



European Fire Fighters Unions Alliance (EFFUA)

PRESS STATEMENT 14.11.2011

On the EFFUA-meeting held in Reykjavik on the 11th of November 2011, one of the big issues under discussion was, cuts being applied to budgets and the ever decreasing capacity of operational personnel in fire departments/brigades throughout the European region.

EFFUA-members are concerned about this reduction in staff, due to the fact that, numbers of rescue personnel are important to the communities they serve, in order to maintain safe practices of work, when firefighters and paramedics have to work at incidents that are larger than normal.

The concern shown from the members of the EFFUA-board is directed at each Fire Chief, each Politician and all Governments in the European region who accept these cuts to personnel and resources.

“It’s very important for the EFFUA-board members, that the fire and ambulance service throughout Europe are at a level, where there are enough Firefighters to deal with any terrorist, environmental or nuclear crises. We put our lives on the line on a daily basis; all we are asking is for the resources and personnel to deal with it. As Firefighters **we know** the world is in a different place, not just economically, **we know** there is an ever increasing strain been placed on fire departments/brigades due to floods, forest fires, earthquakes, nuclear disasters and terrorist threats, not to mention what we are doing on a daily basis. We run in while the communities we protect run to safety. If cuts in budgets continue due to short sightedness of our political leaders, then this level of service will disappear.”

Acting President of the EFFUA Mr. Jesper Bronée continues:

“We have seen the cuts to fire budgets all over Europe, and it sadly brings the level of service to a point, where both the lives of citizens and rescue personnel are been placed in unnecessary danger. It has to clear for everybody, that when the number of firefighters or paramedics decreases, there will be less rescuers to help the citizens in the community where the Emergency strikes. Already in some parts of Europe Fire Departments are struggling to manage their daily and normal accidents and if we look into the future when greater environmental Emergencies occur and become more common, EFFUA HAS TO REACT.

For additional information:

Mr Jesper Bronée

Acting President of EFFUA

Tel +45 30133144

E-mail jesper@brandfolkenes.org

Mr Mikael Svanberg

International Secretary

Tel + 46 734434367

E-mail mikael.svanberg@brandfacket.se

European Fire Fighters Unions Alliance (EFFUA)

c/o Suomen Palomiesliitto SPAL ry
Kielotie 12-14 B
FIN-01300 VANTAA, FINLAND

Tel. +358 9 8678 880
Fax +358 9 8637 230

toimisto@palomiesliitto.fi
www.fffua.org