



MEMORANDUM OF THE 2nd CONFERENCE OF EVCPF Budapest, 10-11 October 2012

The European Voluntary Civil Protection Forum (EVCPF) held its II. Conference from 10. to 11. October 2012 in Budapest in the Best Western Hungaria Hotel.

1. Austrian Civil Protection Association
2. Croatian Crisis Management Association
3. Croatian Red Cross
4. Croatia Mountain Rescue Service
5. Fire-fighting Association of Split Dalmatian County (Croatia)
6. Danish Civil Protection League
7. Finnish National Rescue Association
8. National Federation of Radio Amateurs in the service of Civil Security (France)
9. RSF Hellas (Greece)¹
10. Hungarian Civil Protection Association
11. Civil Protection and Disaster Management Association of the Capital (Hungary)
12. Regional Disaster Management and Civil Protection Association Miskolc (Hungary)
13. Hungarian Civil Protection Scientific Society
14. National Association of Radio Distress-Signalling and Infocommunications (Hungary)
15. Apell National Center for Disaster Management Foundation (Romania)
16. Serbian Association for Crisis and Emergency Management
17. Civil Protection Association of Kosice Region (Slovakia)
18. Society Academy for Crisis Management (Slovenia)
19. Swedish Civil Protection Association
20. British Red Cross

Ret. Col. Dr. István Endrődi, President of the EVCPF opened the Conference.

Afterwards **Lieut.Gen. Dr. György Bakondi**, Director General of the National Directorate General for Disaster Management, Ministry of Interior, the Chief Patron of the Conference welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of voluntarism. Furthermore, Mr. Director General informed the participants of the changes in the statutory provisions affecting disaster protection, as a consequence of which the state organ performs industrial security tasks also, in addition to its civil protection and fire guard services. The

¹ Represented by the National Federation of Radio Amateurs in the service of Civil Security.

protection of critical infrastructure and the professional superintendence of the chimney work mean a further enlargement of the tasks. The necessity of the professional superintendence of the chimney work is proved also by the fact that in this year, before the heating season already 10 persons died in Hungary in carbon monoxide toxicosis, so therefore the official control is important which is represented by the disaster management. The introduction of the emergency call 112 is under way in Hungary. In addition, the risk analysis of the settlements ended in this year. The civil protection organisations in Hungary have two types beginning from 2012. A part of the personnel is obliged for civil protection service which means that they are designated by official means and mainly provide for manual work. As an invention, those who perform voluntary civil protection service belong to the second group. Generally they have special knowledge (dog rescuers, cave rescuers, etc.), and volunteer for the fulfilment of civil protection service. After their new appointment they have the same rights and obligations as those performing the obligatory civil protection service. In 2012 the rescue units "HUNOR" and "HUSZÁR" were established. The members of "HUNOR" came from the professional personnel. On the other hand, the members of "HUSZÁR" are volunteers, and only the leaders are members of the professional disaster protection organ. The units can be used home and abroad, and are in possession of UN INSARAG exam. From the 20 public administration units of Hungary 18 units have local civil protection units consisting of volunteers. These units must pass exams including national qualification practices, and can act only after a successful exam.

Brig.-Gen. Dr. Ferenc Tóth, national civil protection superintendent delivered a lecture in connection what was said before, with special emphasis to the rescue units "HUNOR" and "HUSZÁR, and to the arrangement of the settlements.

Afterwards **Mr. Anders M. Johansson**, **General Secretary** of the Swedish Civil Protection Association spoke about the newest developments of the Nordic Regional Partnership Cooperation. At present, the Nordic cooperation takes places among the Danish Civil Protection Association, the Finnish National Rescue Association and the Swedish Civil Protection Association. At present, they work in order to involve the Icelandic and Norwegian civil organisations in the cooperation. In the Nordic countries the voluntary activity of the citizens is high, and furthermore, the cooperation of the volunteers of the Nordic Counties is also important, since similarity is much more than difference, in relation to these countries both in the field of prevention and preparation.

