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German, Serbian and Macedonian Firefighters joined with European Alliance of Firefighters

The European Fire Fighters Unions Alliance (EFFUA) is a part of the International Fire Fighters Union Alliance (IFFUA). Its annual meeting was held on the 11th of December in Sofia – organized by the Bulgarian Fire Fighters Union (Ogneborets).

The meeting started with 8 member countries. After the election of Germany, Serbia and Macedonia the conference ended with 11 member countries.

As for their excellent work the actual presidents Kim Nikula and the international secretary Mikael Svanberg have been unanimously reelected for the coming two years.

The strategic planning for 2014 and 2015 was agreed on. The main focus for the following 2 years will be:

- defining a common standard on the education of professional fire fighters, if possible as a EU program
- after identifying the high cancer risk for fire fighters, it's now about to research changes required to be carried out to prevent further cancer risks
- an examination on the existing national fire brigade structures with in the EU to identify the most efficient way for a national body for the whole fire and rescue service for each country, based on a European common understanding of best practice
- it was decided to form a working group for technical equipment and personal protective equipment to collect all the existing experience and knowledge available within the EFFUA, to evaluate this, to identify where necessary research is needed and will define changes within the European Standards (EN)
- in partnership with German Berufsverband Feuerwehr at the INTERSCHUTZ 2015 international trade show in Germany

All participating members highly welcomed the meeting and its results. The EFFUA is again another good step ahead on its way to take care of the fire fighters in Europe!

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