



D.2	Definition of rights and duties between Countries aimed at efficient cross border collaboration
MEFISTO	Mediterranean Forest Fire Fighting Training Standardization

Partners:



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
FIRENZE



REGIONE
TOSCANA

www.mefistoforestfires.eu
info@mefistoforestfires.eu

MEFISTO Deliverable D.2

Project title	Mediterranean Forest Fire Fighting Training Standardization
Call identifier	Call for proposal 2016 for prevention and preparedness projects in civil protection and marine pollution
Project acronym	MEFISTO
Starting date	15-01-2017
End date	14-01-2019
Funding scheme	General Directorate for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operation (DG ECHO) of the European Commission (EC)
Contract no.	MEFISTO - ECHO/SUB/2016/742556/PREP24
Deliverable N.	D_D.2
Deliverable name	Definition of rights and duties between Countries aimed at efficient cross border collaboration
Task	D
Date	January 15 th , 2018

MEFISTO consortium



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
FIRENZE

DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURAL, FOOD AND
FORESTRY SYSTEMS

CO

**Università degli Studi di Firenze - Dipartimento di Gestione
delle risorse Agrarie, Alimentari e Forestali (UNIFI)
Italy**



BE1

**Escola Nacional de Bombeiros (ENB)
Portugal**



BE4

**Centro de Servicios y Promoción Forestal y de su Industria
de Castilla y León (CESEFOR)
Spain**



BE3

**Entente pour la Forêt Méditerranéenne (ENTENTE)
France**



BE4

**Regione Toscana (RT)
Italy**

Definition of rights and duties between countries aimed at efficient cross-border collaboration



Photo: DG ECHO

Coordinating lead authors:

Philip Tosello and Ronan de Saint Germain

Authors:

Blanco Lago Elena	CESEFOR, Spain	Gomes Artur	ENB, Portugal
Blanc Jean-Pierre	ENTENTE, France	Laschi Andrea	UNIFI, Italy
Biscay Jean-Frédéric	ENTENTE, France	Marchi Enrico	UNIFI, Italy
Bonfils Louis	ENTENTE, France	Pacini Giacomo	Tuscany Region, Italy
Calvani Gianluca	Tuscany Region, Italy	Pasquinelli Paola	Tuscany Region, Italy
Catarino Verónica	ENB, Portugal	Reis Vitor	ENB, Portugal
Chirici Gherardo	UNIFI, Italy	Rey Van Den Bercken Enrique	CDF (Centro para la Defensa del Fuego). Junta de Castilla y León, Spain
de Saint Germain Ronan	ENTENTE, France	Tonarelli Luca	DREAM Italia, Italy
Fabiano Fabio	UNIFI, Italy	Tosello Philip	ENTENTE, France
Fernández Huertas Víctor	CDF (Centro para la Defensa del Fuego). Junta de Castilla y León, Spain	Travaglini Davide	UNIFI, Italy
Ferreira José	ENB, Portugal		

Summary

Summary	6
List of Abbreviations	7
I. Executive Summary	8
II. Introduction	9
III. Agreements between two countries	10
III.1 collaboration between Portugal and Spain.....	10
III.1.1 Portuguese organization in applying the agreement (Operational Standards).....	10
III.1.2 Spanish organization in agreement application.....	12
III.2 collaboration between Italy and France	13
IV. Agreements between a country and a region	15
IV.1 Memorandum of understandings between Slovenia and Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy)	15
V. Agreements between two regions.....	18
V.1 Agreement between Tuscany (Italy) and Liguria (Italy)	18
V.2 Agreement between Tuscany (Italy) and Umbria (Italy)	19
V.3 Agreement between Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy) and Carinthia (Austria).....	19
V.4 Agreements between Castilla y León and other Autonomous Communities	19
VI. Evaluations on the existing agreements	21
VII. Definition of common rules to develop an efficient cross-border agreement in forest fire fighting.....	22
VIII. Annexes.....	24

