

CFPA Europe stands for loss prevention at international level



Jesper Ditlev joined the CFPA Europe Management Committee in 2009 and became chairman in 2012. He holds an MSc in Engineering and has been the CEO of the Danish Institute of Fire and Security Technology, DBI, since 2009. He joined DBI in 2000 where he was first Head of the Technical Division before he advanced to Technical Director. Before coming to DBI, Jesper Ditlev has worked both as a technical consultant and as an engineer with the Danish building engineering company, Bygge- og Miljøteknik Aps.

The Confederation of Fire Protection Associations (CFPA) Europe was founded in 1974. This year, CFPA Europe celebrates its 40th birthday.

In 2012 Jesper Ditlev, CEO of the Danish fire protection organisation Danish Institute of Fire and Security Technology (DBI), took over the position as Chairman of CFPA Europe from Hubert Rüegg (Swiss). We have talked to Jesper about the development and the current objectives of CFPA Europe.

1 *Not all our readers will know CFPA Europe. What is the scope of work of the organisation you are leading?*

Jesper Ditlev: As the name already indicates, we are an association of the leading fire protection organisations across Europe. Since its foundation in 1974, CFPA Europe uses the comprehensive knowledge of its members to improve safety and to reduce losses to life and property in Europe, through providing information and training. We focus on fire prevention / protection, fire research, safety and security.

2 *Which motives lead to the foundation of CFPA Europe in 1974?*

Jesper Ditlev: It started with a conference of well-established fire protection organisations with the aim of sharing information in order to improve loss prevention work at a national level. Later it evolved into an association which also co-operated in the development of training programmes and the publication of European fire protection recommendations.

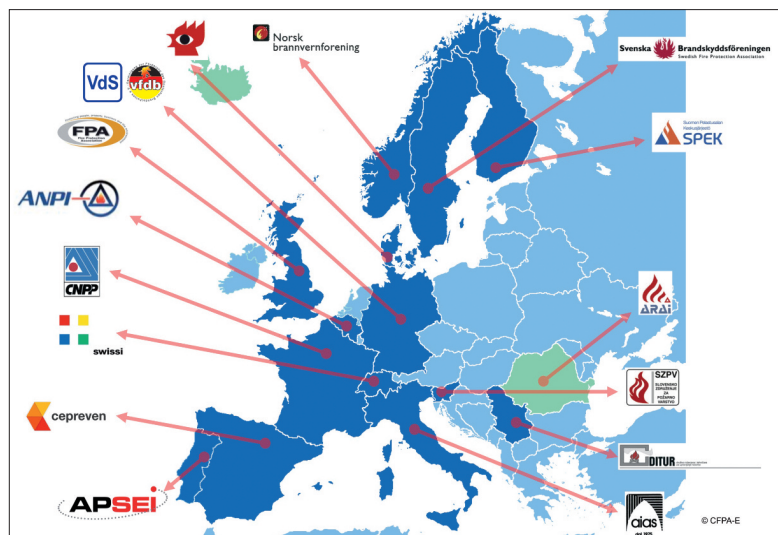
3 *What is the status of the national members of CFPA-Europe today?*

Jesper Ditlev: According to our statutes, the principal national fire protection organisations of the countries of the European economic hemisphere can become members of CFPA Europe. Each country can only be represented by one organisation.

Currently, the members are the following countries and organisations: Belgium (ANPI), Denmark (DBI), Germany (VdS/vfdb), Finland (SPEK), France (CNPP), UK (FPA), Iceland (IFA), Italy (AIAS), Norway (NBF), Portugal (APSEI), Romania (ARAI), Serbia (DITUR), Slovenia (SZPV), Spain (CEPREVEN), Sweden (BRANDS-KYDDSFÖRENINGEN), Switzerland (Swiss AG).

4 How is the work of CFPA Europe organised?

❑ **Fire research:** The organisations within CFPA Europe share information on research programs and research results. Areas and ideas for cooperation in research projects or applying for projects together are also encouraged and supported.