About the cooperation of the Western-Balkan states **Dr. Zejko Dobranovic**, Croatian Crisis Management Association delivered a lecture. Croatia has significant experiences in the field of the management of forest fires and performs transboundary cooperation for several years. Thanks to the operational work of the Croatian association, the Serbian association joined the Forum, and there are negotiations with the Macedon, Bosnian and Montenegrin voluntary organisations.

Dr. Endródi spoke about his visit to **Mr. Claus Sorensen**, Director General of the DG ECHO in Brussels. The Director General considers the work of the EVCPF as a sample, since the work of the volunteers and the transboundary cooperation is especially important. The Director General called the attention to the applications to be invited in the framework of the Civil Protection Mechanism, and proposed for the EVCPF to submit tender(s). Furthermore, he invited the Forum to the Civil Protection Forum to be organised in 2013 in Brussels, where the EVCPF could represent itself by individual pavilion. During the Cyprus Presidency an European Civil Protection workshop will be held, where on the basis of Mr. Sorensen the EVCPF could participate, too. During the visit, Mr. Sorensen designated points of contact from the personnel of the DG ECHO.

The next issue on the agenda was the election of the new General Secretary of the EVCPF. **Ret. Lieut.-Col. György Leskó**, the General Secretary of the EVCPF did not

undertake the honourable position considering his health status. Mr. Lesko thanked in his speech the supporting work of the member organisations and remembered with emotion for the joint work before the establishment of the Forum and for the success of the first Conference.

Following this, the Conference elected unanimously Lieut. **Dr. Zsolt Dalnoki** the General Secretary of the EVCPF.

Following this, **Mr. Endródi** called the Conference to approve the final version of the Temporary Statutes approved on the first Conference. Each member organisation had the right to make proposals and to give its opinions to the Statutes which could be made preliminarily by e-mail. Mr. Endródi informed those present that the Forum will not be registered legally; the organisation giving the Presidency will provide for the work of the Secretariat, and the Presidency organisation will submit applications. Afterwards, the representatives of the Swedish, Danish and Finnish member organisations gave oral amendments. It was agreed that the amendments could be built in the Statutes at a later date, however, at present, the approval of the Statutes is the most important issue in consideration of the EU competitions and the maintenance of the operating capacity of the Forum, in the interest of which the Conference approved unanimously the submitted draft.

After lunch taking jointly, the Danish, the Hungarian, the British, the Croatian, the Romanian and Slovenian member organisations presented their activities.

Erik Petersen presented the work of the Danish Civil Protection League. The League operates as a non-profit organisation, its legal predecessor organisation was the Danish Anti-Aircraft Association established in 1934. The League has 5000 members nation wide, the majority of the members are also members of the local rescue organisations. Their main activity is the organisation of education and exercises, especially in the following topics: takeover of first aid knowledge, search-and-rescue, rescue with rescue dogs, fire protection, storing of food and the provision of temporary accommodations. Furthermore, he considered important to involve the German organisations in the work of the EVCPF, and in this way cooperation between the Luxembourgian, Belgian, Holland organisations may also develop, to which the French organisations can join from the Western part.

Dr. István Endródi presented the activity of the Hungarian Civil Protection Association. The Association considers the Anti-Aircraft League established in 1937 its legal predecessor. The Association which performs activity of special public use acts nation wide, furthermore it signed an agreement for cooperation with the Hungarian state disaster protection organ, and could establish especially good cooperation with the settlements.

Martin Anis, the British Red Cross and **Dr. Nenad Javornik** the Croatian Red Cross representatives presented, after the information of the “traditional” activity of the Red Cross, also their activities according to their national characteristics through some precedents.

Emil Roman presented the Apell National Center for Disaster Management Foundation. The number of its members is relatively small; however the members are in possession of high qualifications. The number of the members of the foundation is relatively small; however, the members are in possession of high qualifications. Main activity of the organisation extends to the organisation of seminars, conferences, informative campaigns and continuative education and to the making of case studies. In addition, it publishes the journal “Polgári Védelem” in Romania.

