally just for those of you who are not familiar with our work, we have been working for some 20 years collecting statistics for around 20 countries - mainly European but also the States, Japan, New Zealand and so on - not just for the losses direct, indirect and human, but also for the cost of protection thanking you.

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**John Jordon:** Well thank you Tom so that seems to be some support in the first instance for our first recommendation. Are there any other comments?

**Dr Ronald Bareham:** University of Central Lancashire here in the U.K. Fire engineering, fire safety managements have now reached the point after some 9 years, 10 years of activity of being a fairly well established academic area, and we now have reached the point where we've got a considerable amount of PhD level research going on in this area and this session raises an interesting point because in the last few years some of my students - some of whom are ex fire service - have been doing work which required statistical backup, only to find that whilst the fire service puts in a report on every job that it attends, whilst that data is collected by the Home Office, it is not all processed, it is not all available and because of the rising costs of processing data there is even less of it becoming available in the public domain.

The other alternative of course is that data could be collected directly from individual Fire Brigades, but just at U.K. level that means 60 odd different sets of data - not all of which is easily available. When we start looking at the European situation it becomes even more complex and one of the big worries that I have is that whilst there is a very clear need for comparable European statistics, and whilst I would be the first to applaud that happening - one of the problems we hit is confidentiality where raw data is available say within the Home Office and where someone who's doing Doctoral level research is being prepared to go in their and do the analysis in order to underpin that research, they have been denied access to the data on the grounds that it was confidential. That I think might legislate against what we are trying to do and therefore it is possibly something that needs to be flagged up. Thank you.

**John Jordon:** Some health warning from Dr. Byron I think, but perhaps come back to what he was saying about an uncomplicated vital information only type of system. I see a speaker indicating here, second row back.

**Norwegian Delegate:** From the Norwegian Association of Fire Officers. I am a delegate of the FEU. I want to add some words to the speaker about the need of the common European Fire statistics. As he said after a very simple survey the answer was that all nations have National Fire Statistics; all turnouts are reported by the Team Leader and in most other nations the police are investigating the fire causes and very few nations give the report a unique identification code. So the surface the situation seems okay but if you dig a little bit deeper the situation is not good at all. A second survey answered by 9 nations gave for example this result. Less than half of the nation have defined what a fire death really is. The number of days after the incident when you are injured till they die by the fire is varying from zero to more than 90 days, which means that if you go back to the statistics from Greater Manchester last year, 7 of all the fire deaths in Manchester in 1998 died at hospital, or all together 23.



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Less than half of the nations do not separate fire deaths and suicide by fire. Most of the nations categorize suicide by fire both as high deaths and suicide and a simple question asks what is a child - up to 12 and up to 15 years of age. Very, very few nations connect the fire reports to other reports from the same - even for example through the Police investigation report. Only half of the nations have for example, wrong use of electrical equipment as a specific fire cause. Who is reporting the loss or values in fire are varying a lot. From none to the state, to the fire command to the insurance companies. All nations have properties that are not covered by their fire statistics. Though I support the speaker's conclusion that we should establish a group of experts, such a group needs a motor. A leading country. Terminology and language is very important. **Without a common terminology the common statistics will fail** so I would hope that the United Kingdom could take the challenge and be the motor in such a group of experts.

**John Jordan:** Thanks. We have a speaker down on the front row here and then I'll come back - one speaker at the back and then I'll come back to our presenters and ask them to address some of these points which have been raised.

**Dieter Nüessler:** Germany. I am always impressed when I watch TV. and see the polls and after 10 minutes they say o.k. this will be the result for when you get a new Parliament and I must say Germany is one of the countries, which have a National Statistics, but Fire Chiefs are not very keen to use it because it's more or less meaningless. That's the problem and we had an idea, just whether it's possible in our Brigades, just to pick up two or three or five while volunteering to work on the Fire Statistics and use the method of the polls to say gives a good figure of the country and I would like to ask the experts if that could be a way forward after having defined the terminology. Say okay we pick up some major cities, some counties and take them as representatives for their country and then we could proceed very quickly. Because I have my doubts after having defined the terminology who is going to do the job and this will be a really big deal so I am not an expert to judge whether this will be a statistic which will be sufficient in the outcome but I think there could be an easy way forward. Thank you.

**John Jordan:** So to what extent can we use indicative areas and use that with any degree of confidence in a much wider scenario. The speaker at the back is indicating - the gentleman with the glasses.

**John Gamble:** John Gamble from the Home Office Fire Statistic Section responsible for output. I'm really just making a few remarks, questions off the top of my head in response to some of the things that have been said. Permission to look at individual fire reports somebody asked about. That is permission granted by individual fire Brigades. The Home Office only stores fire reports and collects them for our own data purposes but in terms of access to the reports, that is at the permission of each individual U.K. Fire Brigade. Of course there are Data Protection Act issues, legal restraints to access to casualty data, which is covered for legal reasons.

**In terms of a European collection and processing of fire data there is huge cost implications** there and I think that perhaps somebody could come back on that because I think that unless you're looking at a very small sample of fire data from all the countries, the costs of processing and the impact of the timeliness of the data and the accuracy of the data and I think the speaker before last raised a whole number of national peculiarities which would create problems - I think perhaps another road to go down would be to look at comparing the outputs of fire statistics. Next month we should be releasing our second release of U.K. fire statistics on a CD Rom which has got an interactive menu package and will have data from 1994 to 1997 on it and that has all the variables that are on the FDR1 form and if its possible to use some of that data to compare with other European data - I don't know to what extent that is on electronic formats, but perhaps comparison of electronic outputs would be a much more costly way of comparing European fire Statistics. Thank you.

**John Jordon:** Well thank you for that. I think we've had a number of health warnings as it were across the floor about the difficulties of doing this whilst supporting the desirability. Are you indicating you would like to speak?

**Mr Barisich:** Thank you very much. Yes I would take over from what our colleague at the Home Office says. We have a **systematic collection of statistics in the Union**, which is made by European Communities' statistical office but which as our colleague says is an extremely heavy and costly exercise. Because this implies that every national statistical office should collect the data on the same basis. It might feel that in a previous life I was dealing with statistics, this is because I am quite well informed. I can tell you that **it is an extremely heavy and costly exercise**. On the other hand after our meeting in Brussels in December I took contact with my colleague who is responsible in the statistical office for these kinds of problems and we have the idea to try to have an inter-service goal in the Commission to try to see if something could be done in this field. But it will definitely not be unified European statistics but could be, I don't know, collection of data, collection of information. The idea which has been just put to have some synoptic presentation of national data like what has been saved by our colleague of Home Office and I hope they will receive a copy of this indeed. It seems to be a very promising way but once again it's a very complex matter and attention to statistics better it was than no statistics at all. Every month we receive questions about the number of firemen in the Union and we have a look at a group of countries where we have about one fireman for 1,000 people - sometimes for more than that. We have another group where we have a fireman for 200 persons and we have the group of only one case, where we have one fireman for 50 persons. It doesn't mean that the people are protected in a different way in one country or another. In fact it covers a very complex matter and I think again **the idea to have a group could be a good one**. Thank you very much.

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**John Jordon:** Well thank you Chairman. I think at that point unless the speakers have got anything finally they would like to say I think we should sum up with the general feeling that despite the concerns and the warnings people have put on, **our recommendations here are that there is a very clear need to make some comparative statistics available, perhaps through a group of experts to take this work forward** to resolve the problems we have spoken about. The one thing that seems very clear from the presentations this afternoon is that **mapping techniques could provide a very powerful way of doing that** and these mapping techniques have become much more easily available these days and could provide the tool for us. Thank you Chairman.

**Ali Van Strien:** Thank you very much. Is there any reaction from the table? No? I think it was very complete the summaries of the conclusions. It means that I will end this workshop because otherwise we are running too much out of time. Of course not without really thanking all the speakers for the wonderful job they did and also for summarizing the conclusions from John Jordon and am very glad I give you a small thing to take home.

**Dennis Davies:** Thank you Ali for session three chairmanship. We are just a little bit overtime but I think it was right that we spent the time particularly with those three excellent presentations. Could I ask you therefore - it's now nearly just gone quarter to - so if we can try and be back for three o'clock, just after three o'clock. I'll still try and get you back in as you know but could you express your thanks for your session Chairman.

**Ali Van Strien:** Is going on the podium I only want to remind you that tomorrow we have a possibility to have further discussions because the time is very restricted and we try to get on the timetable. Thank you. The floor is yours.

**Jan Sterk:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. Before I start my presentation about arson I would like to tell you a little bit more about the national centre for prevention in the Netherlands that's quite a new name that the centre was founded in 1997, that's only two years ago, as the follow up of a reorganization. Nowadays the national centre for prevention is a not for profit organization and on the Board of the Foundation are representatives of not only of the Government, but also of the Fire Brigades, the Police, installers, consumers, all parties that are involved.

What do we do at the National Centre? Well the main activities are certification of fire and theft prevention with certain developments. We do give certain information about theft and fire prevention and of course we have training courses on the subject.

To start with arson. I am speaking about **arson in the Netherlands**; I was wondering what is arson, what is the definition and automatically follows the other question - what can you do about it? So, I went to our library and I typed in the words (*Dutch*) that means arson in Dutch and our computer understands Dutch, so the computer came out with 121 hits, the first time. That's why I left the library and started reading articles, books, reports, guidelines etc., and I will tell you when I am finished, but what I have read so far is enough for my 20 minutes presentation here, so let's go on.

In one of the reports, and it was a report of 1989, I found that there are seven types of arsonists and in the report those are not Dutch names those are sort of letting names, I think the first name is a little bit difficult - it's about children playing with matches - that's little arsonists. The balder type has nothing to do with your or mine hair. The vandal type has to do with vandalism, they are a little bit older and not choosing matches any more, perhaps lighters or so. Pecuniary types are after the money and the crimotype is setting fire for criminal reasons and the political type for political reasons, and the last two types they are not sure why they do it but they are there. In one of the articles I found this picture and as a sort of intermezzo this is a multi answering questions. What do you think? (A) Is this a car salesman or (B) an arsonist (C) a well-known Dutch insurer and (D) and optimist? But who is voting for (D) - Nobody? Well the answer is correct it is D and the answer C is also correct. It's not intending to leave the sheet. Well I was a bit too quick with the switch of these sheets but this picture was the picture of Mr.Kromeller. A well-known Dutch insurer. He is a Director of an insurance company with a British mother and in 1986 he said at an international seminar in Zurich that he was convinced that the fight against arson would lead to a victory because of the joint efforts of Insurers, The Home Office, The Ministry of Justice, The Police and the Fire Brigades. That's why he was an optimist, because there still is arson in the Netherlands and Mr.Kromeller is leaving the insurance company at the end of this year. **Statistics in the Netherlands are gathered**

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by the Dutch Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS) they gather the answers from the questions they asked the Fire Brigade and the Fire Brigades reported in 1997 about 15,000 indoor fires and 32,000 outdoor fires. Remember, Holland is small; we've got 16,000,000 people living there in about 6,000,000 houses. Regarding to the question What is arson, the CBS gives figures about arson, vandalism and playing kids and I am not quite sure where the bottom line is. So what I did in my presentation I added these figures to one figure for arson.

I looked up what the figures were for arson from 1985 until 1997 and the figures for indoor fires were in '85 - 28% and they came down to about 21% in 1997 and for other fires they are about 60%. What do insurers do against arson? What can they do? We have a salvage organisation operation in the Netherlands, which means that in case of fire the Fire Brigade can call a salvage co-ordinator, that is a loss adjuster on duty who will be present at the sight of the fire within one hour. He is there to help the insured, he is paid by the insured and it is possible for him to take measures to diminish the loss of the damage and also he can look around and listen around. Does he get any information and salvage and sometimes that helps. Then there are the special investigators. A lot of insurance companies have those people and the investigator tells the insurers that they save a lot of money each year, and so would I, if I had a job like that. There is a fraud data system for the insurers in the Netherlands but that is subject to a very strict privacy legislation so there are many possibilities with that system and of course insurers cooperate with the police. What do the Fire Brigades do about arson, and here I have to be extremely careful because I am not in the fire services and I can only tell what I've heard or what I've read but I found out in one of the magazines that the police in the Netherlands who does the investigation about arson is of the opinion that it is a long time ago that the firemen were looked at as the people that destroyed evidence. Nowadays they cooperate very well with the police and that is for instance because of the fact that the police is given information about fire investigations so the fireman does know what to look at. I heard some suggestions that also from the side of the police, the first one is that it would be a good idea to integrate the subject of fire investigation into the training programmes and the other suggestion is that it would be useful to change jobs for a couple of days from time to time.

Well that's about all there is to be said about arson but there is one special item that I would like to draw your attention to and I do that with these figures. Let's first look at the percentage of arson in houses and dwellings. The lowest figure about 20% starting to go down to 17% is for the one family dwelling and the higher apartment buildings latest figures that started at 45% and went down to about 28% in the last few years. What you see here is the big difference between the situation that people are living on the ground floor and have a good view of what is happening around the dwellings. In higher buildings the arsonist is down and the people are living up. The only difference perhaps that can be seen from these figures is a new requirement from 1992 to have a good look at the main entrance of a higher apartment building. Perhaps that you will remember that the average figure for arson in buildings was 20% at the graph left you will see that arson figures for office

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buildings is 25 and for school buildings work it's 55%. And again here you have the situation that when there is nobody around the arsonist goes to work. For the industrial sector the average figure is quite low 10% but for warehouses it is 25% and then finally outdoor fires.

There are about 32,000 outdoor fires - 50% of them were started in waste and nearly all are arson. 80% in waste containers are caused by arson, so again there are 7 types of arsonists, but if there is nobody around and there's combustible material the arsonists go to work and it will be very difficult to get all the arsonists from the streets.

Perhaps and in fact I am convinced this new initiative will help, it is an initiative of the Home Office, the Ministry of Justice and the Dutch Association of Insurers and the ideas to form public, private partnerships to prevent crime and fire at industrial estates and shopping centres. For each of these facilities the idea is to join businesses and municipality police and fire brigade in one foundation and that foundation contracts a private security service for surveillance after working hours, looking after thieves, burglars, arsonists etc. The foundation invests in TV cameras if needed and keeps an eye on people and cars moving around or parked somewhere, combustible outdoor storage, water supply, lighting, shrubbery and feed this to for police and the fire brigade.

There is one standard uniform system developed by the national centre for prevention and that method is now tried out in three pilots that started in January, last January, and will end in September and after that this all should lead to one **national system for the certification**. Certifications being a sort of a quality mark for businesses, safe and secure businesses is our working name and that is my presentation ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for your attention.

**Ali Van Strien:** Thank you Jan Stern and the next presentation is given by Lisa Joutsu. She is from the Finnish rescue action association or rescue perhaps she tells how?

**Lisa Joutsu:** Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. My subject is home safety and I am going to tell you especially about a Finnish campaign on **accident prevention at home**. According to the statistics two thirds of all accidents in Finland occur in the home or during people's leisure time. The number of accidents in the home has continued to increase whereas the number of traffic accidents and accidents at work have fallen. Again there are lots of fires in the home and most of the fires leading to death occur in the home. We often say in Finland that the number of deaths due to fires in the home is extremely high when compared to other countries, despite our having some of the world's most efficient fire brigades. The majority of deaths from fire are men. The highest risk combination is a middle-aged man, alcohol, a cigarette and a bed. **In Finland** it has been assessed that annually of those dying in the fire, almost **every second person could have been saved by a fire detector**. At the moment there are fire detectors in almost 60% of all households but in the case of apartment buildings in only every fourth home.

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A reduction in deaths and accidents due to fire is best achieved by providing for this eventuality on an individual basis. In studies it has been assessed that with an increase in the number of fire detectors one can expect a decrease at least in deaths due to fire and major fires. In general in fact efforts thought preventing fires are considered to be more important than previously. **Peoples own readiness to prevent fires and act correctly in a fire outbreak must be improved.**

For this reason the Act on Rescue Services or the Civil Protection Act which will come into force in Finland in September and embodies an obligation requiring the custodian of the home to acquire an adequate number of smoke alarms and to keep these in working order. The fire authorities are obliged to provide fire safety in instruction and to otherwise promote prevention of accidents so that safety in the home is given considerable emphasis in the new act. This gives the fire authorities better opportunities to co-ordinate the whole accident prevention.

In Finland we are now at the same point as Norway was in 1990 when smoke alarms became mandatory in every household. Even though the death rate due to fire in Norway has decreased this has not in fact declined by the anticipated amount. It does seem that the installation of fire alarms alone has not been enough. For example it became apparent that every third smoke alarm was not in working order due to for instance the batteries not having been changed.

In Norway it has been observed that citizens have to be repeatedly informed about fire safety matters, especially in the highest risk group which includes elderly, those living alone and those partial to alcohol. Information about fire safety is necessary. The importance of effective fire safety education targeted at citizens is even greater than before, as has been realised in Norway and now in Finland.

How can we get information and advice effectively to the people? It is known that the most effective fire safety education of all is that taking place at grassroots level during personal contacts. It is true that the traditional method of informing and educating people in this respect are important but if in addition to there are methods available for personally influencing citizens than getting the information over is always, always so much more effective.

Let us take an example. Around one month ago in a small town close to Helsinki at Gheraba rescue department and the department of social affairs and health co-operated on the determination of elderly homes in which there were no smoke alarms. This joint project is connected with the United Nations year of the elderly and the town has chosen accident prevention as its team of the year. Elderly safety requirements are being documented and on the basis of these various campaigns are being held. The purpose of this one was for firemen to install the coming obligatory smoke alarms in the homes of all those people being cared for at home who have no fire alarms. The town is making one third and the local insurance companies two thirds of the costs. In this picture you can see firemen at work. When installing a smoke alarm

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they also give fire safety directions and other advice relating to safety in the home. This resident an approximately 80-year-old woman is with good reason extremely pleased with her town's service. More over to avoid old people having to climb up to change their fire alarms batteries, the municipality's home helps have accepted responsibility for testing the condition of the smoke alarms.

Campaigns of this kind could be arranged in conjunction with other aspects of home safety. However, the most important thing is for all those interested who could assist in increasing personal safety and safety in the home to co-operate in this work irrespective of whether it is a question of avoiding fires or avoiding other accidents or calamities. This will also be obligatory in Finland and the new act on rescue services, according to which fire brigades will also be responsible for extending prevention activities to situations and accidents causing a danger to some other accident or fire. Tasks associated with general accident prevention primarily take the form of education and voluntary training, together with co-operation with other authorities.

As I said at the beginning most of the Finnish accidents occur in homes. As a consequence a national campaign was launched in Finland in 1994 in an effort to prevent accidents from happening in the home. This campaign is well known for its black cat (an animal which is generally associated with accidents and undesirable events). The slogan for this cat campaign is the phrase "you have only one life" - publicly referring to the cat's nine lives. Participants in the campaign include the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, the Ministry of the Interior, the Finnish National Rescue Association, the Federation of Finnish Insurance Companies, the Finnish Centre for Health Promotion and the National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health, The Finnish Red Cross Association for Finnish Local Authorities, the Church and the Central Union for Child Welfare in Finland are also closely co-operating in this work.

The purpose of the campaign is to help people to study the possible risk points at home and to take steps to reduce these risks. The campaign has among other things produced some informative material for eliminating accidents in the home. For instance we have a competition on the safest municipality and we have children's material that passes the information through children to parents. The campaign has also produced on current home accident themes like falls. This year's team is targeted at elderly who constitute a group with the highest risk in regard of home accidents. The Fire Brigade plays a leading role and we specially do so through the coming Act on Rescue Services - not only from the fire safety perspective but also from the point of view of home accident education and counselling work. This work can also be carried out in co-operation with different authorities and organisations by compiling the distribution of information of this kind with home visits as made by for instance Fire Inspectors and Assistant Chimney Sweeps. Extremely effective fire safety education campaign achieved. Municipalities have also other professional bodies like the District Nurses in the Health Care Sector, the Home Help staff in the Social Care Sector as I mentioned Fire Inspectors and Chimney Sweeps, Building Safety staff in the



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residents association for condominium owners. People in work in the parishes, Love Thy Neighbour Service and workers from the Red Cross, all of whom make home visits. Such staff groups are trained to inform and advise people about all forms of home accidents. Thus for instance a Home Help is able to give people information on Fire Safety while a Fire Inspector is able to advise on the prevention of falls in the home. The primary, and the greatest amount of work in home accident campaigning is done by the Municipalities. We have observed that the more co-operation that we speak to in different sectors in the Municipalities the better the results achieved in home accident prevents of work. The intention is for the Municipalities and organisations to accomplish their own local projects through co-operation between for instance the police, school and education authorities, technical authorities, social and health authorities, fire and rescue, consumer guidance, product safety, traffic, farming authorities and organisations. This kind of network co-operation is the best way of reaching people. Various participants in co-operation and particularly those carrying out home visits as mentioned above, accept home accident matters as part of their own work and can benefit from the information on accident prevention which they obtain when carrying out their normal home visits among the people as part of their work. The intention is for these field workers to help people to recognise the danger points in the home and to suggest measures to them for rectifying the faults. For this purpose various kinds of campaign material has been produced including checklists and leaflets containing practical guidelines. Despite the fact that home accident co-operation constitutes continuous year round prevention, a special campaign day is also made use of in Finland. Each year a campaign against accident matters is held on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. This year the national accident prevention day fell on the 13<sup>th</sup> August. This day is renowned all over the world as a day prone to accidents. We in Finland have decided through the medium of this day to convince people of the reality that accidents do happen in fact every day of the year and that they can be prevented from happening. This means that we have turned upside down the notion that there is just one day associated with bad luck and that luck has little to do in this matter. In particular, prominence in the media has provided a great deal of scope for this realisation. In addition to those involved in home accident matters, people working in occupational and traffic safety have taken part in the accident day co-operation. This day has been treated with enthusiasm at work places in particular; occupational safety organisations have actively campaigned on behalf of the prevention of accidents in the home. After all, accidents occurring in the home and during leisure time cause more absenteeism at work places than accidents at work do. Altogether there are 13 different parties and over 10,000 field liaisons involved in homework and traffic accident prevention around Finland. The National Accident Prevention Day is accomplished through accident prevention programmes, events and office of functions in Municipalities, schools, workplaces, market squares, institutions, companies, clubs and so on. This day has been a splendid way of gathering together all the stakeholders involved in accident prevention. By this means we can obtain publicity and achieve longer lasting co-operating within the sector in the Municipalities. This ensures that the activities are effective, reduces overlapping, makes the use of meagre resources more efficient and above all produces better results. We Finns welcome everyone

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to participate in accident prevention. The black cat has already crossed the border into Sweden and Estonia where it is participating in national campaigns warning people about the danger of accidents. Both countries will also be campaigning against accidents in connection with Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your attention.