List of Abbreviations

ADCIF (Spain)	The Forest Fire Protection Area
ANPC (Portugal)	National Civil Protection Authority (<i>Autoridade Nacional de Protecção Civil</i>)
CAM (Spain)	Regional Command Center (<i>Centro Autonómico de Mando</i>)
CMCP (Portugal)	Municipal Commission for Civil Protection (<i>Comissão Municipal de Protecção Civil</i>)
COAU (Italy)	Italian Unified Aerial Operative Center (<i>Centro Operativo Aereo Unificato</i>)
CODIS (Portugal) (France)	District Operational Commanders (<i>Comandante Operacional Distrital</i>) (<i>Officier salle opérationnelle de feux</i>)
CPM (Spain)	Provincial Command Centers (<i>Centro Provincial de Mando</i>)
EERC	European Emergency Response Capacity
MAPAMA (Spain)	The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment (<i>Ministerio de Agricultura y Pesca, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente</i>)
NOP (Portugal)	Permanent Operational Standard
SOUP (Italy – Tuscany)	Unified Operative Permanent Room (<i>Sala Operativa Unificata Permanente</i>)

I. Executive Summary

This Report describes the results of a deep analysis within the existing agreements on cross-border collaboration in forest fire fighting. Depending on the different firefighting organizations, the agreements can involve two countries, two regions, or a country and a region. Starting from the analysis of these existing documents, a list of fundamental aspects to be treated during the redaction of a new agreement have been created. As reported in the document, a good agreement should include precise information on rights and duties of each part. Administrative, financial, communication and responsibility aspects have to be explicit in order to avoid controversies. The chain of command in joined fire fighting activities have to be planned in the agreement, in order to allow efficient interventions. The result of this report should become a reference for the redaction of the new agreements and the review of the existing ones.

II. Introduction

The cross-border agreements exist for a long time. The administrations from the two sides of a border define agreements to improve the efficiency against incidents, trying to avoid negative consequences to the border populations. In some cases, sharing a common culture, the integration of the means is very easily made. In other cases, to obtain a valuable collaboration, some efforts in defining the agreements and procedures are requested. In the last years, considering the decreasing population living in mountainous and forest areas, the fuel management due to the traditional activities (pasture, wood harvesting, etc.) decreased too, and consequently the risk of forest fires, especially of big fires, increased. Within this context, the creation of efficient agreements for collaboration in fire fighting between different administrations at different scale is probably more important now than in the past. Beside the general European cooperation agreements, specific understandings between two countries or regions exist. These agreements distinguish themselves from European ones in the mode and the deadlines of release, the financial aspects and the geographical situation. In fact, since 2014, under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, *“the European Emergency Response Capacity was set up to advance European cooperation in civil protection and enable a faster, better coordinated and more effective response to emergencies”* (http://ec.europa.eu/echo/what-we-do/civil-protection/european-emergency-response-capacity_en). Ten countries have committed their response capacity to EERC. These are: Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Poland, Spain and Netherlands. Within the different functions, there are also forest fire fighting teams included in the response unit. When needed, a country can ask for help to EERC, which ask the member if they are available to supply resources in facing the emergency. This organisation support also shared training activities in order to improve the preparedness of interventions at European level. The countries participating in the Emergency Response Capacity can benefit from EU financial support to upgrade their national response capacities; to pay for certification and training costs; and to cover up to 85% of costs related to the transport of teams and assets to a disaster area. Despite this organisation, many agreements exist between entities across the national/regional borders.

A list of existing cross-border agreements for collaboration during forest fires is reported and resumed in the next chapters to show the main aspects considered in this kind of documents.

III. Agreements between two countries

III.1 collaboration between Portugal and Spain

A cross-border agreement between Portugal and Spain exists: *“Protocol between the Kingdom of Spain and the Portuguese Republic on technical cooperation and mutual assistance in the field of protection”*, held in Evora on March 9th, 1992. This Protocol provides that the Parties shall prepare and execute, by mutual agreement, joint actions or coordinated in the framework of programs of scientific and technical cooperation projects in the field of civil protection: joint preparation and execution of specific programs and projects, and sending technicians for the provision of advisory services and consultation.