Dr. Iztok Prodregar, the President of the Society Academy for Crisis Management presented its organisation. Similarly to the Romanian organisation, it is also a group consisting of highly qualified members, which deals primarily with the organisation of seminars, conferences, informative campaigns.

After the presentations the participants inspected the demonstration of the “HUNOR” dog rescuers units at the National Directorate General for Disaster Management, Ministry of

Interior, the pieces of equipment bought for the voluntary rescue organisations and the rooms of the central duty office. Following this, **Lieut. Col. Péter Jackovics** delivered lecture in connection with the joint examination by the help of the “HUNOR” and HUSZÁR” units, and as a closing of the visit, a reception took place in the presence of **Brig.-Gen. Dr. Tibor Tollár** Deputy General Director.

On the second day, cooperation between the Swedish and Finnish organisations and the cooperation of Miskolc-Kosice was presented.

Mr. Anders M. Johansson, General Secretary of the Swedish Civil Protection Association presented the activity of its organisation and stressed the information of the representatives of the state and local governments, the calling of attention, emphasizing that they are responsible for the security of the population. The security of homes is also especially important, since this is the smallest unit where people are living. In this way the rules of conduct, with which dangers can be prevented and their effects can be reduced, can be learned also at the level of homes. In this way people will be able to prevent themselves; moreover, they will be able to help their neighbours and the other citizens, too. In addition, their main tasks in the future are to increase the security of the older people, to increase the number of defibrillators placed on public places, and to inform the population of the rules of conduct during power supply failure. Afterwards **Mr. Sven Lindgren**, the President of the Swedish Civil Protection Association also informed those present, and stressed the importance of the Forum.

Mia Kunnaskari presented the Finnish National Rescue Association. The organisation is an organisation which consists of national experts, which supports the skills of the individuals, the communities and the economic associations in order to prevent emergencies, the citizens, material properties and the environment in the case of civilian and natural disasters. In addition to the activities an important as of the Association is to develop fire protection, technical rescue and civil protection capabilities, which it supports also by the help of expert units and preparation campaigns. In December 2011 they organised the Traditional Preparedness Conference. In October 2011 they organized the 1st Annual Preparedness Study Days, which was followed in September 2012. by the 2nd Study Days. As foreseen, in 2013 the 3rd Study Days will be organized. They published two studies in 2011. One of them was in connection with the heavy windstorms in 2010. In 2011 they participated in the framework of international cooperation in the Conference of the EVCPF, and they have close contacts with the Danish and Swedish organisations.

György Leskó representing the Regional Disaster Management and Civil Protection Association Miskolc, **Viktoria Sztachová** and **Jozef Rudík** representing the Civil Protection Association of Kosice Region gave joint information of their transboundary cooperation, which can serve as a sample, all the more so, that despite of the narrow means, cooperation can be effective both in the field of cooperation and interventions.

Following this **Mr. Endródi** informed those present that the lectures delivered will also be accessible on the website www.evcpf.eu, and the photos and videos made at the Conference will also be uploaded. Furthermore, on the 27th of November 2012. there will be a CC meeting in Budapest.

In the autumn of 2013. again Budapest may host the 3rd EVCPF Conference which will be coloured by workshops. According to the plans Mr. Johansson (Sweden) will lead the workshop: “Establishment of contacts and the organisation of members”, **Mr. Endródi**, (Hungary) will lead the workshop: “Prevention”, **Mr. Dobranovic** (Croatia) will lead the workshop: “Forest Fires”, and there is a plan to hold a workshop entitled „Intervention possibilities”. During the Conference the Hungarian party plans to organise an exercise, where it would demonstrate the cooperation of the volunteers and the state organs.

Mr. Endródi urged on furthermore cooperation among the higher educational institutions, stressing that among the representatives of the member organisations of the Forum persons can be found who have higher positions from 5 higher educational institutions.

Mr. Claus Sorensen, the Director General of the DG ECHO will be also informed of what was told and happened at the Conference. It is important that the Forum should formulate different recommendations towards the EU, in which attention will be called to the importance of volunteers, and stress the financial support of the EVCPF towards those making decisions (stakeholders).

Budapest, the 8th of November 2012

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