**Ali Van Strien:** Thank you Lisa. Then we continue with the U.K. presentations and Martin Chapman is taking first the floor. The floor is yours Martin.

**Martin Chapman:** Thank you Yurka. Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. Whilst I'm delighted to be here this afternoon to front this topic on how collaboration involving the public and private sectors have brought about a successful education centre in the Dorset area, I was informed this morning that back in Dorset, in the rural areas of Dorset, there was a fire in a house in which an elderly person died. That house did not have a smoke detector. To put that into some kind of perspective for you this is the first fatality we've had this financial year and last year we totalled four. It seems I suppose rather poignant therefore that I should be standing before you to deliver a speech on a holistic safety centre on day one of Fire Safe in Europe Conference. I'm one of the Safety Trustee Directors of Dorset Interactive Safety Education Centre, which is a registered company with charitable status responsible for Streetwise, the name by which this successful centre is known. After much hard work I'm pleased the centre was formally opened on 12<sup>th</sup> November last year and is now providing safety education in Dorset and to the surrounding counties. I have the task of describing the background for the project and why it's so important and advantageous to Dorset Fire Rescue Service. I will then hand over to Brian Ellis from Ellis Belk Associates who will describe the developments of the technical specifications and the constructional phases of the project. Alison Curtis, the Streetwise Centre Manager, will then speak about how the centre is being used and the development strategy over the next five years. So to the background, and a little bit more about Dorset.

Dorset is situated on the South Coast of England. It consists of Dorset County and the Boroughs of Bournemouth and Poole. The area is predominantly rural, famous for its stunning beauty and the holiday resorts of Bournemouth, Poole, Weymouth and Lyme Regis. It's also the home of the Thomas Hardy novels. The population is some 682,000 with 44% residing in the Bournemouth and Poole conurbation. There are some 67,000 children in the 6 - 14 age group and there are 257 schools. Both these figures follow the population profile and the same percentage breakdown for the Bournemouth and Poole conurbation. In terms of Dorset Fire & Rescue Service, with the exception of Weymouth, all the full-time Fire Stations cover the Bournemouth and Poole conurbation Fire Safety workloads have a similar profile. These profiles caused us some logistical difficulties in providing fire safety education in the rural areas of the county. With the desire to educate children in the area on safety issues, a Junior Citizen Campaign was introduced in 1993 - the origins of this originate back to the London area in the 1980's. Many similar schemes have been adopted around the country under the banners of Junior Good Citizen, Citizen 2000 and Crucial Crew, to name but a few. To Dorset

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this was the first collaborative arrangement on safety education. It involved many agencies and took place in premises to the East of the county. Schools were invited, targeting between the ages of 6 - 10 and the groups were faced with ten scenarios.

The fire service filled a room with smoke concentrating on evacuation and calling the brigade. The police used the scheme to promote stranger danger and callers at the door. The ambulance service portrayed an unconscious patient that had been electrocuted. The Gas Board promoted gas safety in the home. The County Council's Trading Standards covered sales of restricted goods to children and the County Council's safety team concentrated on car safety. The Coastguard were there to promote sea safety and dangers of inflatable boats. The Electric Company covered the dangers inside and outside the home, particularly concentrated in kites where they are flown in areas of overhead power cables. The Dorset Health Commission thing was safety in the garden, highlighting the dangers from the sun to garden equipment and also to hazardous substances. British Transport provided a mock section of railway to highlight the various dangers. How did it work? Well, children were split into groups and spent nine minutes on each scenario. After completing the 10 scenarios they were de-briefed and provided with refreshments. Feedback was received from the groups so that improvements could be made. So successful was this scheme that all those participating agreed that it should be run again in another part of the county so that other schoolchildren could benefit from it. The scheme operated until last year where the overall impression was that it provided an excellent learning opportunity and schoolteachers felt that it would remain with children for the rest of their lives.

The scheme though had its downside. It only operated for two weeks of the year and whilst it had been held at different locations to ensure a wide coverage as possible, it could only ever best deal with 1,000 children at a time. All those involved in the scheme, from the providers to the receivers, agreed that it would be better to have a permanent centre. As a result of the enthusiasm of the scheme some 4 years ago, the Junior Citizen organising committee determined that an independent evaluation of providing a permanent centre should be explored. It was known that an Interactive Safety Centre had already been established successfully in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire under the name of Hazard Alley.

As a result of the evaluation the Dorset Interactive Safety Education Centre was formed to oversee the project. It was clear that funding for the Centre would need to come primarily through the private sector. Perhaps the biggest change and the one that we would wish this presentation to focus on this afternoon were changing what was indeed a vision into reality. Sponsorship was seen as a key to development it was potentially necessary to have something to show to interest sponsors. Early on we were to find that simply talking about it the good idea was when you left an office, simply that it was a good idea. It was to be Ellis Belk the year of the centre through a computerised simulation that provided potential sponsors with our vision. The break through came when the centre was given a major boost with an initial

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injection of fifty thousand pounds from Liverpool Victoria Insurance Company. This allowed the development of a purpose built safety house and acted as a catalyst not only for further sponsors but also for the future of the centre. Dorset Fire and Rescue Service support the centre by providing a junior officer on full time secondment. The centre benefits the fire service by providing a means to meet future government requirements on delivering fire safety education it overcomes many of the logistical problems of providing fire safety in the rural areas, it acts as a focal point to publicise fire safety, initiatives, its increasing client base through the wider range of scenario. Highlighting through the other scenarios the range of special service which the Dorset Fire and Rescue Service gets involved in. It provides a network link to others it devises for example for us Dorset Police with a Crime and Disorder Bill. And it provides house-seconded officer with the opportunities to further his personal self-development. As a stand alone charitable company the centre actually belongs to no one organisation it's been designed for the communities use, its education, and therefore belongs to everyone as it has been created buy collaboration foe everyone in the community. I would now like to hand over to Brian Ellis who will describe his company's involvement with the centre.

**Brian Ellis:** Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen. My name is Brian Ellis and I am the principal of Ellis Bell Associates a firm of Chartered Building Surveyors and building engineers based in Poole in Dorset who were the designers and project managers of 'Streetwise'. I am also coincidentally the great grandson of a former Superintendent of Chester Fire Brigade. My first introduction into the world of safety centres occurred back in the spring of 1997 when police constable Andrew Saunders rang to say he wanted to interview me (that wasn't a good day). At our first meeting Andy announced that he had a nice simple little project for us to do to create a full size village inside an existing industrial unit a somewhat different project from our usual line of work but we felt we were up to the challenge and began our research we had the example of Hazard Alley in Milton Keynes which gave a starting point for the centre and the experience of the Junior Citizen Scheme for the individual scenarios. Andy Saunders then announced that there was a very strict timetable for the work to be carried out and that he currently had about 10% of the funding required absolutely ideal climate. We firstly had to address the design problem of adapting an existing building whose facilities amounted to two cubicles and one urinal to accept a through put of some sixty excitable children we didn't feel this was enough. In order to take the design on further discussions took place with the local planning department and building regulation department, as well as the health and safety executive to confirm exactly what was being created. Was it a place of entertainment, a place of assembly, or a place of education? We received a great deal of assistance from the various statutory bodies to arrive at our joint conclusion, nobody actually knew but we agreed to proceed anyway. At this stage it was decided that the centre would need to be financially secure and this would require an income generator of some kind to keep entrance costs at an affordable level. The decision was taken to create a high street frontage with shops and offices, which are sponsored and fitted out on an annual basis to provide ongoing income and high street realism. This also set the quality

standard for the whole centre, which was realism, durability and low maintenance. The idea for a conference facility was discussed and was included within the enabling works. The idea of video recording and observing the activities within the safety centre was brought into play and a recording studio and observation area were added to the enabling works. Admin offices on the first floor were included in the enabling works and are currently being improved but are a low priority as they are not on view or essential for the administration of these facilities. At this stage we had the layout for the administration, and conference areas however we still had a very large area to fill. The brief for the layout meant that it had to fit into the space that we were provided with i.e. within the walls of the industrial unit. It had to contain a minimum number of scenarios to make the centre viable, it had to have a natural flow to control sixty plus children at any one time without them tripping over each other. We had to separate the individual scenarios to allow concentration on the individual messages being put across. It had to be acceptable to Dorset fire and rescue with regards to means of escape. The last thing that we wanted was an incident in a Safety Centre, it had to be flexible to allow vehicle movements to and from the road, and it had to be future proof to allow for alteration in style and fashion. It is important that the centre is kept up to date 'street wise' means 'street credibility'. The big space to be filled had to contain the following scenarios, representing the most common areas of danger. It needed a road and shops, a park, a house and garden, a dark alley an electricity sub-station, a railway, a farm, heath land, a beach and a building site. A combination of the brief and the scenarios gave us the 'street wise' overview containing the various scenes. A great deal of research was then undertaken by my practice including reports, statistics and videos and a great deal of discussion with the safety experts, The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, The Health and Safety Executive, The Police, The Fire Brigade, British Rail Transport Police, and The National Farmers Union. All of the information gathered allowed us to maximise the message we were saying for each of the individual scenarios. I am sure you will agree that is a competent enough working drawing but it does not exactly grab the attention to any great degree. Having arrived at the overall layout and the design of the individual scenarios we were still left with the slight problem that the client has fifty thousand pounds and the estimated cost is half a million pounds. How do we persuade potential sponsors to part with their cash? It was at this time that we began to use the office computers and the CAD System to maximum effect and by the use of design visualisation we produced 3D visual images of the finished centre before the first brick had been laid. It should be stressed that these are not just artist's impressions but are based on the 3D working drawings as approved by the planning authority and the building regulation department. These rendered images created a huge amount of publicity for the centre and a huge amount of publicity means keen sponsors. The various marketing and publicity departments, potential sponsors, were able to take back to their board members rendered 3D images of exactly what they were being asked to sponsor, which clearly helped where the original 2D drawings would not have had the same effect. By going one stage further with the rendered image and our computer systems we were then able to produce a virtual reality walk through of part of the centre which generated enormous interest and provided a centre piece for the launch and

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'Streetwise' formed the basis of the probational video. A section of which I would like to show you now.

*Video played.*

The sponsorship we received was cash donations and gifts in kind. This meant that the overall design had to remain flexible to reflect the gifts given but needed control to ensure that the correct messages at each scenario were not distorted. For example what was needed was a farm building what was offered was a barn twice the size of the farm site. We needed bricks to build the shops, however we were generously offered a huge amount of stone, of different sizes to the bricks, which required a lot of design alteration. Difficult and diplomatic decisions had to be made as some free gifts were not always right for the project, we originally designed a balcony with a reception area and briefing room for our volunteers to introduce themselves and explain the purpose of the visit to the children, we were offered a helicopter, not exactly what we had in mind, but let me assure you that the sight of a pilot inside a helicopter inside an industrial unit speaking to children over a police load hailer certainly gets their attention. Sufficient to say that the project was completed on time, just. And the project was completed within the budget available. We still have a lot of ideas for the future to keep the centre alive and up to date. My last two slides show the original design visualisation concept of the centre in 1997 and the finished product in 1999. I am hope you can see some degree of similarity. Ellis Bell Associates have been proud to have been part of this project and if anyone would like further information on the scheme I shall be available throughout this workshop and in the exhibition area please don't be shy. I shall now hand you over to Alison Curtis the Centre manager to speak about the success or otherwise of the dynamics of the Safety Centre.

**Alison Curtis:** You all though I was going to fly over that desk didn't you? Good afternoon, Bonjour, Guten Tag that's it I am afraid, you didn't think I was going to say the rest did you? My name is Alison Curtis I am the manager of the Streetwise Centre. I have the dubious pleasure of being the last person to speak today, although arguably with the most exciting topic. But I would like to start my talk today by saying that it really is both a privilege and a pleasure to be asked to play a part in shaping the future of safety education in our region. The wonders of technology don't appear to have produced the first slide, so where is Paul with his magic, I think that it. As you may know Streetwise was launched last November to worldwide media attention as well as thirty-five minutes of free positive local and national television in England. We have appeared on French, Dutch, Brazilian and Italian television, as well as a live interview on Australian television. In fact such was the genuine interest in the project and the impact of media cover that even now people from all over England still remember seeing Street Wise on the television. So now with the wonders of Paul's technology again I will bring you one of the video clips from the coverage on the day.

*It's a very common problem for parents. How do you warn children about the dangers of modern life without actually scaring them? In Bournemouth they*

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*reckon they might have come up with an answer with the opening today of a new Safety Theme Park and our reporter Emma Howard is there. Emma. Good morning Andrew. Yes, welcome to Streetwise this place represents a unique step forward in child safety education although some adults will be allowed to come here, in the next few years. But they are hoping that this year thousands of children are going to pass through the doors here and what they have done created as you can see is a virtual world with all of the hazards contained therein. From crossing the road to dealing with meeting strangers in some very strange places and we have got a life size house here and a fire and the children are being taught how to deal with that, that is just one of the things that they go through, we will be showing some of the others in a moment.*

**Alison Curtis:** Street Wise is unique in the south of England and to our knowledge it is only the second one in Europe. It is a multi agency partnership project between Dorset Fire and Rescue Service, the Police and the Regional Health Authority, the County Council, Bournemouth and Fulborough Councils and over two hundred local and national businesses. All of have supported us through donations, sponsorship and in kind support. Street Wise clearly demonstrates the huge potential for partnership activity, but this is only the beginning. Pro-active management will make it work. At this point now I would like to add Street Wise is a stand-alone organisation, which employs me directly, belonging to one organisation, but belonging to all of them pays dividends when it comes to politics. As you know the Street Wise village is a life sized 3D canvas, it contains eleven scenes from everyday life and all of the photographs you are seeing were taken inside the warehouse. Our visitor's book into Safety Tours will show how to spot potential dangers, how to reduce the risk of having an accident, and how to get help in an emergency, all in a safe controlled environment. But in addition to safety awareness every general safety tour covers crime prevention disability awareness and good citizenship issues. The overall aim is to help all of our visitors to make their own communities a safer place to live and work. Include the seconded junior officer from Dorset Fire Rescue Service there are four full time staff running the centre and there are fifty volunteer safety guides. Because our philosophy is one of safety for all within the community Streetwise is open all hours including evenings and weekends where necessary and it caters for all ages and abilities. Needless to say this requires a flexible approach to shifts, excellent communication skills, teamwork at all levels, and lots, and lots, of thinking on our part. In addition to their uniforms safety guides also receive a volunteer pack containing regularly updated scripts covering each scenario, these scripts can be read like a play and they also contain extra background information. Because Streetwise is a link between the professionals and the community it is essential that the messages that we pass on are accurate, we achieve this through the scripts being developed by Streetwise staff working closely with all our partners. This way they contain the most useful and up to date information and we also regularly monitor our volunteers. We need to cover our running costs but it is important that we find ways to help the community whilst increasing our income through creative ideas so in addition to general safety tours Street Wise bookings include specialised safety tours offering more detail over fewer

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scenarios, conference room bookings with optional catering, scenario hire for real life training, campaign and product launches, health and safety training, birthday parties, badge sessions for cubs and brownies, and also scenario hire for commercial films. Our main target markets though are seven to twelve-year-old children, special needs groups of all ages, brownie and cub packs, families and tourist groups. Our specialised tours operate for pre-school children, for teenagers, foreign students, parent craft groups and senior citizens to name but a few. Looking at fire safety issues in particular every general safety tour covers the issues that you can see here. With recent statistics showing that accidental fires in the home are on the increase and in house fires where a smoke alarm did not work, missing batteries where nearly half of all cases, it is essential that these messages are given out as often as possible. Visitors feel so much a part of their surroundings that when the time comes to evacuate the smoke filled house and actually make that emergency 999 call to the fire service it really feels real to them. Where else better to talk about the consequences of phone box vandalism and hoax calls and to put across the importance of getting out and staying out and calling the fire brigade. Dorset has large areas of heath land and many rural communities so we also talk about the consequences of fires in these areas, graphically re-creating the destruction to both the countryside and to man made environment. Our hundred-page study pack highlights the points of the general safety tour, as well as introducing our evaluation programme it contains key teaching points suggestions for work after the visit, national curriculum links, background information and a photocopy of a worksheet. A commercial publisher produces these safety packs free of charge for us, so we can quite happily give them out to groups free of charge. Our visitor evaluation system is essential to help us evaluate and develop our scenario. But it does rely heavily on the goodwill of the group organisers in taking time to complete the paperwork in addition to this regular communication with our partners helps us to analyse local and national statistics and to look at accident trends. A philosophy of best value means that we are continuously evaluating our operations. To find ways to improve both the centre and the service to this end some of our strategies in the next five years include maintaining our position at the leading edge of community policy initiative by retaining the confidence of our partners. Setting up and maintaining sufficient sponsorship opportunities to allow us to offer safety tours free to all schools, encouraging maximum possible use by family groups to ensure safety lessons are learnt from the earliest practical level, in the family unit, updating the scenarios on a regular basis either temporarily or permanently, to ensure that they remain current both in design and the safe issues that they cover. Focusing on finding out what help the community wants to make sure that it's the right people that we are helping, encouraging the development of joint activity tickets with other successful attractions, to increase the market size and the viability of groups travelling from further a field, and establishing user group committees so that individual target groups get the feed back directly into the heart of the operation. Using the statistics showing that accidents are the greatest single problem to children and young people, children from poorer backgrounds are five times more likely to die as a result of an accident than children from better off homes, and that gap is widening and tragically



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two children die in a house fire ever week. With these thoughts in mind I would like to close with another clip from our launch day T V coverage.

*First a highly unusual new approach to teaching children about safety. It's a new centre, which has its own shops, high street, railway, and a beach. By re-creating everyday hazards it teaches children how to protect themselves and cope with dangerous situations. Now South of England reporter Adrian Britton reports from Dorset: - For these children a high street with all its potential dangers is the start of their journey into a theme park of hazards. It's called the Streetwise Centre where children are taught how to live safely in a world of perils both outside and inside the home. As the children identify the dangers in a kitchen a burst of artificial smoke fills this life sized home. The lesson get out and call for help.*

**Alison Curtis:** Permanent Safety Centres such as Streetwise are pioneering the way forward to community safety. With an achievable target of 14,000 children per year we in Dorset believe that we can and we will make a difference to safety in the community. I hope you have enjoyed hearing about Streetwise today and that later on you will take time to visit us on our stand. In short thank you, Merci. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you Alison and now I would like to invite Dennis Davies to give his comments unfortunately you have only ten to fifteen minutes. And I would also like to remind you all that because we are short of time you can sleep one night over and come back with your comments tomorrow in the general session. So Dennis the floor is yours.

**Dennis Davies:** Well thank you chairman I will make good use of the ten minutes allocated to me and hopefully we will get some discussion as well, its been a long day but a very interesting day and I would just like to summarise if I may for everyone here what has been a fascinating and interesting last session of the day. I believe that we certainly heard in Jan Sterk of the Netherlands not only the lightening and entertaining theme arson but talking to us about the National Centre for prevention and the work of insurers, investigating and police. I think that what I heard was a word coming through there was the word partnerships and the word of the wider field of fire in the community of safety. And when we heard from Lisa Joutsu from Finland we heard about the Finnish Accident and Prevention of the home, the potential benefits of smoke detectors and the statutory requirement of homes of not just fitting but interestingly and how importantly maintaining their readiness to do their job. And again importantly I heard words like partnership and working together coming through that work. How fire fighters can be talking about fire and others that are not fire fighters talking about fire safety. The work of the joint ministry and the work of working together. And lastly we heard of a very exciting project going on in the U K where Martin Chapman introduced the work of the Dorset Safety Centre. Talking again about partnerships about working with other agencies, police, ambulance, power, generators and coast guard. And what he called turning vision into reality and a practice of not going to children, but making a permanent centre for children to come to us. Brian talked about the business involved and turning that reality into the

delivery of a service and the computer techniques to sell the concept and lastly but by no means least. Alison Curtis with her enthusiasm as the first manager of that centre talked about the practicality of Streetwise, and again the partnerships in the community for overall safety of the citizens what she was talking about I felt was, its not only owned by the community its used by the community. I think chairman; I would like to bring forward these headings, which I put on a slide as we concluded. First of all we have talked about the crime and arson they need to be seen as part of fire safety. Crime and crime safety in the home therefore part of a fire safety approach and the community fire centre can be part of a fire safety solution. And following on from what Mr Barisich was talking about just prior to lunch that fire safety needs to be part of a total community agenda and may not need to and in fact shouldn't survive on its own. Chairman the challenge I wish to throw open to the floor in the last two minutes is this that it may be true that **we can't yet aim for the spotlight of European interest to shine upon fire issues, but we might need to move fire on the existing agenda of Community safety where it has its proper part to play.** I believe this shows a need for a clear strategy out of this forum today to place fire on a wider safety agenda in the European Union and I would welcome delegates thoughts in the last few minutes of how we might do this and take this forward tomorrow. So chairman the challenge is to the floor and there is some roving microphones even though we have only two or three minutes left and I would welcome to take some questions on that and solutions to that part.