The cooperation against forest fires between Spain and Portugal has been in force for some time, with the signature in 1962 of a General Agreement of Mutual Assistance in Emergencies of Civil Protection. As a consequence of the large fires registered in the summer of 2003, the Additional Protocol on Mutual Assistance in the case of forest fires in border areas was prepared and signed, adopted in accordance with the terms of Article 8 of the Protocol signed in Évora and mentioned above. This protocol on mutual aid in the case of forest fires was signed on November 8th, 2003 in Figueira da Foz, and came into force, in the case of Spain, with a Resolution of the Ministers of the Interior and Environment in July 2004. In this framework, the governments of both countries have acquired the commitment to establish the conditions and procedures for the provision of assistance or relief. The requirements for the provision of means in the event of an emergency due to forest fires that originate at the border between the countries were defined, including the exchange of information regarding resources and coordination procedures.

III.1.1 Portuguese organization in applying the agreement (Operational Standards)

- **NOP 8001/2012 - Procedures to be used between Portugal and Spain for request, dispatch and operation of means to combat forest fires**

This NOP (permanent operational standard) defines the procedures adopted by the National Authority for Civil Protection (ANPC) for the request and dispatch of forest firefighting equipment between the two countries and instructions for sending notifications regarding the commitment of amphibious air resources. It considers the document that border area is the zone constituted by the territory of the neighbouring municipalities between Portugal and Spain.

It states that in each country, depending on the geographical area in which the forest fire is located, three types of procedures are distinguished:

- Type A - outside the border area (general procedure);

- Type B - within the border area;
- Type C - within the border zone, less than 15 km from the border (initial attack).

Concerning the commitment of the amphibious aerial means, it determines a set of procedures to be taken into account whenever amphibious aerial means affect to ANPC and the defined main and alternative scooping points are located within the border zone or to less than 15 km of each side of the border.

Attached, the NOP presents forms templates for the request for forest fire response and replay, as well as a list of contacts in Spain and the notification model for scooping operations in the border area.

- **NOP 8003/2012 - Cross-border exercises involving Spanish forces**

This NOP draws attention to the need to respect the procedures related to the current legal framework for the involvement of international forces in the national territory to respond to emergency situations, despite the good cross-border relationship that has been established over the years between forces and services located in the border area.

Thus, it states that it is solely up to the National Civil Protection Commission (CNPC) to propose to the Government the formulation of requests for international aid. It also states that, in the context of mutual assistance between Portugal and Spain, the ANPC is the entity responsible for submitting to the homologous entity in Spain requests for assistance in response to emergency situations after completing the above procedure.

As far as forest fires are concerned, it indicates that District Operational Commanders (CODIS) and sub delegates of the Government of Spain may submit mutual aid applications, always in close coordination with the competent national authorities of both countries.

It determines that Portugal's fire brigades, despite their possible relationship with homologous and similar structures on the Spanish side, should abstain from operational initiatives (exercises) in the national territory with the involvement of them, especially when they are not properly framed by the ANPC.

- **NOP 5204/2014 - Procedures for the reception of foreign air resources for forest firefighting**