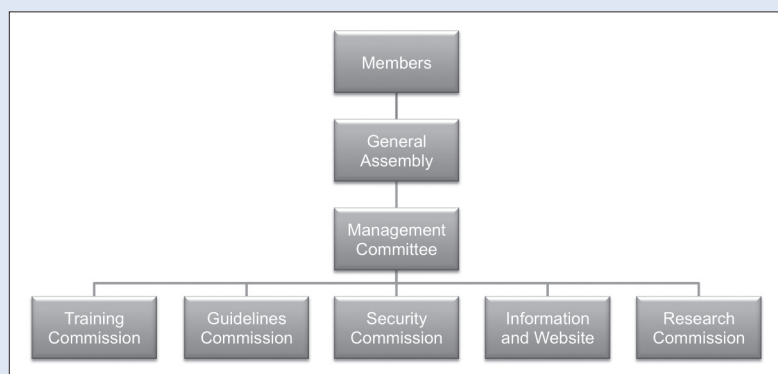
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5 How is CFPA Europe structured?

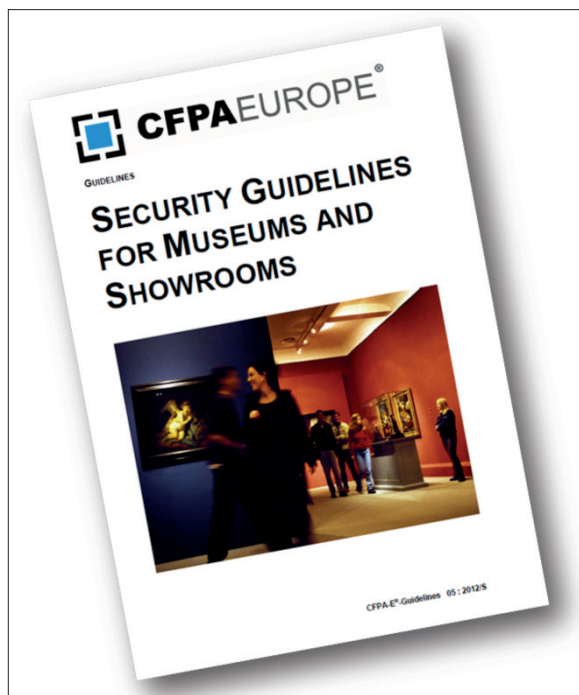
The General Assembly is held annually.

6 *The various training courses carried out under the name of CFPA Europe are of particular importance for CFPA Europe. What are their contents and objectives?*

The objectives are that staff trained in fire safety, security and natural hazards will be able to prevent fires from starting, minimise the impact of a fire event, improve the safety and security at their workplace and therefore prevent the consequent potential loss of life and destruction of property and business.



The structure of CFPA Europe



Currently there are 31 ratified fire protection guidelines and 5 security guidelines of CFPA Europe

The CFPA Europe training programme started 1994. The Training Commission agreed on the syllabus for the course "Fire Safety – Technical Cycle" (Fire Protection Manager CFPA-E). It was launched as a Diploma Course and currently being delivered in 11 CFPA Europe countries.

In Germany, this CFPA Europe course for fire protection managers is exclusively delivered by VdS. It is one of the first courses developed

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together at European level and it plays a very important role in the VdS-training program – until today 8500 CFPA- Diplomas have been delivered in Germany, and around 21500 Diplomas across the whole of Europe.

CFPA Europe actually has a portfolio of 14 Diploma courses, 11 Certificate courses and 12 Attest courses in total with additional courses added as needs across Europe are identified. In addition to the already mentioned course "Fire Safety – Technical Cycle", the following courses deserve a mention as they are offered by many members: Explosion (Prevention and protection in places, where explosive atmospheres may occur), Hot Works, Basic Fire Fighting & Fire Protection and Security – Technical Cycle.

7 What is the relevance of the CFPA Europe guidelines?

Jesper Ditlev: The work of the Guidelines Commission started in 2001 and its first Guideline "Internal fire protection control" was ratified by the CFPA Europe members and published in 2002. Guidelines for securi-

ty related matters are handled in the Security Commission. Currently there are 31 ratified fire protection guidelines and 5 security guidelines.