**Chairman:** Thank you again there seems to be some comments one hand is up. I would like to remind you that the whole partnership and co-operation is much broader scope than these three approaches, which were given so please make all kind of comment. Thank you.

**Belgium Delegate:** I have speak for the delegates from Belgium. It is a good idea I think to place the smoke detectors in the houses from the elderly people by fire brigades to get at other organisations. But my question is what are you doing with the maintenance of the smoke detectors in houses and how many people themselves support to replace the batteries then you are creating greater risks I think. My second problem is that in the Nordic countries like Finland, like Norway and like Sweden they have no problems with to place smoke ionic detectors in houses but when you have compared this with my country Belgium and also with Germany, Luxemburg and so on. There is **great friction to place smoke ionic detectors in houses.** We have the problem that a lot of fire brigades want to promote that kind of detector in houses because of the radioactive element in that ionic detector. So that are my two questions.

**Dennis Davies:** Jan was probably the one talking about I think smoke detectors particularly I think. I will ask the panel if they wish to comment on both questions, it's a two part question how do we get fire fighters to fir them and in any event there are problems and what I gather in some countries were ionising radio active source detectors cannot be used. Is that the question for the panel?

**Finland Delegate:** If I may respond directly on behalf of Lisa as Lisa told just some minutes ago we have a new act just coming into force and it's a new rescue service act and there is an obligation that every dwelling or residence and households had to have smoke detectors or something like that and that comes to the main tenants of these detectors and the batteries of these detectors Lisa told that those elderly people where they have bought by the social and these smoke detectors which was put there by the fire brigades the householders or the social workers will visit these they have taken the responsibility to check that the batteries are working and then they are changing the batteries if they don't work. So there is no need for the elderly people to climb up and test them from the ceiling. That was the first question concerning this matter. The other was I think a little bit more difficult and complicated we very well know that when we have the smoke detector that there is a small piece of radioactive material and all of these detectors have been approved by our radiation centre. We don't consider it as should I say a passed if a fire breaks out in that kind of flat there is so little radioactive material in one smoke detector that it can't cause such a hazard as to first risk owners and those who are living in those kind of houses. If you only consider about the background of radiation for example in Finland we have quite a lot of background radiation in other grounds that might already be a bigger hazard than that radiation which we get from the smoke alarm and such devices. There is an obligation when you are, when the smoke alarm doesn't work any more that you handle it as waste matter so it's a problematic waste. So that's the point I think, I hope this fulfils your answer

**Dennis Davies:** There is one question over to the right there we could take, I saw one at the back there and then I will hand the session back to the chairman if I may because time is pressing.

**Tim Murrell:** Thank you. Tim Murrell from Hampshire in the UK I am the Chief Duty Fire Task Force Leader. In fact in reply to the previous question if you don't mind. As many of you are aware we have tried hard to carry home the message of smoke alarms in the home on two fronts and have met with general resistance much to do with the fact that they don't allow ionic smoke alarms in the country I believe. I do know that many manufacturers including the major sponsors that we have got for this conference do manufacture optical smoke alarms mainly for the target audience that has just been raised. Thank you chairman.

**Dennis Davies:** Thank you for that information. I think we have another question from the back here somewhere just put your hand up. Thank you.

**Chairman:** That's the last question for this session because we have to close.

My point is and it comes back to the smoke alarms ladies and gentlemen one of the things that we have pushed at us in this country is that when passing legislation it should be capable of being enforced. The dangerous dogs act and beef on the bone being exceptions to this. How is it intended that the smoke alarm in Finland will be enforced, who are the

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enforcing authorities, and what constitutes a contravention. Do you say that well when an old person can't maintain it? It's down to somebody else.

**Finland Delegate:** It so that the act which is entering into the force that we have should we say transformed a lot of responsibility for the citizens. So every citizen or inhabitant they are responsible for having the devices and they have to maintain also those devices. Then another thing is that our fire brigade or rescue departments they make inspections to every house and dwelling and residential houses and when they make those fire inspections frequently they can advise and they can take some other kind of smoke alarms if we noted that requirement is not going to full bill I suppose that the insurance companies can come forward and perhaps consider about the reimbursement when fire breaks out and there is no warning. So there are a few possibilities but we trust and believe that the inhabitants and citizens follow the acts and that's the only thing that we can do.

**Dennis Davies:** Thank you. Thank you chairman I think therefore that our recommendation from this extremely interesting session for me are those points that I mentioned before about partnerships about a joint approach and about putting fire on to a general community safety agenda. Thank you.

**Chairman:** So this was the last session of the day and unfortunately we are perhaps a minute late of Dennis Davies timetable, but I close today's session and I would like to remind you that tomorrow morning you are starting promptly at 9.30am and you be then here in these premises. Thank you. Perhaps there is one protocol still we have to give something I don't know what to somebody and I don't know who. Okay this is for the speakers and we are equal it is ladies first.

**Dennis Davies:** Thank you if you will just bear with me for one second for your excellent service chairman. Two very short announcements. This room as you probably realised is where you are going to eat this evening so in the next forty-five minutes it is going to be transformed into a dining room. And then re-transformed in the morning into a workshop room. I just need to say to you there is always questions about what should I wear. You can wear what you want as far as I'm concerned but the general tradition in England would be something like a suit with a tie but we are not that fussy but if you have a suit and a tie that's ideal. For the ladies they may dress as they wish because they will delight us however they dress. Can I just draw this together as well because when you come in this evening there are only a few reserved tables for the speaker and the chairman and the organisers and so on. So there are about four tables that will be reserved for different groups the main idea is for you to mix to make your own tables there are about eight to ten that will easily be seated at each table so please, please mix and particularly to our European colleagues I do hope you can mix with some of the UK colleagues and share some of the ideas that this workshop is really all about. There is just one final thing I have just been asked to mention, well certainly for the U K people there is a leaflet been dropped on your seat I believe when you were out at lunch regarding fire safety sprinklers and in particular a campaign that is being mounted to try and make sure that in

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buildings certainly those larger buildings 2,000 square metre or more sprinklers are fitted and I think if you look in the back you will see it tears off very easily to be sent off to some poor Member of Parliament who I have no doubt will be overwhelmed by the number he receives. So if you feel so inclined please fill in the slip and send it off. With that can I say to you we look forward to meeting you again here this evening in this room at around 7.30pm thank you very much.

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**Dennis Davies:** I hope you all enjoyed yesterday. We are about to start our 5<sup>th</sup> session. I have to think how many sessions we have had these days and it's my great pleasure to introduce your session chairman Mr. Terry Glossop. Some of you will certainly know him both in the UK and abroad from his international work, particularly through the fire service college where he is both the Chief Executive and Commandant. Mr. Glossop, as you will see from the profile within your documents, has been in the service many, many years but more recently one of the functions that he has added to his long list is that of Secretary at EFSCA, which he will actually explain to you just a little bit. So with those words can we start our session this morning and I hand over to you Chairman.

**Terry Glossop:** Thank you very much Dennis. Good morning ladies and gentlemen and welcome to this first session. It is a fairly brief session and I know that you had a hard time last night and will appreciate it if I keep to time and I will do my best. I am very pleased to host this session for FEU. I am very pleased to be here representing also the **EFSCA - which is the European Fire Services Colleges Association** and I am looking forward to continuing to work in harmony with the FEU as we have done over the last few years. I know there are others here like Ruud who know much more about EFSCA than I do and were founding members but I hope that they will be satisfied that I am continuing that work for them. And I think that both FEU and EFSCA can make the very valuable contribution towards the development of the community and the achievements of the community's aims. I just feel that we should not become pressure groups or lobbyists; we should rather look at the agenda that the union has set. There are treaties, there are directives, there is a political vision and the aims and objectives of the union are there and I believe we should try to support and achieve those aims and objectives. In EFSCA we have already undertaken work to help the non European members get themselves to a state of readiness to enter the European Union and working with the Commission we have developed the degree programmes for the Polish Civil Defence University and we have also given training to a number of senior Polish Officers. Our current project is to develop a Masters Degree for European Wide application, which we hope to have somewhere around the year 2001, 2002. We are very determined to work in harmony with the FEU. There is no difference of opinion between us and I am sure we will ensure that continues to be so in the future.

Whatever the vision is, and the aims and objectives of the Union and the role of the FEU and EFSCA within all that, the most important element is the people and these aims and objectives will only be realized if the people involved understand what they are and are committed to them and also are competent in their role in achieving them and that's we're going to hear about this morning; recruitment selection and professional and personal development of the Officers and Members of the Brigades throughout Europe. I'm going to make reference to the speaker's bill briefly because as the Chairman pointed out in yesterday's session we are all in the book. But in that context and with Dennis mentioning that I'm in the book perhaps I ought to say, because it was mentioned yesterday, there is different emphasis used, different references taken from the use of some particular words and phrases and I notice that in the description of my career, it says that I served in Lindsey. Well I did, but the Lindsey I served in was a geographical area and it was spelled Lindsey. Lindsey as it's spelt here is a young girls name and I did meet Lindsay De Paul once, but I honestly did not know her that well. I don't know whether there are any similar mistakes in the details of my colleagues here on the platform, but I'll introduce the team as a whole first; very briefly, and then make reference to each member of the team as they give their presentation.

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I have on the first section, Francisco Echeverria who is from Spain and is going to speak to us about fire fighter selection. I have Goran Cederholm and he is going to speak to us about fire fighters vocational training and the Gerard Van Staaldunen is going to be our rapporteur and the procedure this morning which we have agreed as a team and consulted the Chairman is just going to be slightly different from yesterday in that at the end of the two speaker sessions, we intend to hold a discussion then. Before we actually put the conclusions on the board so that we can ensure we take your contributions into account before we actually reach a conclusion. And so with no more ado I'll hand on to Francisco to start his presentation.

**Francisco Echeverria:** Good Morning ladies and gentlemen. First of all I must tell you one thing, is that yesterday I came in very, very late and had some problems with planes and so on and the biggest problem is that I had only to have a pint of beer - only one. That means that my English will be not good enough. Sorry for that. I will try to speak slowly. Slowly, slowly. I hope you will wake up and if I have any kind of mistakes please sorry about that. Okay. Well as an FEU delegate I have been working the FEU **Leonardo project** for the training of fire fighters. It was the first FEU experience in ?? project and ?? Programme that was the best one, because it was the first. Now I'm sure it's not the best one. The Leonardo field project is about the survey of the carrying out of questions fire fighters in Europe and it was made by the FEU or Federation of European Union Officer as you know. I will try to give you some general information on the project speaking about the chronology of the project. I will give you some administrative information; some technical information and I will tell you something about the final section of the project. Why the FEU thought to do to work in this project. The FEU asked our teamwork thought it was time to start to do things in the field of the fire service and we thought that to make a comparative survey of the fire fighters professional training in Europe, it was a good idea. Why professional fire fighters training? Because Leonardo programme is for **professional training**. We must have clear this idea in our project. In our thoughts we have some information about volunteers and part-time fire fighters, but always we must speak about professional because Leonardo is for professional training. Well in - next please. In Amsterdam in 1996, 11 countries at that FEU meeting we decided to make the intentional letter for the project and we made application form. The project was accepted in Brussels. The contract period was two years and our idea was to have things project in December 1998. The 11 countries that were working in the project were Germany, Denmark, Spain, Finland, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, Norway, Netherlands, Sweden and U.K. In Amsterdam, the 11 countries decided to work in the project. I will tell you something later about Czech Republic and Portugal. When we made the application form Brussels gave us only 75% of our initial original budget. We thought we had one idea for budget here but Brussels after the remission gave us only the 75% of the original budget. Then we made some change in our initial idea for the final project. The contribution for Brussels was for the staff course for overheads, travel and costs, computer and so on. And the FEU 25% of the contribution was for the staff contribution for overheads and for other kind of expensive costs. We must have cleared that the members that we were working in the project we were working as countries, not as associations. FEU is association but the project is speaking about countries because during the project only for you members can enrol in the project Czech Republic and Portugal are in the final report. I must tell you that the Czech Republic was one of the best - not one of the best but he was working very, very hard because Czech Republic is very interested to enter in Europe and to work with us. And you will see later that you can check the final product in Czech language. If you want to practice

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Czech is a very good system to do it. Then again 13 countries we can check the information of 13 countries in this product. Speaking about technical information for the project the aim of the project was to make a comparative survey of the fire fighters in Europe. We had 3 specific work areas that were the recruitments to join the fire service, the training in the fire service basic levels, new technologies continuous training or professional career and the specialist's issues, I mean for instance rescue teams or a diving team special kind of things and the promotion courses for the professional career. The final product is dividing in two big areas. The first one makes introduction and you can travel along in the CV and you can find the information out about the FEU, you can find information about the project or about Leonardo programme or about members of the associations involved in the project, and the most important thing is the survey. Then the survey includes four chapters. We will speak later about all of those chapters.

The first chapter is social and economic figures for the country. When we were working the project we found it was difficult to compare different countries for instance Luxembourg with Finland or Portugal if they had different economic systems, not systems the same but if they had different levels of economy and so on, then the aim of this chapter was to make easily understandable the position of the country in the survey. The second chapter we can find information about the fire service organization in each country because everywhere is completely different. As I said for instance, Portugal, Finland and Luxembourg they have a very different organization and for instance countries like Spain inside Spain we have I can tell you we have as many fire services firemen. We have it's incredible; we have different organizations different systems depending on different from the Local Authorities from the autonomous Authorities. We have do you see any Spanish here. We have a big disaster of a decision in Spain for instance than to compare the Spanish organization with the English organization it was very very difficult. Then, in this chapter you can try to know how are things in each country. You can have information about the total fire fighters in the country, their functions because we have different functions everywhere, our salaries, we have different salaries everywhere as you know I suppose. We have different working hours everywhere. We have countries that each year the firemen they work 2,400 hours a year and for instance in my Brigade the firemen work 1,400 hours - big difference. The third chapter we can find information about the legislations of the three areas. Recruitments to join the fire service, training and promotion. This is fourth. Then the most important chapter is a questionnaire and because it's not possible to compare the different abnormalities as I tried to tell you before, all the countries will have national legislations or many interpretations can be made for each case, we create the biggest databank and you can find the answers of the questions. All the questions are about social economics fire service questions, questions about how to join the service, about the training and about the professional career. The working plan for the project we had four meetings, one in Spain in May 1997, the next one was in November 1997 in Cork in Ireland, in June 1998 we had the third meeting in Athens and in November we had the last meeting in this one. The final product that we made as I say to you before, we asked Brussels for some budget and they give us less. We felt to make a film because they give us less money then the idea to make a book but only if you members decided it was the best idea to make a film and to try to put all the information in the film room. Then we have a film room and the film room you can check it in five different languages. The idea is to spread the film through Europe, then we think that with English, French, German, Czech and Spanish we can give the information out about how is the situation now, we can give this information everywhere more or less in Europe.



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The next idea the German delegation party was considering the possibility to submit in another Leonardo de Vinci project and the aim of the project was to include more countries in the survey. That means if Brussels give us the budget at the end of the next project we will have at least 18 European countries in the survey. Well as I conclusions we know now that there are many, many different organizations and training systems in the European Fire Brigades but we must look for one based on the decision of the fire services in Europe in order to give to the European systems the similar safety levels. We can expect that if the European Union is how really keen now we must think that there is a chance for an European Fire Services Union.

Thank you for your attention but before Paul is going to try okay I want to show you more or less how it is going to work this evening. You must suppose that we have had many, many problems during the two years working in the project but the biggest problem that we have is that the company who is working for us making the film we have had enough points with them. This version is a better version - it's not the final version. Because as I tell you before we have big problems with the company who is working for us in the city. Well this is the main page of the CV there you can choose the language we can try Czech if you want. Now is very slow but we hope in the near future will be faster I hope. You know it is a very good presentation sparse but very easily understood. It's gone! Okay. I can go. We can try again, cross your fingers. It was working 5 minutes ago. Sorry for that - thank you for your attention.

**Terry Glossop:** Well thank you very much for that and I do hope that the whole project is rediscovered and emerges from cyberspace whether it's in Czech or any other language in due course. We'll try to run it for you later. The marvels of technology. Well we move on now and we are going to examine the topic of fire fighter vocation training and Goran Cederholm is going to lead us on that. So, over to you ??.

**Goran Cederholm:** Good morning friends and colleagues. My name is Goran Cederholm. Do I sound like the Swedish chef in the Muppet Show? I think he sounds more like Hindu or something like that, but what I am about the present is a paper, which name is **European Fire Fighter Vocational Study** and you will find the report on the paper in the delegate pack. Since I am aware this is the morning after the night before, I will try to do this one as quickly as possible so you will reach the coffee break and you won't fall asleep. Instead of going through all the details in the report, I will try to explain the background and the philosophy behind the work instead. I think that might be a little bit easier. I've got an analogue finger and a digital presentation. We'll see how it works!

It's far unlikely that accidents will happen in Europe that engage rescue services from more than one country at the same time. When the project started we had the Channel Tunnel in fresh mind but before we reached this stage we have the Mont Blanc Tunnel problem that was mentioned yesterday I think. And if I'm rightly informed I think there were Swiss, French and Italian rescue teams engaged in the same operation. If we want to optimise a rescue operation like that, it will be much easier if all the participating rescue services have a mutual approach for the problem if you can call it that. And it can be done in different ways. In Sweden now we are building a bridge - not in Sweden. Sweden and Denmark are building a bridge to connect our two countries and there we see the problem about the sea as they had in the tunnel on the Mont Blanc and what we do now is taking rescue service personnel from Denmark over to Sweden and we have exercises together

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and we do the same with the Swedish rescue teams over to Denmark. And that in the short perspective is the easiest way to get the mutual approach to the problem. If you look in a longer perspective I would say the easiest way is to find a vocational training that is recognized all over Europe and that will mean that we can find a European Fire Fighter. As a bonus we also get the possibility to encourage the free movement of labour since this education and vocational training is recognized all over Europe. But this will lead to problems and possibilities.

The problems, the fire fighters in Europe have different shapes. To avoid another crisis in Europe I'll put the square headed one in Sweden. The shape, it comes from procedures, legislation, risks and even Mother Nature in each country. But if you look at the slide I've put a circle in each of the different fire fighter shapes and if that circle describes the basic skills and knowledge a fire fighter has to have to be able to perform his profession, you will see there is not much left of the shape that is outside the circle. If we can find the circle and if we can make it be recognized, the fire fighter from any one of these countries represented by the shapes over here on the slide can move to another country - or if it's within one country he can move from region to another region and be re-shaped by a local regional training and education. I've also got some arrows there. On the outside of the circle the square head is Sweden. We can assume that that's forest fighting in Sweden. It's a little bit special. On the other hand if you look down to the left corner the Mediterranean fire fighter may have a problem with a bush fire. I heard yesterday that that is a problem for the Mediterranean countries. The problem is that it's just a slight bit of difference for the transportation of water that's the long hose lines its uphill, its more than one pump and stuff like that. You will find within the circle. What you have to teach the Mediterranean fire fighter if he moves to Sweden is just a few things that differs the bush fire from the forest fire - how to deal with it when it comes to procedures and material and tools and whatever it is. And when we are talking about Mother Nature, the fire fighting in the Alpine terrain might be able to rescue person in Alpine terrain and by this very specific. And that shape is difficult to find within the circle, that skill is difficult to find within the circle. You will probably find it won't be outside all of it right from the start to the end of the rescue service. We've also got another problem. How shall we describe the vocational training that will represent the circle in a way that won't let us upset all the other member countries? Although I have to say in England I think at least they do. They have different roads to go and we can take the high road or we can take the low road and the Chief Fire Officer, Dennis, maybe it's my fate that I will be in Scotland before you. But we are not aiming for Scotland - we are aiming for Europe and that includes Scotland.

We can describe the vocational training in the traditional way. Expectations for what services to be delivered, together with the perceptions of what the firemen shall do in the work place, leads us to a number of main subjects. For example, fire fighting techniques as described on this slide. Then we find subjects that are relevant to the main subject extinguishing agents, compartment fire fighting, fire fighting equipment and applied training for example. And linked to that is the number of lesson hours. The training is specified to hours, procedures and equipment. It's a lot about skills. And this makes it a little bit difficult to be used in European countries. For example, if we were talking about ladders. The height of the ladder, the number of the fire fighters it takes to handle the ladder I am quite sure differs all over Europe. And if we're talking about fire fighting techniques and indoor attack for example, well it depends on what kind of seba you are using, what the turnout gear looks like, how the buildings are constructed. So it's not that easy with length to find a mutual recognition of a vocational training that is described in that way.