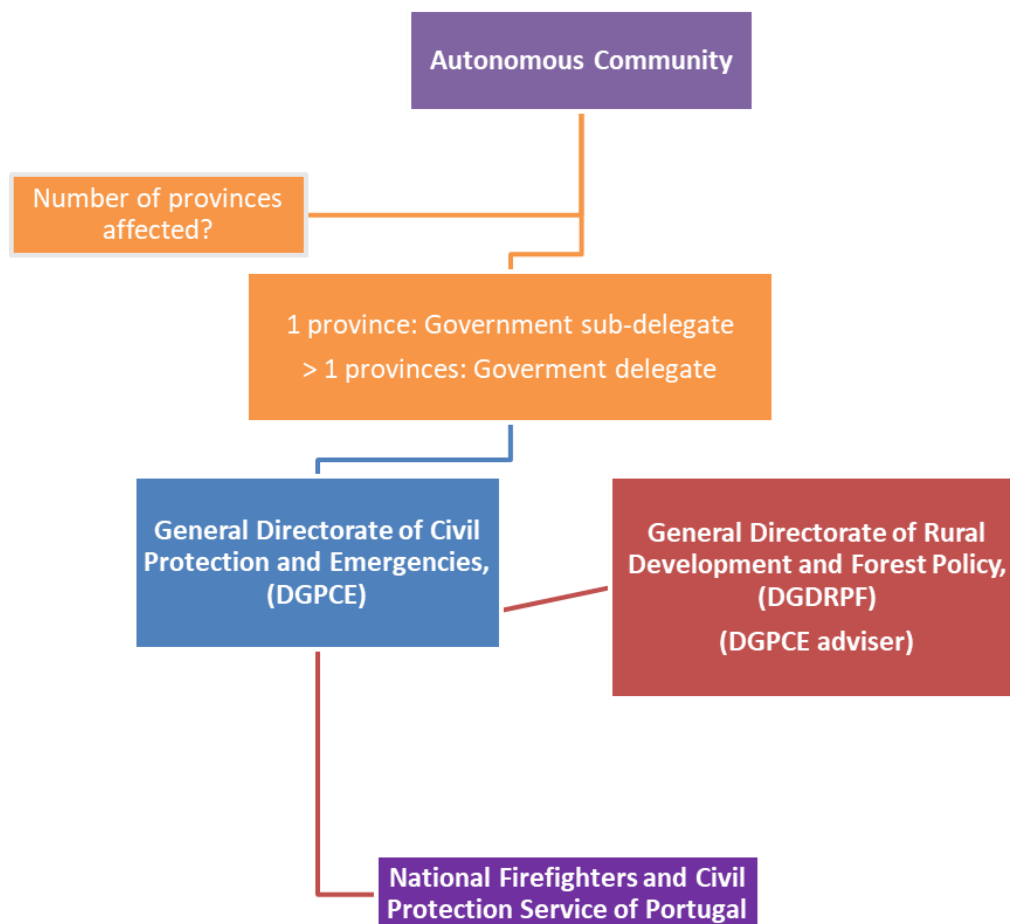
The NOP indicates that the arrival of foreign heavy amphibious aerial means to aid in combating forest fires in Portuguese territory, through the implementation of a temporary air transport centre, leads the ANPC operational structure to an unprecedented commitment of human and materials, in order to ensure the operationalization and profitability of these means, as well as all necessary logistical support for the well-being of the crews and support staff.

Among other procedures related to support from different entities, there are those related to the bilateral protocol between Portugal and Spain for the amphibious heavy air assets.

III.1.2 Spanish organization in agreement application

- **General procedure: Fires outside the border area**

For the request of intervention of Portuguese media, the following procedure will be followed:



If the fire affects more than one Autonomous Community, the Single Extinction Command must be constituted. In Spanish it is “Mando Único de Extinción”, (MUE).

For media requests, the form in Annex 1 of the additional protocol will be used and for the responses to the applications, the form in Annex 2 will be used.

- **Fires in the border area**

- Less than 15 kilometres from the border: Procedure for the first attack Forest Fires
- More than 15 km from the border: General procedure through State Civil Protection
- The Sub-delegation of Government is acted upon and informed by CPM (Provincial Command Centre).
- From the Autonomous Command Centre (CAM) the Forest Fire Protection Area (ADCIF) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment (MAPAMA) is informed.

- **Notes:**

Border area: the one constituted by the territory of the bordering municipalities.

The Provincial Command Centres (CPM) is located in the Territorial Environmental Service of each province of the Autonomous Community of Castilla y León, specifically in the Section for the Protection of Nature.

The Autonomous Command Centre (CAM) is located in the Service of Defence of the Natural Environment, Section of Forest Fires, at the main headquarters of the Junta de Castilla y León, in Valladolid.

III.2 collaboration between Italy and France

Administrative agreement between the Italian Department of Civil protection and the French Direction of Civil Protection on mutual assistance in forest fire fighting by the exchange of aerial means.