By sharing experience research, technical know-how and fire statistics, the Commission aims to maximise the effectiveness of fire prevention, security and protection against natural hazards and foster improved European safety codes and standards.

The Commission develops guidelines and presents recommendations for particular aspects of fire prevention & protection, safety, security and natural hazards focused on problems of mutual concern.

Users of the guidelines will be able to recognise the principal causes of fire and natural hazards as well as the main security risks and hence minimise the consequent loss of life, destruction of property and loss of business.

Whereas other guidelines (e.g. CEN-standards) often specify details for the planning and installation of fire protection measures or installations, typical CFPA Europe guidelines describe the concepts for protection against certain risks and provide appropriate and practical information and guidance to those who are responsible for companies or institutions, e.g. as museums or homes for elderly people.

8 In which direction should the work of CFPA Europe develop in the future?

Jesper Ditlev: The work of CFPA Europe will, of course, continue to react to new developments regarding relevant risks and the related loss prevention work. Therefore, we have recently established a new expert group for natural hazards. Amongst other issues it deals with the consequences of climate change and has already published four guidelines, the first of which was:



"Protection against Flood". In the future we might also develop training courses in this field.

Another relatively new group is the Research Commission. Research is very important in the field of fire prevention / protection and security. We therefore provide a forum for the exchange of information on national research programs and strategies, and currently focussing on our first step in putting together a collaborative fire research programme. We make national research results and information on research available across Europe and are compiling a European picture of fire research activity. We identify areas where cooperation could be started and are even considering suggesting a larger EU-project.

Current research ideas are, for instance: new batteries and the fire safety of those during their full life cycle, storing, using, charging and recycling; solar panels; external insulation of building facades.

9 *Successful work in an association also requires good public relation activities, today more than ever. What is your main focus?*

Jesper Ditlev: Our current focus on external communication is via the internet. Over the past 12 month's therefore, we have completely renewed our website. Work-output and news from CFPA Europe can now be communicated more clearly, more quickly and presented in a clearer fashion. We still have some way to go but we have more and more focus on developing public relation and activities, taking new initiatives and using new opportunities.

Networking is another important aspect in this regard and we will also focus more on this in the future.

The screenshot shows the CFPA Europe website. The header includes the CFPA Europe logo and navigation links: CFPA Europe Statutes, Members, Training, CFPA-E Guidelines, Research Commission, and Management. Below the header is a 'Latest News' section with three articles. The first article is dated January 15th, 2014, and is titled 'Has European fire safety research moved down a gear?'. The second article is also dated January 15th, 2014, and is titled 'Better cross-border communication when disaster strikes'. The third article is dated January 10th, 2014, and is titled 'TRAINING SECURITY AWARD TO THE TRAINING COMMISSION OF CFPA EUROPE'. Below the news section is a 'CFPA Europe' section with a logo and text. The text describes the CFPA Europe as an association of national fire protection organisations. Below this is a 'History' section with text about the CFPA Europe's origins and its current structure.

10 *In 2012, you took over the chairmanship of an association that has grown over many years. Which new priorities do you personally want to set for the future development of CFPA Europe and which aims are most important to you?*

Jesper Ditlev: First of all, I feel committed to the basic principle of CFPA Europe which is to spread a European fire protection and protection concept. We improve our national loss prevention work by sharing information and learn from each other. CFPA Europe is an extremely appropriate platform for this. The newer aspects of the work of CFPA Europe, such as security and natural hazards, do of course benefit from the existing European platform whilst at the same time connect new experts to CFPA Europe.

This is relevant to the review and consideration of new topics for training

courses and guidelines as well as the area of research.

My aim is to continue to build CFPA Europe as a functional and responsive network that is available for all members at all times. We exchange information, we exchange best practise, and we offer our customers contacts in other countries via our network.

I would like to see this exchange of information across the CFPA Europe network intensify over time. At the same time the value of CFPA Europe has to be more visible for and to our customers. Our new website is a start, but there is still a lot of work ahead of us. I am committed to doing this.

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