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On the other hand we do it the opposite way round. We start at the work place and talk about functions or as they are called here units. You will find in the report it's six different units and I've picked one of them units to CO2 control or extinguishing fire. Linked to that there are elements, in this case, it's two. It's extinguishing - extinguish established fires or prevent ignition or spread of fire. You can see it's still a wide description of what is to be obtained. It's not skills, not bolts and nuts described so far. The elements themselves together are the main activities for the complication of the function itself. Connected to the elements you will find also and use and less knowledge and understanding. If you start with the knowledge, I've picked one of them and that's number 10 - K10 - Methods of Controlling and Extinguishing Fires. No skills, more about work place performance - learning outcome. And connected to this knowledge you will find understanding, and I have picked also one there - How to Apply Practices but maximize the Health & Safety of self and others in the work place. You see it is described in a way that I don't think will upset any of the member states because I am quite convinced that you will have the same in all the countries - perhaps described in another way - but Health & Safety of self and others, I am quite sure are the same all over Europe. You also have performance criteria which I don't have a slide of and they are used for the fire fighter to be able to demonstrate his vocational competence and they are described so it can be used all over Europe and it can be used in the Brigade in a region or in a country. No skills more reward placed for performance and I gave you an example. I quoted a part of the demonstration of the vocational competence for this unit. The firemen will be required to locate, control and extinguish fire in a variety of contexts. So the training is built on reality more than on expectations and perceptions. And the way it is described it also offers the possibility to make the fire fighter an active part in the vocational training. If you look at the U1 if you give that to a fire fighter and ask him to seek information about it, he can use the Internet, he can use the library to find out what legislations are we talking about and once he's found them he breaks it down to what is applicable to this this specific part for the fire-fighting problem. If I may put in a personal reflection here it's that the fire fighter is a human resource we should value. If we can make him a part of his own vocational training, I am quite convinced that we will find motivated fire fighters that are prepared to take a personal responsibility once they go to work in the service, and I think they should be valued for that.

So we take an example of what I've just described. We have the country A and the country B. In country A they don't use hydraulic tools in traffic accidents but in country B they do, and with the traditional way of describing vocational training we would have run into problems right away because the hydraulic tool is a skill, it's a bolt and nut and would have been described in the vocational training. But if we instead used the standards of competence it would lead us to what the fire fighter has to do is to secure the work place, to support the injured and to rescue trapped people. And all those three things would be within the circle. On the outside of the circle you will find a variety of ways to secure the work place. You have low and medium expanded foam, you have A FFF in a unexpired branch, you have dry powder extinguisher, whatever it is - but it really doesn't matter because if they got the hang of it they know what to do. Supporting the injured is first aid all over Europe and in some countries even more. And to rescue the trapped people - well first, in this third role you will find the hydraulic tools and it really doesn't matter whether they know how to deal with it or not, because if they can extricate trapped people with a crowbar in country A, I am quite convinced within two hours I would have taught them to use the hydraulic tool instead. Of course the main problem is to know how to attack the problem and that is within the circle. I am starting to sound like a priest.

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Though we can recognize the circle and we've talked about free movement of labour if it's just a single fireman that applies for a job in another country I don't think that would be so much of a problem. He has the skills within the circle, and we will re-shape him and he will fit into the Brigade. But if there is a number of firemen from different countries to apply for the same work then we run into problems. How to compare them when their vocational training is assessed from their home country's point of view as it is right now. We always want to hire the best guy but it's difficult to compare them. And that question leads us to the last slide.

The next step. The next step is for the project to get dissemination in all members' countries of this paper and get feedback to see if it's find acceptance. But the delegates that have been attending the FEU meeting this weekend have at least I think acceptance among the delegates, but that's not the same as it's acceptance in each country. But the group that's been working with the project has also an ambition and the ambition is an accreditation of competence that this is recognized in all member countries, and if that could be obtained we are back where we all started this presentation. The rescue operations are optimised and the free movement of labour is most definitely encouraged and we will find the European Fire Fighter. That's all folks, thanks for your attention.

**Terry Glossop:** Thank you very much Goran. Well ladies and gentlemen - if we could have the lights raised just a little we will now move into questions. I'm not sure whether it would be too optimistic to say that we have, and I think it probably would, seen this morning the birth of the European Fireman - perhaps that would be too optimistic - but I certainly think we have seen the European Fire Fighter conceived as a result of these two presentations. And could I invite now a few questions if you would wait for the roving microphone to come to you once you have indicated and been nominated and possibly you could say who you are, who you represent, which country you are from, and if you have a question for a particular speaker you could indicate which speaker it is. It may be a question or it may be a comment. So over to you. Right here in the front.

**Dieter Nüssler:** Thank you. Dieter Nüssler Germany. Just to add something to his Leonardo project. I very much like to make it very clear with the shapes so they are an additional project outside the circle which is dealing with rescue from heights and depths, which has already started. The kick-off was done in January and for dissemination purposes I would like to recommend to use your presentation. It makes it very clear what it's all about this project, so I would very much appreciate to have these presentations translated into German to show what it's all about. Thank you for your good job, both.

**Goran Cederholm:** Do you want to comment on that? Do you think it's worthwhile putting down to the report in me? So you can add it to the report do you mean? You hit the point. The one thing is to convince the delegations and the other thing is to let the delegates have a task to convince their community at home, so if you give them a tool, which is easy for example for publishing in the National magazines it helps a lot and you did it quite well to say these are the different shapes - what we are aiming for is to find the right circle. So this is a very good thing and I would like to see all delegates to have that put forward in the same format using the same idea and expressions, so I think it's worth doing for dissemination purposes to make it clear what we are doing on a European level.

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**Terry Glossop:** Thank you. We also have members of the press here and perhaps they will have a role to play in making sure that this message is spread more widely. Next question please.

**Czech Delegate:** One short remark. My name is ?? I come from the Czech Republic. As you know we are not members of the state yet but we hope that we will join you soon. So, I would like to say that we have had a great opportunity to spend a lot of work since 1995 - especially since 1996 when we became like a regular member of a FEU. We have participated in a few European projects like Francisco Echeverria mentioned or overture projects for forest fires at the present time, high rescue operation from highs and deeps but I would like to remind is to thanks very much to all member states for the opportunity to see very soon into the kitchen through the door of Europe Union and I hope that in the nearest future you would like to do a similar job to another East European countries who would like to join you like Poland or Hungary. I think at present time our country is not your member but it is most important for fire fear that we are involved in fire structures yet and we can spend our job a little bit step forwards of our official country. Thank you once more.

**Terry Glossop:** Well thank you for that contribution. I think we all look forward to the Czech Republic and Hungary and Poland coming alongside the other nations as full partners but it's obvious that the Czech Republic have contributed a great deal to this project so far and that's always welcome in the future I think. Next question then please. No further questions, comments. Well in that case I will hand over to our rapateur and ask Gerard if would sum up what he sees is the outcome of our deliberations this morning, taking into account what our speakers have said and the couple of comments we have just heard. Gerard.

**Gerald Van Staalduinen:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Good morning ladies and gentlemen. Well after the U.K. version the Spanish version and Swedish version - now the Dutch version of English, well I wrote down we are looking for European Fire Fighters that Terry talked we are looking for the birth of the European Fire Fighter. Francisco did a lot of good but perhaps a terrible work to get a picture of what's going on in Europe. Well with the contribution of a lot of Fire Brigades in our member state it has collected a lot of information. Now we have a questionnaire and it's interesting if we can make conclusions at this moment, yes or no. Well I suppose we can make a conclusion we will try to show in the CD Rom that's there for the next presentation so he will come back but well he made a conclusion and that's there are many different organizations and training systems in European Fire Brigades. Too many he said, because he said as many systems as firemen so we have to do something if we are looking for the European Fire Fighter. So, I think the first conclusion may be well fire. For fire fighter requirements selection I edit programmes across Europe vary considerably so that's and opportunity but also a very heavy task if we want to go in the direction of a European Fire Fighter but also perhaps European Fire Officers, so that will be the next one. We have to do further work, perhaps with Leonardo to identify common practices and that will be useful to work and co-operate in this European Union to get what we want. He also said we have to look forward to standardisation of the fire service in Europe in order to offer European Citizens - and you know it will be 370,000,000 citizens - that's our client, similar levels of fire safety. And that's very important. Why should you have another safety level in another country? Of course, legislation differs but our fire safety concept should be the same in all the countries, so with the work of Francisco, we have material, we have the data and we can put our own questions and perhaps we get, and we have seen your demonstration, our own answers that

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was one of the targets of your project. But going over to what Goran was telling us about vocational training we admired his contribution about the shapes. Dieter that's very interesting the shapes in our European countries. There are a lot of shapes and well if we find the right circle in Europe we can make a better understanding of what we think the fire fighter will be in Europe. Well again he underlined that there is a lot of work to do to reach the point. They did already very important work with a report and you can all read the report though it's not necessary in the line of what's in it. The report you say you can read and I think that's very important. That the study report doesn't seek to prescribe the achievement standard of the European Fire Fighter. Well that's the responsibility remains with Federal or Municipal Organization in each member states. It is just a competence framework to start with in the European context and I think that's very important. We have to start somewhere. Somewhere to talk about training and learning programmes and they must focus clearly on the application of learning skills and knowledge within the work place setting and I think that's very important if you can read in the report (Goran was talking about shapes) but I think it's very important that we don't talk about training skills but also training management skills on the work place setting.

So we have to undertake lots more work to reach the point and he also ended with the question about the way forward. That's a very important question I suppose. Do we take the proposed next steps in the development of the standards of competence? Do we take those steps? That's the question for all the members here in the audience. Who makes the steps, when do we make the steps or are we prepared to make these steps. Perhaps I look to the words of our Chairman, perhaps EFSCA can make a contribution in more work in doing that we are doing already some work on the European level, we are working on a Master Programme; the Fire Service College Martin Moss has the BCC. A lot of you know them. The BCC in our country we are starting the master of fire of crisis management programme and in France they also start developments of such a course for a few Fire Officers and on the EFSCA platform we think we have to start there and now you can see there are two starting points starting with the fire fighter programme and also starting with the Chief Officer Fire programme, we can make a bridge along Europe to find out how the European Fire Fighter and Officer will be. I don't know if you have comments or discussions about these recommendations. Thank you.

**Terry Glossop:** What we aim to do now from this session is to carry forward to the Chairman of the overall workshops the seminar itself. At the outcome of these sessions we have had the speakers, we've had a few contributions from the floor, and we believe this now is what we want to hand forward and say is the outcome of this session. Very clearly we are committed to the competency approach and to information gathering to enable the process to go forward. Is there anyone who feels that this is a wrong approach or wants to comment against this way forward, if so, speak now and let's hear it and take it into account otherwise we aim to send this through to the advance to the final session and to inform the future work of the FEU and EFSCA too for that matter. Yes Dieter.

**Dieter Nüssler:** What do you think about adding long distance learning problems to that what you said. Goran Cederholm long distance learning problems. Well I suppose we don't have to start at just one point, just starting looking at all the programmes where we can make efforts in European contributions, I think we have to do it then. Not only starting with the fire fighter but also

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starting at the top level and we have to see the opportunities and take the chances to co-operate on a European level.

**Terry Glossop:** Yes I think picking up on that we envisage that the Masters programme that will emerge from the work that is currently being done from the Netherlands, France and the U.K but supported by all the members of the Association, will lead to units that can be delivered at various locations through Europe, each being recognized as to the similar level wherever it's delivered - and we also think there will be an element within that programme of distance learning to and we will be looking to see how technology can facilitate that. Any other comments or questions?

**Terry Glossop:** Well in that case - oh, one more there. Glynn Evans in the middle.

**Glynn Evans:** Glynn Evans, Fire Brigade Union, U.K. All I really need to know Chair is two points of clarification. This work is obviously work which has been carried out for FEU by FEU and sponsored by the European Commission. That is my understanding of it. What I need to know is where do you plan this work to go? Is this work your own work i.e. FEU which will predict how FEU views things throughout it's organization, or do you predict that this will go onto the Commission to be put forward to the Commission to become European Policy? The concern that I have is that under the treaty of Rome the rights of employees and workers are of course guaranteed and their consultation, and I wonder what consultation you have had with for instance the European Trades Union Congress which has a sub-committee, The European Fire Fighters Sub-committee of which we are members. I just want to know so that I can report back to our people what is the next step that you are planning what FEU are doing and where this work is going.

**Terry Glossop:** Well thank you for that Glynn. I think I will let our speakers who handled the project make an initial comment on that and then I'll see how I can fill in the gap that's left.

**Goran Cederholm:** Thank you for your question. The first is to finish the theory room because you can see it's not working properly yet. Then we want to spread the theory room through Europe. How, we must find a way. Our Secretary is thinking how to do it and I am sure he will find the best way to do it. Ok we want to spread in all magazines, we want to put it to and to spread through Europe. But we want to go with a study with a CV to the Commission to sell in Brussels. We must walk. We think this is the way to walk but if we need to speak with the Unions. We don't want to have only the resources we want to continue - we want to have the next step. But what is the next step? We must find all together which one is the next step. This is the our idea. This is the first, the biggest study in Europe - 13 countries. In the near future it will be perhaps 18 or 19 I'm not sure and well after that we must find a step and we are looking after the next step and if you can help us thank you.

Well I've got two possibilities. I agree with the speaker before me or I forward the question to Geoff Shepherd. I choose alternative B. Geoff Shepherd. Part of the organization for Leonardo and Mr. Davies obviously, we are the contractors for the Leonardo project and I think Goran probably answered your question during the presentation. This particular conference or workshop now is at its dissemination process. We are inviting you to comment on the work that has been done to date so that we can then take those views forward and develop this further. That would include Trade

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Unions as much as anybody else. I hope that answers your question. So we are inviting comments from each and every one of you. If you wish to comment on the work in the project please do, and we would like to gather that information and spread it still further to a wider group.

**Terry Glossop:** Well thank you for that response and thank you very much Glynn for the question. I think it's an issue that deserves further thought because I believe that the earlier that the consultation can commence, the more likely we are to arrive at an outcome that is satisfactory to all the parties involved and I am sure it's very worthwhile being here today to hear the disseminations and to be able to comment but it may be worth exploring opportunities that might be there for earlier consultation, but I'll leave that as a point now to be carried forward in the main process.

I think I'll now wind up. We are just about running to time and there are just some presentations for me to make to the speakers but I'd like to thank each of them and our rapporteur for making this session brief, on time, but I think very interesting and most important, because as I said at the outset, the aims the ambitions, the dreams the vision, are all very well but they will only be realized if we have people properly recruited, properly trained and encouraged and motivated and that's what we've been hearing about this morning. I do hope that we've been part of the conception of the European Fire Fighter and I thank each of you and I'd like you to show your appreciation in the usual way.



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**Dennis Davies:** Thank you ladies and gentlemen for coming back so promptly, if we could move into this very important session. It is my great pleasure on behalf of the organizers to welcome this morning here in Chester to this first European Workshop Mr George Howard MP. Mr Howard is the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State with her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and has direct responsibility for fire and fire matters and has clearly taken some time out of a very busy schedule to join us, unfortunately he will be leaving very quickly away afterwards back to London, but he has indicated that he is also prepared to take one or two questions after he has given his address. With those few brief words could I invite you Minister to address us.

**Mr Howard MP:** Dennis, colleagues, and friends from within the UK and from across Europe. I am delighted to be invited to address the Fire Safe Europe 99 conference this morning. It is an event that I hope will prove to be an important watershed in co-operation within Europe to reduce the risk of fire. Although I know the conference is already well under way can I also take the opportunity on behalf of United Kingdom Government to extend a very warm welcome to delegates from many European Union Countries, which are attending this event? I would particularly like to thank Alessandro Barisich on behalf of DG XI of the European Union for funding the symposium as well as the Assistant Chief Fire Officers Association, and the Federation of European Fire Officers Associations for their role in organizing this event. And I would particularly like to again thank you Dennis for your Cheshire Brigade and the work that you and your officers have put into helping to organize this splendid venue at such short notice.

So this is an important convention. It is the first time that such a wide range of Fire Services, Government and other organizations have come together from across Europe to discuss how to make our communities safer from the risk of fire. The fact that such an event is the first of its kind is perhaps a little surprising. I am sure that we are all aware of the terrible impact that major fires have in our own countries. We saw it last year in the terrible nightclub fire in Sweden, this year in Mont Blanc, and here in Britain in recent times at Kings Cross and Bradford. Such large-scale fires do attract the scrutiny from a wide range of people who want to know what the causes of them are and what the means for putting them right might be. Of course the reason why there is such an interest is because of the often-significant fatalities that go alongside such fires. And yet the majority of fire deaths in all of our countries do not take place in such high profile circumstances, they occur at individual episodes the toll of which only gradually accumulates as a result of smaller scale fires don't attract the sort of attention which might be expected and this means that we can sometimes be too slow to recognize that there is a problem and there is a need to put a national or broader strategy into place to tackle it.

**I do hope that this event can help to address that deficiency and by helping to put fire prevention more firmly on the agenda for the future.** Perhaps surprisingly up until about a year ago we had no long-term strategy for reducing

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fire deaths in the UK, although we had comprehensive and long standing fire safety legislation in place. Which applies to the workplace and similar areas. The statistics showed very few fire deaths occurred there in fact seventy five per cent of fire deaths were actually taking place in house fires, and yet there was no co-ordinated approach to reduce the impact of fire in the homes in which we live.

The first step in putting that right was to acknowledge that fire deaths in the home were not an unavoidable part of life and that we could and should be doing something about them. This doesn't mean lowering standards or switching away from the fire safety work that is being carried out elsewhere, but it does mean ensuring the reduction of fire deaths in the home, it is a priority for the fire service and a goal for the government. And we believe that can only be done by building on the work often in many places already in place, and grafting that into the wider strategy. To make sure that this commitment is more than just about fine words however we have recently set ourselves a target of reducing fire deaths in the home by twenty per cent by the year 2003. We will measure each year to measure our progress against that target, we will make ourselves accountable for achieving it.

I am sure that one of the great benefits of international occasions such as this in bringing together people of different backgrounds but with shared goals is in highlighting the experiences that we have all had and from learning from them. So what lessons have we learnt in developing our fire safety arrangement. The strategy to reduce fire deaths, which we are implementing, is called 'Safe as Houses' and it was set out in a report of the same name. I hope that everyone here has had some opportunity to at least look at that document because it has been very important indeed in guiding our thinking about community fire safety. The key points in the 'Safe as Houses' report when it was published we readily acknowledged, was that **most fires in the home were accidental and because they are accidental they are also preventable**. To prevent fires or casualties from happening requires fairly simple messages to be understood. For example not leaving chip pans unattended, when I say chip pans those from the UK will understand what a chip pan is, for those from other parts of Europe perhaps I should say pans in which you can cook French fries, but that's an important message. Keeping matches away from children, fitting the smoke alarm or simply giving thought to escape routes in the event of a fire. All of these are very important indeed and need to be understood. Although those messages are perhaps straight forward we needed to make sure that we had the prevention messages right and had the right means of getting them across to those who needed to understand them, whether that's to schools, high risk groups, or to the public in general. Some of this work involves the use of specialist skills and so expert advice on communication, marketing and publicity was used to help to design the strategy.

Another important lesson was the need to communicate with one voice. Organizations are well used perhaps and in many cases already recognized the

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need for consistent messages and by consistent we mean consistent in content as well as appearance, and that means also that if you can achieve that its likely to have more impact on the fifty or so different messages and campaigns than if the case was fifty or so different messages run by fifty different separate fire brigades. That does not mean that local campaigns on local issues can't be effective we know from experience that they can. But it does mean that there are strong benefits from working together in co-operation rather than having lots of duplicated local effort. At the end of last year recognizing that we set up a brand new government unit The National Community Fire Safety Centre to help bring this co-operation about by acting as a central resource for all of the fire service. And finally and most important of all our initiatives on fire community safety shows how effective collaborative working can be both within the fire service itself and of course also with outside interests.

Safe as Houses though is not the only example at the end of last year the Fire Brigades Union won widespread support for their proposals for a new strategic planning body for all fire safety matters. The actual details of that proposal will be discussed in more detail later this month but I can say that the concept of developing policies around shared goals making sure that policies are inclusive and that they involve organizations outside the government and certainly that we are more forward looking and outward looking are ones which we share. I readily acknowledge central government doesn't have the monopoly on good ideas and we do welcome constructive ideas from all quarters including the fire brigades union and we will respond positively to them.