An agreement between France and Italy on mutual assistance in civil protection during emergencies exists since 1992. A specific agreement between the two countries on providing aerial means against forest fires during big events have been signed on 2004. This agreement is an important document that defines the rules and the relationship between the two countries. Considering the similar fire season in France and Italy, the agreement does not oblige a country to provide aerial means to the other, but just fixes the rule if a country have the possibility to send its aerial means. The agreement is mainly focused on the French areas of Corse, Côte d'Azur and Alps, and on Italian regions of Liguria, Sardinia, Piedmont e Tuscany. The national Civil Protection Incident Rooms of the two countries are qualified for sending and receiving the requests of mutual assistance. The request of mutual assistance have to be compiled and sent by fax.

Receiving a request of assistance does not implies that the other part must send the required aerial means. Each country can decide, considering its own situation, the risks related to the foreign operation, the availability of means and the prevision of use in the following hours. In case of positive answer, the country who received the request have to communicate to the other one several information:

- The number and the type of aerial means that will be delivered to the applicant;
- The estimated arrival time;
- Radio frequencies used for communication;

- Any needs at arrival;

In case of intervention in Italy, the French fleet should include an official who can speak Italian, and vice versa when the intervention is in France.

Once the host country receive the confirmation of assistance, it is in charge of hospitality and logistics. The fire boss in charge have to be informed about the arrival of reinforcements by the incident room. Once informed, the fire boss have to:

- Provide a permanent radio frequency for managing the foreign reinforcements;
- Indicate to the aerial means the target;
- Indicate to the aerial means the location of water points;

The reinforcements arriving from the other country are managed by the local fire boss.

After daily operations, at the sunset or at the end of aerial interventions, aircrafts can be sent back to their own country. If needed, they can refuel before leaving. If the aerial operations start again the day after, foreign aircrafts have to be recovered and refuelled; board and lodging have to be guaranteed to pilots by the host country.

Disengagement of aircrafts can happens in two ways:

- The host country have solved the emergency and authorise the foreign fleet to come back home. It has to inform the pilots and the incident room of the other country about the end of operations;
- The country that have sent the reinforcements recall its aircrafts due to changed conditions in its territory. The host country must inform immediately the pilots allowing them to come back home. The decision of recall must be respected by the country who received the assistance.

In case of accidents during operations in emergencies, the country who sent reinforcements renounce to reimbursement by the host country. It is not valid in case the responsibilities of the accident are imputable to third parties. When foreign teams are operating in mutual assistance, civil liability is covered by host country.

The duration of the agreement is unlimited. Each Part can revoke or ask for changes when needed.

IV. Agreements between a country and a region

IV.1 Memorandum of understandings between Slovenia and Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy)

Memorandum of understanding between the Slovenian Department of Civil Protection and the Civil Protection of Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy) for prevision, prevention and reciprocal assistance in emergency.

A general agreement between Slovenia and Friuli Venezia Giulia exists to improve the efficiency of civil protection interventions in the areas close to the national border. The agreement is structured in 16 articles, and it is a generic official document valid for all the types of activities carried out in Civil Protection.

The main objective of the document is to increase and to improve cross-border collaboration in order to guarantee protection to the population leaving between Friuli Venezia Giulia and Slovenia. The collaboration focuses on two main topics:

- Information and data exchange between the incident rooms to predict and prevent disasters;
- Reciprocal assistance in case of emergency and coordination of activities.

To reach the planned objectives, connection between the incident rooms is fundamental to allow a prompt communication of relevant information. Moreover, knowledge and training exchanges are expected. The agreement identifies an operative centre for both Slovenia and Friuli Venezia Giulia, which are connected thanks to an efficient real-time data network for the exchange of data and information.

When an emergency happens, the involved part informs immediately the other one, in order to prevent and organize the rescue.

The agreement establishes an annual collaboration program on:

- Training of civil protection personnel, based on shared training programs;
- Teacher, instructors, experts and technicians exchanges;
- Exchange of knowledge in terms of technical and scientific improvements, means and tools;
- Cooperation in projects concerning civil protection.

In case of emergency, both Parties can ask –through their incident rooms- mutual assistance. The procedures regarding the official requests, the technical processes and the administrative operations are reported in detailed annexes to the general agreement.