As you will no doubt have heard yesterday data and statistics do need to play an important part in effective fire safety strategies we are fortunate in being able to have very comprehensive statistical bases in the UK to work from as a fire report is completed and collated after every fire of any significance. And that enables local fire brigades and the government to form a detailed picture of the main causes of fires, casualties and deaths, and so from this we can identify trends we can track progress we can with campaigns on particular themes and we can identify new issues as they immerge. They also can show us where fires and deaths are occurring, when they are occurring, and to whom they are occurring. **And it is no exaggeration to say that we would have found it very difficult to deliver effective targeted community fire safety without that solid base of empirical evidence.** Another key to insight which the communication experts have produced was that relying on fire statistics alone isn't enough to get a more complete understanding of the problem and how well it is being addressed surveys need to be undertaken to look at the attitudes, behaviour and of the **awareness of the general public towards fire safety.** We know that around four per cent of households experience a fire in their home each year that means that if we rely on fire statistics alone then we are not able to form a proper view of how effective our fire safety messages are being received by the other ninety six percent of the population. We therefore undertake to carry out additional research so that we can have information of this

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kind to offer as a more complete picture of fire safety within the UK. We brought all of these different lessons together last year in a pilot campaign which the government conducted with the Lancashire Fire Brigade the campaign was on the issue of chip pan fires that is fires caused by cooking chips, they are the single largest cause of fire casualties within the United Kingdom now we British of course are very famous for our attachment to chips, but I am led to believe that this type of fire isn't unique to the United Kingdom. The campaign we conducted combined thorough statistical research including getting a better understanding of the issue itself and also a better understanding of those groups that were most at risk the message to be used that we tested and sampled on our audiences before the campaigns actually began. The campaign started in April of 1998 with a very high profile launch and it took the form of an intensive four weeks of advertising on regional television, which was supported by very heavy work on the ground by the Lancashire Brigade. The television advertising was focused on providing advice to those in the community who were hardest to influence and the hardest to reach, the actual time on which it went out was specifically related at the time when it was known that, that particular group would be watching the television. And then it was evaluated in two ways first the public was surveyed before and after the campaign in order to measure the changes which took place. These surveys showed a very high level of awareness of the campaign. The messages had been seen, they had been understood and they were favourably received. We also wanted to see in the longer term what effect the campaign had on fires and casualties in the area, one danger of any campaign is that by raising awareness you raise the number of fires and casualties being reported, this is because some fires are not reported or some casualties go straight through to the hospital without the fire service ever being called, however we now have twelve months worth of data since the campaign was conducted to measure whether or not this was the case and I am very pleased to say that compared from the long term averages for Lancashire the statistics show that the number of chip pan fires and the casualties which were caused by them has fallen by between thirty five and forty percent. I am sure that everyone will agree that those figures are very significant indeed, they certainly exceeded our expectations for the campaign and I believe that they are an example of what can be achieved in fire safety and it is our intention that the same campaign can now be run nationally later this year with we hope similar levels of success.

Our efforts in community fire safety have so far been primarily concerned with accidental fires although I understand that yesterday the symposium itself considered that different experiences across Europe of tackling deliberately started fires. Although arson causes far fewer fire deaths in the UK it does account for about forty percent of the fires which the fire service attends and causes significant damage and of course significant cost it has been a growing problem in the UK and it involves a much wider range of agencies that does community fire safety we will therefore be publishing a new report next month which is intended to make sure that we have the right arrangements in place to

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tackle arson and of course to go on then to reduce the number of deliberately set fires.

I also understand that the conference today and yesterday has looked at how cultural issues can have an impact on fire safety. I don't underestimate the importance of such factors, putting prevention as a priority will have an impact on how each of our different fire services function and of how they think as organizations this does have implications for recruitment but especially for the training and I am pleased to say such issues have been discussed here today. Although I am sure that this symposium will point to some noticeable and national differences towards fire safety it is usually the case that when the nature of our fire problems is discussed there is more that we have in common than there is to divide us. I know that some of our own officials at the home office have spoken to their counterparts in Australia, United States, Norway, France, Ireland and the Netherlands and have been forcibly struck by the similarities of the problems, which we are facing and the great interest of these is in how we are trying to overcome them. I understand that obtaining a reliable and complete picture of the incidence of fires across Europe is difficult however some statistics are available from just half of the countries involved in the European Union and these show that these nations collectively will suffer three thousand fire deaths a year. So the one thing we know with some certainty is that it is an issue, which between us we can do something about. **Having already successfully started the development of an important fire safety network within the European Union, it is my hope that this two day gathering of experts here in Chester will be the springboard of reducing that toil and will help us to deliver a Europe, which is safer from fire risks.** It seems to me that that is an objective worth aiming for and I hope in the future we can all work together in realizing the potential for cutting the number of deaths right across Europe. I wish you well; lets carry on and do that work together. Thank you.

**Dennis Davies:** Thank you minister. As I indicated at the beginning the minister has said that he will take one or two questions, so if there is a question from the floor there are two roving mikes and we can take it from there. One at the front first.

**Dieter Nüssler German Delegate:** Of the Federation of European Fire Officers Association. Minister we very much appreciate the address you gave us especially the detailed knowledge of our problems, which lead me to my questions. One of the aims of our association is to exchange experience and take over best practice I take as an example what you already mentioned the impressive attempt from the UK concerning the education of children for example. In our organization it is easy to take over a good idea because all the colleagues are very open to give the ideas free of charge so the other thing is to convince our decision makers that such a good practice should be overtaken so I am really convinced that the results are not only due to the commitment of our colleagues in the fire brigade but also due to the awareness of the decision

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makers. So I wonder if in the UK for example could you volunteer to put this issue Fire Safety on the political agenda so that it would be easier for us in some countries to convince to take over good practice not always arguing okay we have to re-invent the wheel so this is one of the problems and this should be a very important thing that decision makers speak with decision makers from the other countries to put that on the agenda for example of the European Parliament.

**Mr Howard MP:** First of all I think it is important to say it's quite a close Fire Service Community in this country and from our domestic point of view its been quite a level of unanimity between professionals in the fire service, policy makers and decision makers as to the potential that exists within the community fire safety. So it was not in domestic terms that difficult to persuade people that there was a lot in this, this was the best way we could possibly set about saving lives. I agree that on a European wide scale that we have lots of opportunities, through the European Union, European Parliament and so on the Council of Ministers even which these things can happen. My own feeling is that it is best to get together the people who could make it happen on occasions like this and rather than to have whole forests full of print. I don't mean this in any critical way but once you get involved in large-scale organizations like the European Union the danger is that we have no choice but to create huge amounts of paperwork to support it. **I think the European Union role is in promoting International dialogue between member states as to what good practice is and how that can be best put into place** and I am certainly open to any further suggestions as to how we might do that. Not because its Britain telling everybody else what to do but rather that it is all of us learning from each other I think that's the most important thing so I am certainly open to any good suggestions about that. I know for example that currently the European Commission have announced that they intend to examine the need for legislation amongst other topics raise in the European Parliament there is a **resolution on tourist safety** and I think that perhaps gives us one way of working together on some issues that might lead off into other things. It is also by the way very important for tourists in all of our countries that they can feel really assured that when they go abroad on holiday somebody is concerned about what safety standards are applied in each separate country. There is a lot of spin offs from that that may be useful.

**Dennis Davies:** Thanks minister. Yes there is one in the middle there.

**Gary Whitworth:** Thank you chairman Gary Whitworth managing director of Fire-Stat International and former Chief Fire Officer of Kent. Minister I thought your presentation this morning on community fire safety was excellent and indeed I would just like to follow up on your latter comments about the question of tourist safety. I just wondered what the present policy of the British Government was towards working with our European partners on trying to achieve improved fire safety in our European countries and obviously I include the United Kingdom in that comment.

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**Mr Howard MP:** Well there are three points in relation to that question. First we are very happy that the European Commissioners are undertaking the need to examine the need for legislation as a result of the interest in the European Parliament and we are not unhappy about that.

The second is that I know some of my colleagues, for example Janet Anderson who is the Minister in the Department of Culture and Sport has been raising this issue for some time now her hat has been interested in tourism and I think the third thing is that we need to be extremely careful however that the quite high level of fire safety that we have in the British hotel and tourist industry is not in anyway undermined by what might happen on a European wide basis. I think that we are actually quite good in this country I don't know if that is so true in other member state countries and we ought to be looking for what we have got where practice is good as a standard to aim for rather than something were we try to aim to make that more complicated. But the objective and the Europe's not much more than a village on a global scale now in terms of the way people travel for their holidays and I think we owe it to all of our people in whichever country we come from to make sure that where they go is going to be at least as safe as where they have come from. And I think that's well worthwhile.

**Dennis Davies:** Thank you minister. This gentleman here and I will take one more after that.

**Tom Wilmott:** Tom Wilmott, World Fire Statistics Centre. Could I say what marvellous news it is minister about your Safe as Houses Campaign and with its target to reduce fire deaths. The question I would like to ask is whether the government possibly the treasury in co-operation with the home office has any plans for a similar campaign to reduce fire property losses, we know of course that fire is costing countries including the UK around one percent of GDP so a small saving on that could help with money for that could help with money for schools, hospitals or what have you and we know that in the States when President Nixon lead the 'America Burning Campaign' that aimed not only a cut in fire deaths which has been very successful but also at property cuts as well. So I am just wondering whether there is any prospect of the UK doing anything-similar minister?

**Mr Howard MP:** Well there are two things that are worthy of noting. The first is that colleagues some of the officials from the home office are working together with officials and ministers in the Department of the Environment and Transport in the regions to look at the building regulations and how we can get safer buildings in to the system by which building control takes place in this country. Secondly I think in terms of residential buildings as distinct from commercial buildings we have got quite a successful track record in terms of getting messages for example about smoke alarms and how successful they can be to get across and we have had a small campaign just before Christmas to exhort

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people to make sure that their batteries were working in their smoke alarms and they were properly cleaned and maintained so that they would be effective in the event of a fire. So I think all of those things are happening but I mean I am always open frankly to any new suggestions as to how we can improve records of these things and always willing to try and convince colleagues in the treasury of the effectiveness of anything but I think it is probably the experience of finance ministries writing across Europe that when you go in for additional expenditure it is not usually a good idea to hold your breath while they are waiting for a decision. But having said that sensible suggestions are ones which I am always willing to try and take forward.

**Dennis Davies:** Thank you minister. Unfortunately looking at the time we are really well up in terms of our programme and I am very conscious A) minister that you have got to go away and secondly that we need to move on in here from local government and the commission about some of the issues. It falls to me therefore to simply say thank you to you for taking time out of your very busy agenda I think as one or two of the delegates have already made clear the way you put together the issues of fire prevention have placed it firmly on the agenda of setting targets of sharing knowledge and ideas and have tried to draw into that methods of statistical analysis and evaluation are very much the key theme of Fire Safe Europe 99. And on behalf of the delegates can I give you a small memento to a) thank you for being here and secondly to mark this occasion which as I say is the first the inaugural of hopefully a few of these meetings of experts that will occur throughout Europe.

**Mr Howard MP:** Thank you very much.

**Dennis Davies:** Now if I would like to introduce Dieter Nüssler who asked one of the questions before we leave the platform Dieter Nüssler is the chairman for the next session you will notice from the pack that is with you that he is the Chief Fire Officer of Aachen in Germany but he has also been one of the FEU delegates from the very beginning he is also a member of CTIM. Dieter.

**Dieter Nüssler:** Thank you Dennis. May I remind the speakers of the next session Mr Barisich, and John Whiteman to come to the podium and sit there together with the rapporteur of the next session Carl Fasson. So we are to discuss later when what is going on with the lunch time because we are starting a little bit late so I hope we will be in time. This session is headed inter directive workings. The question is why is it on the agenda from my point of view I think that we have in a sense of European working we have to face several realities on this. You know we have these trans national bodies often referred to with a European Commission and European Parliament and we have to deal with our national governments these two levels are inter acting on European scale normally but from the prospective of the fire service the delivery is going to the local government and sometimes depending on the situation and this is very different in the countries of the European Union we do have as fire brigades we



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do have our problems to influence the trans national bodies which are aiming to produce good results for us. In some countries we even have problems to convince our national government so it is our problem but taking as one solution the address that we heard at the very beginning of this meeting from MMEP Harrison he spoke about I put a question to the European Fire Officer so the question is, What do we expect him to do, What would be the main task if that could be a solution. As I see it at first hand he would be an information provider so in brackets you can see what is on the agenda that there is a problem and further more to define who has information and what's important also who needs information. It is not only the fire brigade we can also provide information to others so this European Fire Officer you saw him already with a UK uniform now it's a blue one its not a uniform least he has a now it's a tie I recognize it now. He is an information seeker and this could be for the intermediate phase the secretary of the FEU was one of our ideas just to try to get more information and provide information.

That leads us to the next question the heading 'Who Is Responsible For Fire Policy in the EU' and we work a lot to solve that question just for our own purposes but also for our fire colleagues in our countries, what is going on there? Who is responsible? One message I want to bring over with respect for information strategy is I want to make you aware of our web site with that address over there and from our situation. It's not accidental that the appearance is exactly the same as the web site opening page from the European server so we only added fire helmets and to be very international this is the image that we have taken from our last conference from our colleagues a time ago. But you will find it's the same image and that's so that our policy we want to be as close as possible to the European Commission to the European Parliament as an information provider and as an information receiver and you will find also on our web site one button that you can go directly to the European server and perhaps you can solve some of the miseries of the organization that are there so by using your own language you see information about the directorate and if you are lucky they will come back with the answer 'Who Is Responsible For Fire Policy In The EU' Try it. I don't want to see your telephone account afterwards. So it ended up you know this thing who is the European Fire Officer and we are not quite clear what would be the award to find him and one of the most hunted men and this is unique for the fire brigade because we normally help each other hunted or wanted man in the European Commission is this guy here. So that leads me over to our next speaker Mr Barisich that is the head of the Unit for Civil Defence in DG XI and hopefully he will show us what the possibilities in the European Commission and what are the shortcomings. That would be normal and perhaps we will get an answer to or at least some new detailed knowledge about that question 'Who is responsible for fire policy in the EU?' Mr Barisich.

**Mr Barisich:** 'Who is responsible for fires in the European Union? I could have a very short speech because **fire prevention and fire litigation by virtue**

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**of the principal of the subsidiary is the responsibility of the member states at a national, regional and local level.** Thank you for your attention.

Okay but I will try to explain who is doing what related to fire in the European Union. There is no fire officer in the European Union. I put together some different elements in order to give you a complete view of what is done. I will start with what is done in my unit, what is done in terms of safety protection, which includes litigation and prevention of fires.

First of all I would like to draw your attention on this tragic list. This is the list of the major disaster major tragedies which occurred in the Union in the last decades and you can see that Europe is quite a disaster pruned area and you can see that all kind of disaster natural and technological occur in the Union. You see very large earthquakes in Italy nineteen years ago an earthquake occurred which made practically three thousand people die, ten thousand people injured, and three hundred and thirty four thousand homeless. A full region was devastated and nineteen years later you can still see the desecration. You have very large floods, you have landslides, and you have a few years ago in Greece a long serial of hot humid days one thousand five hundred people died because of that. United Kingdom because we are in the United Kingdom is four times in this list, United Kingdom is in this list for Lockerbie terrorist attack, for the piper alpha explosion in the North Sea, for the landslide which was in 1988 no in 1976 one hundred and forty four people died and then the last line, in 1952 twelve thousand people died in the UK because of smoke. I didn't put this in the list because in fact since then the cause of such tragedy has been cancelled by new habits in the use of fossil fuels etc. So you see disaster is something that occurs unfortunately to humans.

But disasters is not fatality you can have a hazard but if you have not the vulnerability you will not have a risk, so its clear that we should all work together and we hope that we will contribute to try to reduce the hazard or reduce the vulnerability or reduce both in order to reduce the risks.

Lets go quite fast on the present state of the corporation in the industry of civil protection as it is today. I start with the rights column we have a system for module assistance we are working in the enlargement we have some international activity we are setting up a corporation in the Mediterranean Basin we are implementing the 112. But what is more relevant today is the left side. You see we are now really dealing strongly with the implementation of the community action programme. We decide together with our national correspondents to try to focus our energy in few major projects and we have defined these projects you can see over there a change of aspects, crisis management, disaster medicine, information of the public and prevention. I will just present you the two last.

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Information of the public there are two objectives were we try to contribute to improve the level of self protection of the European citizen and we are trying to progress we are trying to contribute to progress towards a common safer area for the three hundred and seventy millions of European citizens. How we are trying to implement such a very long term and very ambitious project aims. We try to set up what we call, what has been called by our national correspondents a global system for information to pass. To do that we set up a core group which met several times and our first step towards this long term project, long term objectives, they decided or they proposed to organize three important workshops one of the technological elements, another on the human aspect how create behaviours how to keep behaving and a less one on the concrete action for the information department. Few word more about this project. In fact this is the most difficult major project to put together, in this project we are trying to have a leading country a member state making practical the job with a financial contribution from the commission with today help from some other member states met in a core group. In fact we didn't find yet a leading entity in the union to carry out this very ambitious programme, but we have a meeting this week I think is Thursday with the core group and I think at the moment this project will take off.

The last one is the protection where your activity is covered. In fact this has also been a very difficult project to put together we had several meetings of the core group, which is shared by Jukka Metso who is our national correspondent from Finland. And we arrived together at the end of the day to fix **three priorities which are Use of the risk assessment, try to set up some principles and guidelines for flash floods and start on the question of fires**. Recently we had a fourth one, which is a dam spread project which is also carried out by the Finish Environmental Institute and which should arrive to sample on Thursday. So we are really in the core of our discussion today, what we are expecting from this workshop a plan of action and try to have definitely something which could be presented to the fifteen member states, which will be in competition with other projects which will be promoted by other people, which should be defended in front of our core by your representative of the home office. So we should work in a good way to try to put something together which has a chance to be accepted at the European level.

As far as civil protection co-operation is concerned, we are starting a long-term process, the only way in which we could try to carry out such an ambitious project is to have a strong involvement of a member state through the principle of lead countries and core groups, my unit, my colleagues and myself we are definitely not able to carry it out such ambitious and important projects. That should be done outside the Commission by the civil protection bodies themselves. In fact as you may know, we are trying to contribute to support the member state efforts and we are trying to respond to a strong request from the European citizens. We made a few years ago an enquiry through our Eurobarometer system and we discovered that eighty five percent of the

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European citizens considered that they are not informed enough on the risks to which they are exposed that on behaviour to be adopted when an accident arrived. We are in this day repeating this European matter enquiry with some different questions some of them are dealing with how they feel with their rescue service and so on, but we will come back to this point when the enquiry will be finished.

Lets now pass to what the other services are doing. I apologize for the organization of my speech it is not well structured but I just finished this a few minutes ago the scheme of the presentation and I have tried to respond to the various questions, which have been raised so far.

First of all we have an important activity on the **construction materials**. Construction materials are regulated by our general directorate for industry in the frame of their global activity on approximation of loads, if they regulate construction material they regulate in relation with a certain number of criteria 5 or 6 one of them is the resistance to fire it is not a regulation for fire prevention.

I would like to pass now to our DG V, which is health. They have an interesting project which is called '**EHLASS**' which is the kind of data bases concerning the accident of leisure and at home. They also have a very brand new **injury prevention action programme** they have forty millions of Ecu to spend over four or five years to try to set up a sort of information system on information about injury in order to try to establish a further step structured action and prevention. Again this two activities are not centred on fire they are part of the global activity of public health policy.

**Transport**, our general directorate for transport is DG VII, have a certain number of regulations they are mainly transposition in the Community the law of international agreement, which have also influenced to fire prevention and fire fighting. But again the globality is not a matter of fire it is a matter of safety of transport.

With something, which is different, which is safety in the others, which is much more close to fire prevention this is dealt with by our DG XXIV in the frame of the **consumer policy**.

There are also other activities which are important but which again are of a completely different nature. We have activity in the field of **research**, we have activity in the field of telecom, which are carried out, by our DG XII and DG XIII these again are not activity, which are focused on fire or protection or fire fighting its part of the global policy of research. The decision which is carried out by **CEN** which is the Community (I have even forgot the meaning of CEN) Energy Normalization, they are setting standards and this is an activity which has mainly carried out by the National Standardization Offices, so they are the member states normalization offices who work together through us on common standards.

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We have the form of fires, we have spoke a lot of fires in these two days but every year we have about hundred thousand fires, which destroy five hundred thousand of hectares of forest in Italy, France, Greece, Portugal and Spain prevention of those disasters is made by DG VI which is our general directorate for agriculture in the frame of the **forest policy**. You should not be surprised at this long list if you look at your own member state you will find exactly the same structure, it could be a bit different somewhere, it could be quite different in other places but altogether any policy has its own logic and its own entity.

I forgot in my list DG XXII Leonardo because I was not well aware I should confess of the strategy which was the strategy of my colleagues when they make the financing of the project Leonardo but I was very interested to listen this morning the synopsis and I think we can together try to see how we can integrate this kind of activity in the whole picture. Now in DG XI even in DG XI we have two services, dealing with matters relating to fire the first one is the service directive which is dealt with by another unit than mine which concerns **large industry** and we have our activity which is in fact the protection of persons, environment and property in general terms.

So how now we can conceive the best way for putting together in a more close way all of these activities. Before coming first I sent an invitation to my colleagues who are the key persons in this matter unfortunately they could not attend but we fixed the principle in the next few days or weeks to have an **inter-service group** to try to better define the interfaces between our activities because we are convinced that better co-ordination could lead to a better global efficiency and the last point to which we are convinced is a key element to improve the efficiency of the whole system is **to have a better integration of civil protection aspect in all the policies**.

But I should be very clear my unit is a very small unit we are now engaged in the negotiation of two action programmes in the council in the parliament and from now till the end of the year I am not sure at all that I can find at the level of my unit the necessary resources to make an important action in this field. In any case we will try to start, but I hope that say from now to one year we can try to have the first concrete results but the very frankly as minister said from the UK it is true also for the Commission in this moment the human and financial resources are becoming scarcer and scarcer and I am very, very concerned, I am not sure that we could continue to carry out all our activities, we have made an important effort of rationalization, we should perhaps go further but in any case we are not living a very easy period. I am very sad not to be able to convey a more positive message but I think we should be realistic and not try to promise things that we are not sure we that we can achieve. Thank you very much for your attention.

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**Dieter Nüssler:** Thank you very much Mr Barisich for this very lively demonstration also for your capabilities to react on the discussions during this workshop. I think there were a lot of interesting messages. So this is the possibilities in the short comings of your work in the European Commission and I would like to hand over to Councillor John Whiteman and you can draw from his CV that he has a lot of experience in public safety on a local and regional level but I know from my Czechs colleague that you have also experience on a European level for example with the overture programme so perhaps you can also reflect what are the advantages and what are the short comings of a European working. You have the floor.

**Councillor John Whiteman:** Firstly can I thank the organizers of this conference for allowing me to talk to you for a short while about the Local Government Associations view about the development of fire strategy I am addressing you as vice chairman of the LGA Fire Committee which means that I am an elected politician and here we find a difference, probably the key difference between the UK and our European partners. The creation of fire policy in the UK is political, politically controlled with input from officer advisors via the Home Office, the LGA, and obviously Cat 4, and the FVU and other interested parties. In European this is not so clear greater reliance on officer systems of working the European Commission has clear links via DG XI with officer representative groups and as above working with political associations frankly the concept of such a high level of political control on so much fire policy is not understood true I think from the lower level of central government control than local volunteer arrangements. The organizational control here in the UK is also on clearly defined lines as you may be aware in the UK fire services operate and control via local government. There are forty-nine fire authorities in England and Wales in which the LGA represents them all. Each fire authority is politically controlled by elected members and is supported by officer advisors. Fire authorities are responsible for implementing legislation and policy direction and of course centring by the UK government and very often as a result of EC directives fire authorities are able to influence the future decisions of fire service policy through consultation direct with governments Home Office and via the Local Government Association. The LGA represents the interests of all Local authorities in England and Wales including Fire Authorities. The LGA has a committee process similar to that operated in our local authorities and one of its main standard committees is the fire committee, which interestingly is linked together within the division also responsible for public protection and environmental development. This meets three times a year and has a membership of eighty four local counsellors from all fire authorities, but also within that structure we have various working parties, sub-committees, so we really don't just meet three times a year we meet very often and meet three times a year as a body. Through the LGA representatives on a number of standard committees at the Home Office Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council the LGA has the opportunity to work with the Home Office to develop the future direction of fire service policy. The shift of policy direction in the UK fire service and the

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implementations this has on local service delivery has been highlighted by many contributions from speaker to this conference. **Essentially the strategic aim is to shift policy focus from fire fighting to fire prevention** with the aim of reducing the incidences of death and injury and damage to property from fire. The subject has been achieved by various strands of policy including the focus on community fire safety and lobbying for new fire safety legislation and reviewing the long established arrangements for fire cover. I am sure that many respects of this policy owe a lot to many European communities focused objectives and it will be of great benefit to the fire service and public protection across the European community if we could work towards a common agenda. As I eluded to in my introduction the initial problem with development of European fire policy is without doubt cultural...

In many ways it mirrors the development of law in this country, which is generally reacting to events with statute following it. This is in contrast to the development of fire policy across the majority of Europe there is a greater reliance on voluntary help less professionals generally far less standard on fire matters. Many of the fire safety enforcement regimes across Europe rely upon provisions and general health and safety law for us in the LGA are linked to Europe this facility is through Local Government International Bureau the LGIB. LGIB has been in existence for ten years now and acts as a European and International arm of the LGA. It is also just from our point of view is the UK secretariat with the committee of the regions. This allows us to have a very direct input in the legislative proposals in this area by the UK members of the committee of the regions. Indeed I am led to understand our chair today was considering the EU proposed action programme on civil protection, which the committee of the regions commissioned for meeting just over a week ago. This process allows us to attempt to point out areas of improvement to the parliament, council of ministers and the commission. Our chair also maintains the Brussels Office has policy officers which enables us to undertake lobbying other matters not least in the European parliament. However our involvement with community region shows up some of the weaknesses in the European system. To start with when covering matters fire matters the area is only given a few passive references of the proposed protection programme. Indeed in advance of this conference when we asked a committee of the region which of their seven policy commissions dealt with the fire policy Commission 4 told us that it was Commission 5's responsibility and Commission 5 said it was Commission 4's. I believe there is a representative of Commission 4 here today but I am not sure whether that means he has won or lost the argument. The LGA fire committee has been keen to get a grip on the European agenda recognizing that many of the governments consultations that it was looking at one way or another from the European agenda. We are keen to learn how the fire committee could better influence albeit at an earlier stage in the process then we could potentially be a greater influence.

The fire committee therefore decided to take a delegation of members across to Brussels with the task was understanding how the process works, where our

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lobbying resources would be best directed. We wanted to know who does what? Where? And hopefully establish some contact for the future. Our visit was very illuminating **it quickly became evident that there is no central body organization or person we could speak to in Europe on fire issues.** Fire policy is dealt with many spirit parts of the European machinery, which is spread across varied departments and buildings across Brussels. We were delighted to meet with Alessandro Barisich who gave us a detailed insight into some of the profession at DG XI and with our UK rep. provided us with some details of how the UK government operates in Europe. We also met with MEP's to ask them if they could answer our questions about who was responsible for fire, we even say through a debate on the laying of hen's directive and the environment committee, that was to show us how the process worked we couldn't actually choose the agenda of the day. We achieved the same response from all the people we met basically yes we have an interest in fire issues and yes we are lobbying mechanisms that we could use but no there was no overall directorate or committee in Europe that mirrored the parliamentary or even local government process in the UK related specifically to fire and I have to question whether this is right. So given our different methods of population outline it is not difficult to understand why there is difficulty in reaching accommodation on such things as percent standard even EU officers have a common concern to receive safe practices, there is the cultural divide that has to be crossed before any progress can be made. Often the outcome of much debate is the obvious needs for some countries to accept lower standards while others will need to increase theirs, which of course has cost implications.

Whilst the process is often been slow particularly in this particular field success has been achieved and could be a starting point for future development of policy, however even with an understanding of the formation of consent committees takes time and raises a key question 'Who drives the formulation of policy' across Europe. The task therefore is to find common working practices for the real understanding of how policies are formed across Europe before the European community generally efficiently starts to construct common approach with very similar problems. So **how should Europe operate?** The changing balance of power within the EU and the development of the European Parliament following Amsterdam was welcome in itself but when combined with the matrix of lobbying potential that exists for those wishing to influence policy, it could lead a casual observer to quickly become convinced that all is lost. But I don't believe that this is the case, **recognition of where the power rests in each European country for fire policy will form a picture and framework that we can work within.** The fact that there is a different balance between political officer involvement need not be an obstacle however the EU does need to form a view on the importance of the issue. It is clear that MEP's don't seem to see fire policy as a big issue giving it time only as a small element of the civil protection generally itself only low on the agenda. In addition Europe could and should consider how it is already assisting fire safety in the regions.



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My own authority in Northumberland we have developed three initiatives which are allowing our fire service to work for all communities to improve the quality of life for the residents however deprived areas. We have veered a little bit from this now because in Northumberland we have put community fire safety into our community safety strategy group, for our foreign members our community safety strategy consists of police service, the health service, the ambulance service, all of our voluntary agencies, all of our local authorities politicians and the fire service. In Northumberland indeed often the lead officer and lead player for this is the fire officer, we actually call our chief fire officer the Director of Protective Services he is there to protect the public in all matters in our community. The first initiative is **a project called Eurocil** which is still developing new ways of helping socially excluded young people who are at risk from drugs and alcohol to come back into the mainstream, but this is done through our community safety strategy core coordinated as I said by our fire service personnel. This is a recognition that people on Drugs and alcohol abuse do cause damage to themselves but more often than not set fire to properties and commit arson, so if we can tackle that problem we have reduced fire.

The second initiative is an initiative in Seville where I visited last year the fire service, the police service, and the employment services have come together to start a community warden scheme. This scheme will have the double benefit of getting some long term unemployed people back to work and helping to make our housing estates safe. The idea of this is that the community wardens will act as the eyes and ears of the local authorities, the police, the fire service and have no specific powers but when they see something wrong they will be in radio contact with our control room and can immediately flag up the issue. We are also working with Europe to **increase the number of women recruited into the fire service** this has been classified as a pilot project and on one of my European officers and I went out I should have spoke to Terry about this. This is reported to be working very well.

In the past we also had what was eluded to before but we also had a very successful research team at the forest fires exploring common problems with our partners in Spain, Ireland the Czechs Republic, Poland and ourselves. The Eastern European Block seems to have been a growth market in our link area of part of a strategic approach within my authority for the last three years in Southport Polish UK Conference and we are now going to re-visit our links with our Polish colleagues Vladimir has asked me this morning if we would re-visit our links with our Czechs colleagues the answer is yes Vladimir see you later. There are a number of half-cocked arrangements operating at this time to create a common approach and understanding.

One such group is the **European fire services tunnel group** which seeks to agree a common approach to what the fire service should be looking at tunnel design operation, formation of the group is apparently welcome by the construction companies as it means ensuring the needs of the emergency

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services are consistent with reason. With only one small example the group has been formed through need and operates outside of any other network. Certainly urgency of such consideration as tunnel fires has been shown in recent years by the Mont Blanc Tunnel fire and the Channel Tunnel fire here in the UK. One thing those two fires had in common were of course that they were tunnels running across borders. This is an ideal example of an where European policy can assist in better co-ordination in the fire service to facilitate better handling of major incidents. The committees of the regions in their draft opinion of the civil protection programme have recognized this fact and are calling for separate divisions within the programme for across border co-operation. But in little two existing networks it is often found that the operate around individuals rather than issues and against an agreed need. I believe the only effective operating mechanism is through statutory recognized associations to establish working groups to create policy. Lobbying with individual member states in the EU can then be targeted and the most vulnerable elements of each country and the EU. It is important not to forget the change in power base in the EU generally. So what are the current problems user problems become clearer, different starting point, more understanding of each others position, different footing mechanisms varying, officer power basis, and much individual involvement by officers rather than on behalf of their organizations. For some and it is a small few Europe means a nice trip away from normal duty but very little in the way of outcome. Linked to a low profile, the EU generally little understanding of the commission and indifference of MEP's there are a few problems to overcome. For me the first step is to decide what issues can be successfully targeted and through which mechanisms to start to raise the profile of fire and rescue generally. This should lead to a position were it finds a place on the agenda. However the need to ensure that we target related employment issues via our existing routes should not be missed, rather than creating a separate body for these issues. We do suffer as a service but the public doesn't complain much about us, so Euro MP's won't see us as an issue. Other relevant to the agenda issue, however conference like this one will hopefully help to push the issue up the agenda somewhat. Thank you very much for your time.

**Dieter Nüssler:** Thank you John for your this very clear vision of what should happen and of course you draw this from your own experiences coming from the UK so, personally I made some notes and as always in the word region so perhaps we can come to that during the discussion and if you would like to follow the same procedure as in the previous sessions. So its open for question at the end our colleague Carl should summarize what is the outcome of that sessions so I will kindly ask you to pose your questions. You commence please in the front line.

**Jukka Metso:** Yes our comments are from Finland from the Ministry of the Interior unfortunately my name was mentioned there I know this and I don't know if it was positive or negative. But I would like to make some comment about Alessandros presentation that presentation and I will like to start about how

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Dieter opened it and he said that it's the civil defence unit so it is civil protection and that is the point I mean that when we are discussing about civil protection it's a problem we don't have a definition for that term and that leads us to a problem who is representing and whom there in civil protection. So if we take some for examples it is so that in Finland civil protection is the whole umbrella it includes rescue services, fire and rescue action, and civil defence matters for crisis systems. So we represent the whole field but if we go for example to Italy its so that the civil protection authority from Italy are not representing for example fire services and its also the same for Spain and some other countries. Also this is a problem we have to face when we think and consider about our action programme and who is responsible for that kind of business. So I don't want to put over there that it's the European fire officer because it also can give the wrong message at least should I say to Nordic countries who normally use the term rescue, because it includes ambulance services all kind of accidents and prevention, it's not only the fires and so on it's also I suppose so in the UK. This is the first problem is **what is really civil protection**. Then when we browse that different directorate general so that they are a lot of business going in the field of rescue services or fire services in different directorates. If we take our current action programme its only three million Ecu's and Alessandro mentioned the forest fire. The forest fire regulation which lasts for five years there the total budget for the prevention of forest fires is seventy million Ecu's so we are discussing peanuts here comparing for example to the regional funds who are giving a lot of money to regional policy and I was told last time in Brussels that for example Greece got from regional funds to the fire services and for the fire protection for forest fires over thirty million Ecu's for getting some fire material and medicals and helicopters and so on. So it's a business how we use and what kind of applications would we are doing there and how we can use that money. So that's one problem, one problem of our current action programme is that when we are discussing about the funding its very difficult to create a project if its only responsibility of one country. My name was mentioned in the prevention side because I have chaired the core group, so called very loose core group. But the difficulty has been that when we have discussed about national fire funding because we had to have some fifty to seventy five percent or twenty five to fifty percent of national funding its so that member countries don't want to should I say co-operate in such a funding so that if we are giving for example fifty thousand ecu's from Finland there nobody else is not coming there. So it's a difficulty should we go finance the whole project for the whole Europe and those fifteen member states I suppose that if we are having a real European project it's so that every member country or at least some of them finance these projects together and then we can get the seventy five or fifty percent from the action programme itself. So these are realities and this was only a comment I wanted to make so that you can realize that it's not so very easy to play there in Brussels and try to get some results. Thank you very much.

**Mr Barisich:** I think that at first when I mentioned you it was defiantly in a positive way there is no doubt at all. But you see the question of what is civil

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protection is an important one. You know everyone should have these paper, which is the magnum of civil protection in the European Union. Where you have a clear description of how the systems are organizing the various members of states and it's always very, very complicated more than in the commission why? Because civil protection is not a service it's nobody can say civil protection is me there are always systems which involve a large number of actors if you take a I don't know one member state you will see that the Minister of Interior, you find a Minister of Health, you find volunteers you find all of these forces, which in a member state create the single civil protection system. The last point Luke is very right very small concrete problem lies financing few thousand Euros from several member states is something which looks impossible to put together which we should work out because from time to time it is how say disappointing that's matter not for the rooms its our job we are paid for that.

**Dieter Nüssler:** Is there any other questions? From there please.

**Dr Ronald Bareham:** Dr Ronald Bareham University of Central Lancashire. I found the discussion quite interesting this morning the last two speakers have re-enforced something that I have been saying for quite some time now. That is that there are some nine directorates general that have some kind of fire reference. It was interesting though that on Alessandro's list he didn't have the European Union occupational safety and health agency, which is not surprising because every time I have tried to get information from them I have had no response, at all. But that brings me to picking up the political issue about **fire lying in the health and safety area**, and I suppose that really comes from the fact that it is article 118a of the Treaty of Rome that gave the direction for the protection of European citizens and that basically is a health and safety issue. But the tag line to article 118a is interesting because it says that health and safety issues should not be developed in such a way that they would prevent the economic development of small and medium enterprises. And that brings another issue into it and that is the economic social cultural issues relating to the implementation or even the development of legislation. One of the problems that really has been affecting us in the academic world and its also reflected in the tourism and hotel industry is the fact that there is no overall responsibility and apparently no real co-ordination of the civil protection area its fine we are talking about responsibility of fire brigade, of civil defence agencies and coast guard facilities and so on. But fire safety spans a wider area than this and it brings in construction standards, it brings in management systems for people employed at the interface between the public the users of buildings and so on. An interesting comment that was made on my visit to Brussels about a month ago was from one of the DG's that unless it's in the action plan then there is going to be no real priority given in bids for research money, that's the academic interest coming through, or in prioritisation in the protection plan that is the hotel and tourism lobby coming through that's DG 22, 24 and DG 12. So if the reference that is held for fire safety by a particular DG 12 is of small critical mass and if it has no time no budget in order to develop that fire safety reference then its not going to

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start pressing that to come through in the funding programmes and therefore we who are helping from if you like the civilian side of the fire protection area to develop fire safety have got an up hill struggle on our hands. **It's time that either DG V or DG XI took the initiative and started acting as a central core coordinating body for these issues.**

**Mr Barisich:** Once again what did DG XII do? Is the same work that the competent department in UK for does. There is no difference, so you should not wait in the Commission something that's completely different in each member state its policy has its own relevance. Every policy has its own projective and every policy could have relation with other things. When you have a political person where the distance could observe some how say? Point to be pondered on that's something else, but each policy has its own fortune. Well now did you find that DG XI should take the initiative? That's very easy to say but how you will do? You know I have two administrators and one assistant to carry out the committee's preparations in the area of protection all we are saying including fire. So it's that community implication that matter is small because the position is like that. And when you look civil protection is mentioned in the Treaty in the **article 3(1) u in the Amsterdam Treaty it may say that the Commission action shall cover measures in the field of civil protection, full stop.** No farewell action was given to the Commission from the Community to carry out such an action. Every thing which we will do should be based on the article 235 which requires unanimity. So I's not even if the Treaty say that its because of this principle of subsidiarity. **The responsibility for the safety of the citizen is one of the fundamental responsibility of the states.** This is made by the central state, by the region, by the local authority. It is something which literally does not change such reality. Thank you.

**Dieter Nüssler:** Thank you for the questions, thank you for the answers. I fear I have to stop this discussion and I invite you to keep your questions after lunch I also have ideas to bring in and its hard for me I have a micro and I have to stop and lead over to our rapporteur. But perhaps for you to think about there is one famous word don't always argue what the European Union does for you. Perhaps we should try to think the other way round what can I do for the European Union. One famous man said that not with reflection to the European Union. But perhaps we could come back to that later. And now I ask Karl to summarise this I think it's very hard for him to do that. But an Irish man should be able to, they are used to windy conditions there.

**Karl Cashen:** ( Irish Dialogue) I know that what I said was totally incomprehensible to most of you. What I said was spoken in my native tongue Irish and I said 'Chairman ladies and gentlemen, I am very pleased to be addressing you today and before I deal with the recommendation coming from the discussion today could I just say that language is obviously a means of communication but language can also be a barrier. In the EU we have three official languages, but we have many, many other recognised languages that are

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not understood by most of the other citizens of the Union. Information as a result of expertise is not therefore easily shared. We spoke yesterday about having interactive web sites in various languages, but unfortunately without translation facilities these web sites are not accessible to a lot of the citizens of the EU. Expertise and translations therefore can be very expensive.

We had two excellent speakers this morning we started with Alessandro Barisich and before I deal with the recommendations arising from this discussion can I just outline what Alessandro and what our other speaker John Whiteman said. Alessandro outlined the workings of the EU as a speaker from the audience said we think there are about nine different directorates responsible in some way for some aspect of fire safety and civil protection DG 3 is responsible for amongst other things construction materials. DG 5 is responsible for public health and injury prevention, DG 6 amongst its responsibilities is forest fires, DG 7 deals with transport and is for personal regulations on safety, we have DG 11 which is Mr Barisich's direct responsibility, DG 24 which deals with safety in hotels and consumer protection. Among all of these directorates there is no one directorate that has direct responsibility or that is overall responsibility for the issue of fire safety. Mr Barisich then went on to outline the need for Community co-operation and the areas of mutual assistance. Some of the major projects that he spoke to us about were the exchange of experts, of information to the public and of prevention/ Mr Barisich concluded by saying that safety and civil protection was a very long term process, that it requires a strong involvement to member states and that the EU would like to support member states efforts in its fire protection of people and property. He also went on to say that the EU responds to strong requests from EU citizens. And I think that is something that we should certainly take up. He asked us in conclusion to be realistic and not to strive for what we cannot achieve.

I will go on then to deal with the issues raised by John Whiteman. John's a public representative from the North East of England and speaks with some authority in this area. I know I met John before; John comes to Ireland for our two for officers and our conference so he has an interest in this area. He outlined the structure of the fire service and its regulatory authorities in the UK. There are forty nine fire authorities. All of whom are politically controlled and all of which can influence fire service policies through their contacts with the Home Office. Which is the government department with direct responsibility for this area. He goes on to say that fire safety law is progressively updated and borrows from experience its gained. John then outlined what he conceived to be the weaknesses in the European set up, he spoke of his visit to Brussels where commission 4 and commission 5 could not be erected for him. Could not agree amongst themselves who was actually responsible in this particular area. He went on to state that there was no central body that we could speak to on fire issues and was therefore no overall directorate or committee that mirrors the UK set up. He believes that the EU should adopt a common approach and he believes that the structure in individual countries could usefully be used as a

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model within the EU. I will therefore just outline the main recommendations that will come from this session today and they will be brought forward.

**First is that trans national governments and local governments all have responsibility in the area and that there isn't the need for much more co-operation and co-ordination between these bodies. We also need to work together for the safety of the European citizens I think that is the main recommendation that will come out of today's session.** Thank you chairman.

**Dieter Nüssler:** Thank you Karl. I think he did it well, everybody is now keen to go to lunch we were delayed a little bit 15 minutes so we didn't get it right on time but I beg you to be back just in one hour so that the next session can start at a quarter to two. And hopefully you are not fed up and ready for a lively discussion afterwards. Okay so I have to fulfil my duty.

**Dennis Davies:** And the final presentation chairman to yourself for being our chairman this morning. Going through the process is always the difficult thing we always knew that but of course the way that you achieve things in life is through funding and politics and bringing those two issues together came under the chairmanship of Dieter and thank you so much for doing that so well. Just to re-enforce what he has just said an hour for lunch. I think we will be fine we have got time as you see this afternoon really to discuss any of the issues that have come forward. I hope you will give some thought of that over lunch listening on the side lines I am becoming very conscious that most of the dialogues seems to be moving along the first two ventures and quite a few people not directly within the fire service and maybe one or two fire service people could give some thought to this particular issue. Dieter with our compliments.

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**Dennis Davies:** Is to create that awareness and propose future actions and you will be aware from your programme that the three gentlemen with me are actually going to give us their views of what they believe they have seen and heard during the last five sessions that we have held in this workshop.

Sitting immediately next to me is Graham Meldrum who is one of Her Majesty's Chief Inspectors for Fire Services in England and Wales. Mr Meldrum has a long fire service career as you would expect for a chief inspector and therefore has been around many of these issues for many years. Sitting to his immediate right as you now know extremely well is Alessandro Barisich from DG 11 and I have already told him that he will not be receiving a gift, at the end of this particular session. And then finally the gentleman right at the far right is Ruud Jonkman who is the secretary of FEU and I am sure many of you over the last two days will have met Ruud and may have known him from a previous existence when he was working as some of you will know in the Netherlands again in a fire service capacity. So those are our three speakers and with no more ado I would like to invite Graham Meldrum please to address us Graham.

**Graham Meldrum:** Well thank you Dennis and good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. As Dennis said we are fellow almost chief inspectors now as he heads towards Scotland but he did supply me with this badge very kindly that says I am the Chief Inspector for the United Kingdom. So already he recognizes his position in relation to the hierarchy.

This afternoon I want to try and bring together my thoughts based on what I have heard today and what I have heard reported upon yesterday, because unfortunately I couldn't be here for the whole of yesterday. But Bob Baillie has made extensive notes for me on yesterday which I have been able to read through. A lot of the speakers I know from previous work they have done. But I see running through their work a common theme in relation to improving obviously the whole area of community fire safety of the changes that need to take place of trying to insure that we develop structured plans such as the Kent Seven Point Action Plan. That we understand the need to use all the tools that are we can lay our hands on in respect to community fire safety in respect of the new technology gathering data focusing plans evaluating the outcomes to ensure that we do not see this as some kind of activity that can be tacked on to other activities of the fire service. In fact my view is that we should see it as a whole way forward for the fire service through out Europe and beyond. I will attempt to try and give you my thoughts and arguments in relation to that. And try and develop its importance in my paper to you this afternoon.

I think the whole of the session have lead towards the same sort of thinking that I have tried to encompass in the words that I would like to say to you this afternoon. Its very important I believe that we do see this whole area as a new



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way forward for the fire service. It is a subject that is scientific in its needs as complex as anything else we have done in relation to fire fighting or legislative fire safety as we develop our changed role in the community and move towards community fire safety. Because I have certainly picked that up as one of the main themes yesterday and today. **Throughout Europe the fire service is changing in a quite dramatic way the service is understood its needs to change its role from fire fighting to fire safety which is now accepted as the most efficient means of carrying out our role of saving life from fire.** The resources are being diverted from expensive fire fighting equipment, which is of little impact in the battle against fire to cost effective community fire safety, which has proved its ability to save life. The change has been laid and driven by the leaders of the fire service throughout Europe and will result in a service and will be recognized by those who served in only a few years ago a very much changed service.

Now I expect people in the audience to be saying does he really believe that, it that where he thinks the fire service is now in the UK for instance. My answer is no, I don't believe that, this is not the home office telling lies, because of course we never do that. But also it is not a fantasy because I do believe that, that statement could be made to come true, so it's not a fantasy this could be made into a reality, and I think what we have heard during the last two days is messages coming over from all sorts of different people from all parts of the world. That are saying if you acted upon the messages that we are putting across in our papers we could actually bring about this change. But we have got to identify who we are expecting to listen, and who we are expecting to act. Because sometimes in some of the discussion it is like as though it is some other person, or people, or other organization that we haven't quite identified who is going to do all of this and perhaps in some almost magical way. I don't think that is the case, I think that the fire service is faced with a real moral dilemma in respect of community fire safety. What we have actually created is a bank of data that has ensured that we have clearly identified that with a given effort and applied resources in respect of fire safety will actually produce results and those are measurable results in respect of life saved from fire. I also believe that it could be easily reduced if we had a simple formula to show that a certain amount of resources showing us for x amount of money in terms of resources could actually produce y amount of lives saved with fire safety, we would also have to do a similar formula relating to that formula instead of saying in respect of x then we are looking at that as money spent on resources for fire fighting purposes and their effect in relation to lives saved in relation to factor y in that formula. I have no doubt at all that through figures that I have known in the previous brigade that I have worked in that this formula would show that resources would be a best value, better value if they were spent on community fire safety. We are very much here, I believe to that in the old saying 'give a man a fish and feed him for one day but teach him to fish and you feed him forever'. We are in that way with the response to fires, respond to a fire and put it out or teach people about community fire safety and you protect them forever and that surely should be the

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role that we are undertaking. If we accept that we have heard papers during this conference that show that lives can be saved by fire safety and we as professionals know that this can be done, then what moral right have we got to deprive people of this knowledge and this protection because we know it works and morally if we don't do it we can't walk away from this conference knowing that we could actually save lives without doing something that says we are going to take this beyond a discussion. **The benefits we have heard from developing a European fire fighter today someone trained in operating through a common European standard, someone that could do that, that would bring with them a whole different approach to the fire service.** It would also begin to free our resources now being used wastefully in duplication of effort in respect of training standards and all sorts of standards within the fire service and enable those resources then to be applied for fire safety purposes. The future must bring forward discussion at a strategic level based on the changing environment in which we live. The fire service in the UK and I know in Europe as well have had a great success story to tell as it relates to legislation on fire safety, yet we almost seem reluctant to tell people about this success the loss of life in commercial premises and hotels has dropped dramatically in recent years and large fires that destroy vast factory areas and offices are now comparatively rare. I believe that any other organization that had achieved such results would be singing from the rooftops that they had achieved that they would be very proud of their success. And they would actually build their future upon it.

As you go on to fire stations throughout Europe we actually put up pictures of our failures you see them on all of the walls they are out there on the stands, blazing buildings and in my opinion that is almost akin to a doctor putting up photographs of dead bodies and saying these are the people we lost. That is not a measure of success.

So we have got to look at the whole of that and change our thinking. Any organization as I say would be proud to say we have succeeded in a particular area and what have we got to do with this success. Well we must actually now change the way in which we are actually using our resources, big control units, foam tenders, aerial appliances, all over the place can be released to ensure that those resources are used in areas where they are needed. We cannot pretend that city centers today are the same as they were twenty years ago, but quite often the fire stations are still there as they were twenty years ago, the same appliances and equipment are there as they were twenty years ago, these are not proposed cuts because every time we talk about this sort of area the people seem to leap to the idea that we are talking about cutting the service. It is a simple redeployment of resources into the area of need where our business now lies. If a private company didn't do that they would still be producing steam engines to this day, because that's where the market lay many years ago. We all know the market has changed.

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A great debate is taking place in this country just now in relation to a very tragic incident and it will be known nationally which followed the death of a young black man called Stephen Lawrence and the publication of a report called the McPherson report. In that report a question not only the police but other organizations as to whether they actually had institutionalized racism within their organization and we have to ask that question in the fire service, we have to ask is there institutionalized racism in the fire service, and you may well be asking right now why I am posing such a question at this particular forum. You may have considered that you have strayed in or I have strayed in to the wrong conference or seminar and that we are now talking about a matter of equality of opportunity. And I think we are talking about a matter of equality and opportunity because within the definition of the McPherson report as to what institutionalized racialism meant. It didn't mean the harassment of people from ethnic communities within your organization. What it said was that the delivery of service to people within areas, which were known to have high ethnic members of the community within it, if they were deprived of the same resources that were put into other areas, then this was institutionalized racialism. Now we know that fires are more likely to take place in inner city areas often with high ethnic minority populations and we know that community fire safety is a tremendous impact in saving lives in such areas and if we decide not to use our resources to provide fire safety in education, fire safety material, fire safety back up, in such areas but to provide them with gleaming fire fighting equipment safely housed in gleaming fire stations many miles away from them for dealing with fires in factories and in industries long since closed and no longer exist. It could be said that in terms of the McPherson report that we are guilty of institutionalized racism because we have deprived people of the resources that they need and deserve.

Now this I know poses a very uncomfortable question this is not an easy question and actually poses a very severe moral dilemma that could not be dealt with this afternoon in the time available to us. But what you have done today and yesterday is to open up the debate and you have had an excellent series of papers produced to do that and excellent amount of material has been produced and this will enable this debate to take place. But you would be doing a disservice to the public we serve if it was simply reduced to a debate about resources and only taken as well we need extra resources and if that extra resources are not provided then we can't do it. Because we know that, that is not morally correct. What we have got to do is manage the existing resources in a way that ensures that the people who need our service in particular areas which we have now proved. In fact you have proved over the last two days that we can be effective in saving their lives and you cannot listen or indeed people who have given these papers and said what they have said cannot then walk away from this moral dilemma that you are now left with.

We have got to be bold enough to identify areas which have changed and then to redeploy those resources that we have got into those areas, if we were talking to managers within the private sector or service sector this would not be something

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that would be unknown to them, this is what they do all of the time, this is how industries and services survive. I have stated that the question I posed in respect of delivery of service is complex but it must be addressed and I intend to ensure that it is certainly on the agenda as far as the fire service inspectorate is concerned in the home office. So in terms of delivering service to people in inner cities, people of ethnic minority communities living in high rise inner city areas poor quality housing, poor quality of services, limited resources and over crowding, all I have done is posed the question on the table the question is actually not posed by me but posed by the contents of your papers could a lack of input of community fire safety be defined in such an area that I described as institutionalized racism. Now the jury is out on this question I don't have an answer for it but I do believe that the question must be addressed. However I have heard it stated when you ask this question it is a difficult question are almost insulted by it particularly in the fire service and feel that such a question should not be asked because they say that we give the same level of service it doesn't matter where we go and into what community we go. But if you ask the question of the people who live in that community as to whether they received or that they perceive that they receive the same level of service and you may well get a very different answer. But even people who deny the existence of the question never mind answering it actually will go on to discuss something that the fire service I believe does have a problem with and its institutionalized resistance this means resistance to change. Because in many ways when we talk about the culture of the fire service we have got to examine the question of what is the culture now in the fire service I think we have also got to look back and say what was it in the past and what do we want it to be in the future. And what do we actually mean by culture, well I think it means the customs and practices within an organization, which under pin the organization it is as simple as that. Now we have got to address this question of the culture of our organization because the fire service is very proud of its tradition and very proud of the fact that it does things in a traditional way. This often is just a shield for change because we don't change it because its traditional we do it that way, and I do believe that we have seen institutionalized resistance in a number of areas. But we have now got or we now have during the two days so much evidence of the effectiveness of fire safety both legislative and community fire safety has been presented to us both here in this hall and in the wider fire service area. That the need for change and the case for change is absolutely overwhelming because it actually saves lives. But what has changed in a truly dramatic way, have we seen truly dramatic changes a new face in the fire safety, have we seen the way that fire fighters are recruited, change dramatically, have we seen the provision of resources in fire fighting terms change dramatically, are we changing the way that resources are used within the fire services, are we seeing the community fire service centers opening up throughout Europe that we should be seeing because we know very well that this is where we can save lives. Or do we still see the local fire station built in a grandeur scale with lovely gleaming fire engines sitting in a row we have got to address that. And we have got to address the fact that we have been successful in relation to legislative fire safety and to focus those resources that

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we now have from now on where the loss of life from fire is still occurring which is not in hotels, not in commercial buildings but in the home. Or we have got to ask ourselves are we still in the fire service only tinkering at the edge of this problem.

I think in relation to the charge of institutionalized resistance the jury is not out. And perhaps they heard the evidence in the last two days of how effective it has been and I think any jury hearing that evidence would say well, if we say this is all of that information all that evidence could be presented to us as a jury but we haven't seen the evidence of change that has been brought about by it then the verdict is I am afraid. Guilty. But we can stop there we may say yes, we are guilty as charged, but by being here by service being presented the service listening to the papers that we have heard being presented to us. I think what we have shown is that we are willing to change, we are willing to listen, we are willing to do our community service, if that is what has come out of all this, and we need to do it in a way that shows that we have addressed the big moral question that exists in the fire service for its future and its future use of resources. We need to actually say that we may well be preaching, the speaker said that he today sounded like a preacher but are we preaching to the converted here. So we need to go out from here and take the message to those who have not yet been converted, we need to ensure that this work is shared with other people, we need to ensure that we move on from the national fire safety center in this country to the European safety, we need to have a clear and detailed fire safety framework we can take, we need to have clear targets laid down, we need to understand the audiences that we are addressing, we need to employ information technology to address them, and we need to ensure that we develop a toolbox of concept to ensure that we bring this message of fire safety to people throughout Europe. What we cannot do is put all of this back in its box and walk away from it, because as we have exposed all of the information, the data, the statistics, you have placed upon yourselves a moral duty to do something about it. I think we walk away from here today with that moral duty upon our shoulders, but if we chose to do nothing about it we would be judged by people yet to come as having failed in that duty. Thank you.

**Dennis Davies:** Thank you. Plenty of food for thought there, but I would like of I may to carry straight on and invite Alessandro Barisich if you would to give us your thoughts of these one and a half days.

**Mr Barisich :** Thank you very much even if I would not receive the crystal. I will like to speak in any case. Lets start by a **very short resume of these two days**. The first day there were a certain number of points, which were quite difficult for me to follow, I even invented a new English word, which is the level of holisticity. If you do not understand I have another proposal it could be the degree of complianceivity you know when we started yesterday we had some very interesting suggestions which were very vertical. It is the question of fire detection day it is always interesting that everybody could decide that he will do with his counting a day devoted to something. But you have seen yesterday how

the **positions are quite different from one member state to another**. In addition we heard that our Finish colleagues they have the Friday 13<sup>th</sup> day which is very interesting initiative in Sweden and Estonia do the same. In Portugal there is a National Safety Protection Day, sometime ago the Italian colleagues proposed a European Safety Protection Day, so **I can't see which could be the final dimension of this smoke detection day**. It could be a very good idea in some places and countries, but I have some difficulty to see where the Community, where the Commission could turn to address that matter. You know a European day is something which is extremely heavy decisions should be made the objective of the decision of the Council that's all. Let's say local, regional and national levels are responsible to decide what they should do in that matter.

But I come back now to that matter of the level of holisticity. You see I was very impressed by the last intervention yesterday where we have seen a relative small county setting up a so comprehensive a **holistic center which really I can imagine should be an extremely powerful tool for information of the children**. From the children to the parents and from the children to the future public. I know for example that in Italy there is an initiative which is completely different but which has the same targets, same objective and it's a game which is called **Scuola Sicura** (safe school) it could be interesting at a certain moment that we at the European level we succeeded to ensure a good prosperance of what is made in this kind of what is called in France **Centre d'Excellence** (Place where a particularly good job is made). That is one of the points that I will point out in our next meeting of the core group for the information of the public. Because I am personally convinced that the solution is there, the solution is something, which is holistic comprehensive and specific initially. But I will not judge my job is not to say what is good about the fifteen member states or the two hundred regions. My job is trying to put together the energies and try to canalise them on common goals or common objectives. So if the member state decides to go in such a direction of a comprehensive system of a global system as we have seen from the beginning would be very apt. If they decide to go in another direction, we will see, perhaps we will go in another direction. But I think that there is something that could be really extremely helpful for the wider use of just one country or the UK as a whole.

So we come to another extremely important point which I found yesterday, which is the concept of the **lessons learning process**, I think it is something that is definitely possible the main value of the European co-operation. In all of our action so far two principles have underlined our action. The first is the networking of those responsible and establishing a common lesson learning process. We now have a common Joint Research Center in Ispra. A project on a lesson learning process would be good, they will have quite a large amount of money to spend in the next two years. We will have two specialists to devote to this activity and I think that we will be able to quite rapidly to **set up a sort of European database center electronic system for the lesson learned by**

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**accidents.** I think that it would be a very positive reception by the member states of any initiative in such a way.

It's a very complex matter. It's a very complex matter. I know the very large differences in the member states. But in any case **training, dealing with the human material is definitely one of the most powerful tools to improve the situation.** So I don't know if we should think in terms of common training, common standards, but in any case have some initiative, some ideas going on in the field of training of fire services is something which could be useful. And I am ready to listen and to look with a very great deal of interest again in this matter.

I come now to the last session. The question of who is responsible for fires? Once again I recall that at the Commission we have no operational responsibility. We have no Chief Fire Officer or Chief Fire Inspector and we have a problem in the Commission because we are very advisable and so somebody says there is something wrong, we will go to Europe, we will go to Brussels, we will go to the Commission. Imagine that somebody take the train and they arrive in the Waterloo Station and they say I will go to the British Government and the British Administration who is dealing with fire. I am not sure that he will have an easier way than somebody who comes to the Commission and who will look for who is responsible for fire. But of course here you have the advantage that you have Fire Brigades, you have Fire Inspectors but there are so many things which are dealt outside than in the Home Office and in Paris is the same. Rome is the same. Myself, I am not sure. If I am in Rome I can find my way on the people who is dealing with fire.

The second point was this question. There were two points in fact, not one. The first was the point of the level of ambitions, the place on the agenda and also there we should be quite clear. The Amsterdam Treaty will enter into force in a few days. The highest politicians in the Union decided to keep the civil protection as it was. In a places where some activities should be proposed provided that they are perfectly compatible with the subsidiary principal and we should be realistic. In the short term, we should not think that we should transform or we could transform a statutory operation in a matter of policy. But why look at that in a pessimistic way? Which is the situation? We have a very good action programme, very clear rules of the game. We have a management committee, we have some money. We are ready to examine and to finance projects. We are together today. It was not the case two years ago or last year, so look that in a positive way. Look how many opportunities we have now and we hope we will have in the next five years to double up the co-operation. To double up the co-operation amongst fire services but not only amongst the other people dealing with serious protection. Remember what I considered this morning - civil protection is always complex and wide system, it's all what contributes to the safety of the persons of the environment and the province. So which could be the follow up of our work? **The follow up could be a project.** Very frankly I would prefer more than one or two very specific projects what yourself imagined, **try to have an action plan. A certain number of actions, which are coordinated structured.** If you arrive because this is your workshop, I am assisting you to try to set up such an action plan. We should find who could be our partner. It could be a few, it could be another Fire Service in the U.K.,

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another member state. We could have some services making the co-ordination and other services making some specific action, all coordinating in a certain way, but all of that should be clarified. Those concerned should take their contacts with the national correspondents. Could be provided to me, in any case the only decision I could do is to decide whether we will present it to the member states with a positive approach or with a negative approach. The final word will belong to the representative of the management committee who will vote for or against the project. But I am quite sure that the project is initially which corresponded to the line I just made which means a good project or a certain number of actions well coordinated will receive a very, very positive approach in our management committee, so let me finish. I would first before concluding take the occasion to thank you Mr. Davies for the wonderful organization of this seminar in this workshop. You have been yourself extremely efficient, but I am not surprised I was expecting such a high level of performance but it is very good to acknowledge that everything went very well and I hope that in the next few days weeks or months we will have a concrete and successful follow up to this workshop. Thank you very much.

**Dennis Davies:** Thank you very much Alessandro and again can I move very quickly on to Ruud Jonkman the secretary of FEU who will share with us his views. Over these last 1 1/2 days it was particularly good of you though Mr Barisich to thank the team for the work that they've done in bringing the workshop together. Thank you very much.

Thank you Dennis. Well, as I'm standing here it's a little bit of coincidence I think and you might have understood that I am a sort of a dinosaur I was interviewed by Terry Glossop this morning in a former life and Dennis put me back somewhere in his Roman walls but I am still alive and kicking as they say and I should like to put out anyhow my enthusiasm for safe Europe on fire and other physical safety and I will try to do that following these two days which we all had probably more or less you more I less inverted as eye openers. So we come to the FEU Fire Safe Europe conclusions and I start very early in the morning of yesterday with the idea formulated by Mr Lyndon Harrison which isn't written down but which is coming forward at least in some of the countries I know very well and I experienced in the UK the right to safety of the European citizen everywhere in Europe. And what can save the citizens in Europe by our means, small, but as I said enthusiastic. I am going too fast probably. Mr Barisich said it loud and clear, we shouldn't have formulated our conclusions and ideas in enormous grasp now we should state loud and clear but on a wider audience doing this disseminating the work we are doing, for instance like this workshop and others will follow I hope still with the help of Mr. And perhaps the successor of Dennis or anybody else from our team and we might get the opportunity to start something we couldn't do with the help of for instance the European Commission, why not. I don't have to spend very long on that point of because, Mr. Barisich has already said something. Council decisions might be very difficult. Council decisions might last longer than your idea of time and the enthusiasm you have been organizing in 15 countries, because that's what I'm talking about almost every day. Then I come back on our enthusiastic and stubborn idea that we still will try next year during INTERSCHUTZ in Augsburg to launch a European smoke detector day and perhaps when we are developing a faster than a



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slower Europe I don't know but you always might have a catalytic effect that if three countries start that you will have success in 7 more countries two years after. Co-operation was mentioned and I not only mean the co-operation on the floor between other organizations in disaster relief or in medical care or whatever in a day-to-day business. But for instance you can come to the United Kingdom and you come to Chester and in the morning that everybody is loud and clear informed by the secretary of EFSCA he offers us at the same time his co-operation. World I very nice several times. What do we do with this overall holistic approach on physical safety? We can only do that of course in partnership with other safety providers as I said before. We can also do that by improving the communication tune the message as we learnt yesterday to your client use the language and the medium of the client group. For instance when you want to reach us ask your daughter or son to look at the home page Dieter Nüssler explained to you this morning and proceed step by step. Concrete and **what we propose is what you heard this morning, the comparative study in two years about the situation of 1996** the comparative study of 18 countries in Europe about the situation of their fire services and model **to construct a harmonized vocational training**. Not for a model smoke eater but for a model rescue person and last but not least as Mr. Glossop and Mr. Francisco Echeverria explained we expect from three countries in Europe to deliver an operational European right operational fire officers commission. The product should be recognizable, I think the one I played out for you are recognizable, and then there is another point, consistency. As Mr. Meldrum said the fire service has over all Europe, I can guarantee you, a very consistent image so we wont have trouble to be consistent, we will have the normal trouble of change probably. But our managers to deliver by the European programme of EFSCA will be change managers as well I am sure. Then about the relation we should like to have with all of you over Europe. How can we inform each other, evaluate any change or best practices, not only our aspirations are getting higher, not only not everywhere in Europe finding a new wheel but even deliver your best practice to everybody. And with that relationship between DG11 and FEU is coming along, and I might say that we can work together if possible and I gave you an example where at least we would inform each other in other situations. There were the council decisions or whatever is taking too long and we like to use the opportunity that knocks on our idea. This might for the moment be a bridge too far, although I never saw thought about it, but it has charming ideas, but on the other hand we are sharp and keen and if somebody will tell us how to walk to the next fire, or to the next fire safety item, we will sit and get lazy Dennis. So, a realistic step may be to produce and there we stay a little bit stubborn as well, **to produce comparable data**, which will help risk map because they exist in Europe, the adjacent border areas to provide the right to safety in an efficient and effective way. And whether we do that round region majoring under the zeal of Mr. Nüssler or of any other region, if you feel the need, and I don't like to bring it up, but I feel around the Mont Blanc they feel the need to really stand together for any problem then you might in these areas, and we can afterwards as the well known catalytic effect, pick it up and you can develop in these regions your own standards, and if at that moment we can jump on the opportunity then I am sure there will be money, even from the European Commission. So, if you are still with me I should like to thank everybody and anyone concerned for the co-operation in making the event Fire Safe Europe 99 possible and of

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course also the participants who made a great succeed with success and I should like to stand still one moment by the one who we as commission of the fire officers union of all fire associations in Europe and we can fit it in more or less voluntarily, but he didn't know exactly at what task he stand but he knew of course his home force to second him and I should like to profile the FEU members here present to make a standing ovation to Dennis Davies and his staff for the wonderful job he did because he created with his own hands this first international European event.

Thank you very much but otherwise he will speak so if you will please sit down 5 seconds and Dennis as well. It's a very nasty moment for us and he knew everything on beforehand of course, that's why he had Mr Barisich at his side and his future colleague Mr. Meldrum at his side and he says there as Mr Mc Davies and he says to FEU after September after the coming Kirk Flower Conference I am not doing anything for you and I am in Scotland. Dennis I don't believe so, we saw you and we can find you but anyhow we wish you all the luck in your new function and we hope that even the Scots will get used to you. Thank you very much ladies and gentlemen.

**Dennis Davies:** Now how do you follow that? First of all my sincere thanks to all of your who were applauding then, but you were applauding the wrong man. There is a team of people involved in this, my commitment to Fire Safe Europe 99 is as I told Mr Barisich I think at the table last night, I believe totally in the fire service as a force for good, I believe it is a force that could be used in a wider environment for a wider community and I believe that in Europe it therefore has a great deal to contribute.

I want now to very, very briefly try and cover some of the ground that my colleagues have touched upon, and I want to do that first of all if the presentations at the back from the various conclusions that have been reached as we have run through. These believe it or not are all the recommendations and there is quite a few of them that have been touched on as you have gone forward. Concrete proposals to add value to the community fire safety and contribute to the safety of all Europe's citizens. A group of representatives of the member states - that's going to take some doing. You heard Mr Barisich state perhaps that could be FEU, maybe, maybe not, but they've got to take forward some of these ideas. We've got to learn from each other so that we better understand the evolving problems and we share best practice. **We need to secure and maintain within the EU at the highest levels the recognition of fire as an important issue**, so the group has been tasked, or would be tasked in the very first part to form this European center and Mr Barisich this afternoon talked of centers of excellence based around the Dorset model. Provide concrete proposals again for an action programme. Again Mr Barisich made the point very, very strongly that we must use what exists not try and create too much that's new. Committing ourselves with energy and develop (and Mr. Meldrum picked this point up a framework with which we can build these key elements. Set clear targets within these strategies and use our technology so that we can really make the best of things particularly to the next generation. Then a great curriculum of things was added. Ireland raised the question about well, we would like to do some of this but how do you resource it and get it going? A seminar in Geneva was offered, particularly by the world fire statistic center. Should the president of the

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EU consider making a public statement supporting this important issue? The European smoke detector day, which again Ruud has just raised as an issue, which would give us a faster and a slower Europe perhaps. The development of the web site and Germany raised that particular point (with Scotland) we claim some credit for that. Avoidance of contradictions was an important point again that Mr Barisich made about making sure we work in harmony and how difficult it is to get 15 member states together. When we moved into session 2 which was about statistics, yes there is a clear need to get comparable European standards and mapping techniques are useful to us but we must recognize the difficulties that these particular systems require in technological terms. We then moved on to talk about co-operation again and the world fire center. Mr. Wilmott managed to make a second contribution to us. The University of Central Lancashire was concerned about accessibility of data; in particular they raised the issue of important data concerning individuals. There was a problem of recording the data the UK noted and so did Norway about how we work this into the process. Germany suggested maybe selective data from different cities in different countries would be a better synopsis of how we move the thing forward. The UK again drew out the point that ?????

Around and so did Mr Barisich and they are very costly and very expensive and need to be worked with rather than create new.

Session 3 was about partnerships and of course a key part of that as Mr. Knight drew forward was the need that crime and arson, crime and fire safety need to be seen as part of community safety and we had that excellent example around the community safety agenda which Dorset had created with it's center of excellence as Mr. Barisich called it, of a Center Streetwise.

Into our session this morning on vocational training, the fire fighters selection process across Europe varies enormously. Therefore we would find it useful to come together a bit more. Work so far undertaken has identified there is an approach through a common role in learning process that could be applied and maybe we do need to do a lot more detailed work and there was a question asked by one of our Trade Unions about how they would be involved in that particular process. And finally this afternoon we start moving towards trans-national, national and local governments working together picking up the point that funding is the key component but co-funding is particularly difficult, which is the point made by Finland and recognizing this clear point again by Mr Barisich comments about vertical integration and horizontal integration. Every project is important and has it's own objective, everyone has it's own irrelevance, each directive has it's own function to fill. **But safety of the citizen is very much a member state responsibility, not and EU responsibility.** So and I think it was Dieter Nüssler's final words there for Germany "That's not what we can do for Europe" which was I think the words of the American President, in his context, That's not what we can do for Europe what Europe can do for us but what can we do for Europe.

Added to that this afternoon we've had the particular comments I think of Graham Meldrum over the moral duties that exist upon the fire service. Are we really

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institutionalised? Are we delivering a true service for everyone? Are we prepared to change the culture and delivery of the fire service and to accept that we will do that without cries for new resources? Again, Alessandro came with the levels of holisticity - a word I find trouble with myself - but really made the point time and time again that we have some successes, we have an action programme, we have already started to make things work - this workshop is part of that - and we do really want to see a broad based project plan, but with clear actions and clear leaders. And finally Ruud drawing together from an FEU definition, the need for this more holistic approach, improvements in communication, step by step improvements, evaluation of best practice and of course co-operation within the Commission. All those views need to be drawn together to be turned into something which can be concreted together to make the action plan proposal that the European Commission would need if we were to take it forward as I opened the particular sessions, if you remember, a long time ago it feels now, two days ago - we made the point that this was just one step along a long path but we were starting with a common aim and a common agenda which was about improving the safety of all Europe's citizens.

I now really want to throw it open to the floor and ask for the house lights to come up to see if there are any more contributions, given this wealth of information that we have now gathered, these points that we have gathered, that you wish to make, that you wish to perhaps ask of our three people at the panel there, so that we can together pull this together over the next couple of days. It will probably be done by FEU Ruud Jonkman to see what shape we can turn this 1 1/2 days of workshop into to present it to the Commission and to present it through our national correspondants, through our national representatives to the management committee of DG11 Civil Protection Unit, because really that's probably the next most important step in taking this whole process forward.

So, finish from me and over to you, and I'll take the lady here please. Forward. Thank you.

**Alice Wainman:** My Name is Alice Wainman and I'm from Kent and I'm here representing the Kent and Midway towns Fire Brigade, but not as an officer, as a member and I think I'm probably, along with our representative of the LGA one of the few members who are here today. I came along to some extent under a slight misapprehension because if I looked at the paper that I was given I thought I was coming to the first EU workshop to address fire safety issues for the European citizen. That's actually been widened. It's not just fire safety we have been discussing over the last few days, it's in fact community safety and I have to be honest and say that I don't think there's a lot of difference between community safety and civil protection. And I very much welcome the fact that this whole seminar workshop has been broadened and I think that that came out very clearly yesterday when the award that was given which actually said was for a community fire safety project turned out to be a safety project in which fire safety formed part of it. Now one of the things again in the paper that I was given which we said was going to come out of this in the way of key areas of discussion was a review of existing successful education fire safety programmes that could be extended throughout the EU. Now if you take out the word fire and just have

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educational safety programmes, I think that is what I hope will very much come out of this seminar we have had today. Now I realize the difference and the difficulties we face, and Mr Barisich has been very good enough to explain the fact that we are looking at civil protection, not just fire, and fire is a national not a EU responsibility, so what I would like to suggest is how we can manage to bring the two together to ensure that perhaps the Fire Brigade in the EU is the organization which has the opportunity to take the lead. Now Mr Barisich put up a list this morning of a number of tragedies and disasters that had happened throughout the EU over the last many years and I am willing to bet that every single one of them that he mentioned, and he mentioned three in particular that occurred in the UK all had some fire service involvement, because the **fire service in the EU is not just a fire service, it is actually a rescue service as well**, and I think that's the way forward I would like to see us going and I think the fire service and certainly my own brigade in Kent, I think there is no doubt at all there is no danger of us putting up any institutionalised resistant Mr. Meldrum. We are I think definitely leading the way forward in fire safety which we think **prevention is very much better than cure**, and I hope that **that's the way that the fire service in the EU might perhaps be used to push forward the community safety aspect which we all support**.

**Dennis Davies:** Thank you for those comments. Perhaps Mr Barisich would like to comment on that Mr Meldrum

**Mr Barisich:** Thank you. I think there is no real comments. In a country like the UK where the Fire Brigades are the key component of the civil protection system is clear that anything which goes in the sense of improving the safety of the citizen whether its made by the Fire Brigade or another partner is something which is perfectly eligible to the community action outside. No, I think there are no comments.

**Dennis Davies:** Thank you. Great

**Mr Meldrum:** Yes, I think in relation to the comments in respect of certain brigades there is no doubt that through Europe's there are key brigades and I am pleased to recognize Kent among them that have taken the whole community fire safety approach forward and we intend within the inspectorate later in the year to carry out one of our thematic inspections in relation to community fire safety and indeed that runs out into community safety as you rightly said and the basis of that is to look at brigades that are carrying out good work and developments and we've seen them here over the last couple of days. But there is a lot more to do. There is a lot more to do otherwise of course we would have seen the rapid decline that has been seen in brigades like Kent and the loss of lives that are taking place reflected through the national figures, and that hasn't happened. So that will take place later in the year when we look at best practice and then hope to spread that best practice certainly across England and Wales and I am sure Dennis will do the same in Scotland and hopefully throughout Europe, learning through each other as to what works in community fire safety and where we need to put those scarce resources.

**Dennis Davies:** Thanks a lot Graham. Question to the right.

**Steve Boddy:** Yes, thank you Dennis. I'm Steve Boddy in view of all the optimism about the very nervous United Kingdom representative to the civil protection committee. But picking up on the comment from the elected member from Kent I think there are ways we could take forward this, round or in on the whole approach. When we set up core groups I think we as the national representative can always make sure there is the various elements, the various emergency services involved that they have a direct input into those core groups, that if they're not actually there we get information from them or indeed we use them as our representatives on the core group. I think it makes out job a little bit harder as national representatives in that we have to think that we have a good cross section across the nations. It's not just who is available. It's who is available and what expertise they bring to those. I think there is way that you help us then by you being available and are prepared to give up the opportunity time when it means that you have to go and attend things and help us in that way. But I think as well the people here who are not national representatives have a role to play because if you want it badly enough, if the subject is important enough to you you've got to make representations to your national representative, because when it comes to the committee, as Alessandro was saying, it's voted on and if the wills not there it will be outvoted. If you make your representations strong, firm, in a business case manner, then the support's there to begin with and you've got a large group arguing in favor of a particular project or a particular way forward. Chairman.

**Dennis Davies:** Thank you very much for that those comments, and again my personal thanks to you as the UK National Representative of the work in promoting this particular event. There is a comment at the front please. Is there another one? In the middle? Dieter.

**Dieter Nüssler:** Yes thank you. I would like to add something just before, this is a theory in some countries it is right we have to lobby to do lobby work but lobby work is only possible if you have the information at the right time. And in some countries depending upon the structure we do not have the information in time so that is in trouble so that is the kind of problem that we can't influence at least in form. Our national representative what we are thinking about if this is worth doing or not. So I can only say from my personal prospective that there is often a lack of information and the exchange of information is very difficult so I have some idea but what I have picked up from the presentation from Morris Handlebury because I notice here the inter service group to offer to face. So I wonder if it is possible okay to join that is made once a year that our secretary could join the group just to pick up the information what is going on and then disseminate it to our network and I would like to assure everybody who is here. If we pick up such information you will find it on our web site and you will see the address over there. This is our main problem or was our main problem in the past so just to illustrate it I am working particularly on hazardous materials so this is possible as an International body there are several bodies of transportation for example and they accept the expertise from the various groups. So this turned out to be very effective just to have a consultative status and it turned out that all also the DG 7 accepted the F E U

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to have a consultative status. So this could be a solution in various stages to accept the structure like it is in Brussels and if there is something going on to invite International groups such as F E U or C F P A and so on in fire matters. So this could help to transfer the information, this would help to discuss on National level if there is a need or not and this would help to speed up the process when there is an action programme for example going on and that the countries are willing to give their 25% contribution so okay.

**Dennis Davies:** Mr Barisich a direct question there.

**Mr Barisich:** Thank you very much. I start with the question of information in the next few days, next few weeks. We will open a brand new web site, which will be the best in Europe. I didn't make myself we will make a competition and it will be very involved, all the information of what is going on, what is foreseen. All will become available, what has been done in the past, everything will be there. Unfortunately there is a negative element, we will suppress our Newsletter, we had a Newsletter for eight years. We will suppress because we open our web site. Now data service group and the presence of FEU data service group not yet created between now and the end of the year all our efforts will be devoted to have proposal for this issue which the council have adopted. But we will not be very active on other matters before the end of this year. That is one of our priorities as soon as it is through proposal we go. So we already started with some dynamic service group and we will see at that moment because don't forget the formal question will have a management committee. If now I need a technical body the management committee is the only one who can designate an advisory body, a technical body. It doesn't preclude that if we have a problem of fire, we will invite FEU. The Commission is a crystal organization, so everything is possible; everybody is flexible, we should be careful when we use words like standards, consultative standards etc. But working together is something that really I do not see any problem with that and I am sure that the member states do not see any problem. So we have a lot of possibilities. Once again we have all the tools to start working together.

**Dennis Davies:** Thank you for that. The gentleman in the middle of the room is there a question after that because

**Ivan Campbell:** Good afternoon Ivan Campbell Cumbria Fire Service. There is a couple of relatively small points but I thought I would mention it anyway. There has been a lot of emphasis on partnership, co-operation and not duplication but as far as I understand there has already been set aside a date in the year 2000 for a European Fire Safety Day. I don't know if the conference is aware of that.

**Dennis Davies:** Well presumably you could advise us of it.

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**Ivan Campbell:** It is only something that I have seen in a magazine it was **October 13<sup>th</sup> year 2000 European Fire Safety Day.**

**Dennis Davies:** Blank looks I'm afraid maybe someone is promoting it themselves.

**Ivan Campbell:** There is also another organization that I am aware of but I don't know much about and that's the Alliance for Fire Safety in Europe I wonder if we ought to be talking to that organization as well.

**Dennis Davies:** I think that organization is just getting started isn't it, as far as I am aware.

**Ivan Campbell:** Well obviously if they have similar aims to what we are achieving perhaps there should be some co-operation with them as well. The other thing that I would quite like to have is some feedback from some other European Countries during the course of this seminar apart from the black cat and table 13 scheme that is about the only thing outside the U K seem to get any information about. It would be nice to really know what is going on in other Member States.

**Dennis Davies:** On that final point I think that rather than try and get everyone to make a short presentation I think this web site is an ideal vehicle that could be of any, and there is quite a few delegates here at the front, have particular ideas that they use in their countries as you say. Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> was an excellent one. If there are any perhaps if they would put them on the web site then they can be accessed. Okay thank you.

**Delegate:** Thank you chairman. It's a comment really. Fire fighters by our very nature tend to be reactive people and we act as teams and I suspect that many of those that have been here for the last two days will be somewhat disappointed that the complexity of taking forward fire fighting matters. But we shouldn't despair we do need a realistic approach to this, there are answers but they are not obvious. What I think is necessary and this is in my view is for delegates from here to reflect upon all that we have heard, having reflected upon then positively go forward all of those messages from the various workshops. Given that we each work in different countries in different ways and in different structures. I believe every member here holds a real responsibility to insure that we take the message attacking fires and other safety risks out from this room to the center of our governments.

**Dennis Davies:** Can I draw to a close these messages just to see if there is any comment from the panelists that anybody would like to make? I think the last message was very similar to one that we have heard it wasn't the complexity of Europe that was the problem really because we should celebrate the difference to the richness of it but its how we work together, use the tools that already exist



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to actually make some of these ideas better and to share information. Can I close this session down I have got a few concluding statements to make afterwards but can I close this session down by making three short presentations. Mr Meldrum

**Mr Meldrum:** Just before doing that a lot has been said about the organization here today and I mean Dennis has in his normal modest way paid tribute to all of the team and certainly I would do likewise but we have no doubt as to the person who has put a great deal into the organization of this whole conference. I mean I can't think of a more complex conference to put together or try to bring all the people from different countries different organizations together to Chester. Which is probably one of the best locations you could come to so its very attractive but to do that in the way that its been done in this highly professional manner obviously requires a great deal of organization and time and I know that Dennis has done a cracking job of doing it. I would warn him however as we pass really as a Scotsman being a Chief Inspector of England and now we have got Dennis an Englishman who is a Chief Inspector of Scotland it just shows you how we are co-operating in this country. But I must warn him that after hearing that he had been christened Mac Davies I have done some research and it turned out that the last battle between Scotland and England the Mac Davies were a bunch of traitors that sold out the Scottish clan so when he goes up there I would caution him to change his name immediately back to Davies and stick to it. And also in relation to this song we had quoted this morning I'll take the High Road and You Take the Low Road, actually I could sing that if you wish me to. The Bonnie, Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond, that, that song was written by a Scottish Officer awaiting execution and the High Road was the road to heaven, but I am sure that Dennis will not await that fate when he goes to Scotland to take up that post. Thanks very much Dennis for all you did for us.

**Dennis Davies:** Thank you very much for that. In best European tradition of course I shall claim the right of subsidiarity on behalf of Scotland and we will have our own inspectorate doing our own things, but working in co-operation. I just really now very, very briefly want to make one or two comments and I think it would be right that I do so, and they are very short and very brief. I have already thanked my own team here in Cheshire they have worked incredibly hard. Its about eight weeks, eight weeks since we first sat down in this building to put this conference together literally no speakers, no platforms, no ideas, we just pulled it together and its worked and they have worked incredibly hard. And Geoff who's my, (Stand up Geoff) Geoff is my personal man as they say. He has worked really, really hard and I thank him on your behalf and I would like you to applaud. Another Brigade that has worked incredibly hard and I know our overseas delegates particularly when I say outside the U K will appreciate this is Greater Manchester. I promise that the transport that got you here will get you back and that goes down to my colleagues in Greater Manchester and the fact that non of you got lost in terms of who you are is down to my colleagues in the West

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Midlands Fire Brigade. So you see that the U K fire brigades have pulled very well together. There are also two big sponsors one who you heard about last night Factory Mutual who gave us that excellent award and I do hope that can go on year on year now, and build as we share these centers of excellence. And the other has been Kiddy and you will all be going home carrying a lot more paper but thank you, you will be carrying it in a bag that Kiddy gave you. But a lot of the nine brigades who are outside demonstrating their own particular initiatives have also got to be supported by companies. And I do want to thank all of those sponsors who have worked together to make this a success. One particular company and we thanked them in the hotel last night, but one particular company has really hung in altogether for us and that's Markham which is a company from Stockport near Manchester, not so very far away. Paul Luke and at the very least Wendy her name have worked at the back of the room, have worked behind the screen making sure that all the audio the visuals actually appear on time with high quality. Could we put our hands together for them. Thank you. They are always in black and you never see them but it really has been excellent how they have done that. My final thanks to you the delegates, to the chairman, to the rapporteurs, presenters, who have made it really work for us. We have got a bit of work to do now as I say to pull these ends together to create an action programme that is I think reflects the quality of the contributions that have been made here. I hope when you go away and I always feel this when I come to a conference. The one thing that you ask yourself is what did I get out that. I hope you did get something out of it, I hope you did see a sharing of ideas and knowledge and I do hope that we can build on this very small first step to make a much stronger Pan European Trans-National working arrangement. I also hope of course as a Chester man that you have enjoyed your visit and that you have actually had some or will have some happy memories of spending a few hours in this pleasant town. With that can I wish you well whatever you do, wherever you are going, thank you very much.