The mutual assistance can be provided in terms of personnel (technicians, operatives, volunteers) and/or means (ground, aerial) and/or supplies (food, medicines, etc.). The Civil Protection organisation who asks for assistance have to provide an adequate logistics to the personnel arriving from the other country. The same organisation is also responsible of coordination and executive activities.

The exchange of aerial means is admitted; they have to be authorised and coordinated during operations by the incident room.

Fire fighting is explicitly considered in the agreement (art. 10) and a specific annex regarding collaboration in operations against forest fires have been developed and officially signed (see chapter 1.1).

Regarding financial aspects, the agreement says that mutual assistance is freely provided by Region Venezia Giulia to Slovenia and vice versa. The Civil Protection Organisation who asks for assistance have to provide and pay for logistics during the operative period. The hosting organisation have to provide also an adequate insurance about injuries and civil liability. In case of controversies, the parties will solve them without involving third parts.

Finally, the agreement refers to the annexes for detailed information on specific tasks, such as forest fire fighting.

The agreement is valid until one of the Parties asks for changes or cancellation.

Annex n. 3 – Operative procedures during cross-border collaboration activities in forest fire fighting

In this annex, some important aspects related with the collaboration between Republic of Slovenia and Friuli Venezia Giulia Region in forest fire fighting are pointed out. The main aspects object of the agreement on forest fire fighting are the following:

- Planning of specific measures for collaboration in prevention and fire fighting activities;
- Mutual information regarding the risk of fire events that could involve border areas;
- Creation of specific coordination plans for cross-border operations, accordingly with the needs of the two involved parties, including the designation of responsible;
- Mutual assistance in forest fire fighting when requested;

In the different border areas specific operative plans have to be prepared in order to operate in a proper way considering all the needs involving the specific territories and the needs of the resources involved. Regarding communication, the agreement declares the availability by the two parties to immediately communicate each other information on fire events that could involve border areas. Communication have to be very rapid following the specific procedure stated in Annex 1 of the agreement. The competent centres for communication have been identified as follow:

- Regional Incident Room of Palmanova for Friuli Venezia Giulia Region;
- Depending on the area, the regional Notification Centres of i) Kranj; ii) Nova Gorica; iii) Postojna; iv) Capodistria, for the Republic of Slovenia;

Moreover, the figure responsible for planning and management operations on forest fires have been identified:

Republic of Slovenia:

- Unit Firemen Commander;
- Municipal Firemen Commander;

- Firemen federation Commander;
- Regional Firemen Commander (one for each border region);
- Civil Protection Municipal Commander;
- Majors of municipalities;
- Regional Civil Protection Commander (one for each border region);
- National Civil Protection Commander;

Friuli Venezia Giulia:

- Regional Civil Protection:
 - o Regional Operative Room;
 - o Municipal volunteers of Civil Protection specialized in forest fire fighting;
 - o Aerial regional service of Civil protection;
- Regional Forestry Service;
- Firemen;
- Italian Department of Civil protection through the National Aerial Fleet (COAU);

Financial and legal rules are referred to the ones reported in the general agreement.

V. Agreements between two regions

V.1 Agreement between Tuscany (Italy) and Liguria (Italy)

Operative procedures between Liguria and Toscana regions for forest fire fighting in neighbouring areas.

Liguria and Toscana are neighbouring regions. The border is located in mountainous areas mainly covered by forests. For this reason, forest fires can happen in the border area and collaboration between the two regional forest fire fighting organizations is needed.

An agreement regarding the operative procedures to be applied in border interventions exists, and it aims to facilitate the operations considering interactions between team arriving from the two regions. The agreement is divided in several sections facing different thematic.

A common definition of border fire have been decided. It is a fire included in a buffer (**interconnection area**) of 2000 m width, where the border is located in the middle of this buffer. In the agreement, it is also clarified who are the admissible incident commander for each Region, and all figures involved in interventions. Considering the different way of saying different concepts related to forest fires in the two regions, a short session of the document includes a brief list of concepts commonly used in forest fire fighting and their differences in terms and related definitions.

When the Incident room of a region receive a warning of forest fire located in the interconnection area, it activates its own procedures, and advises the incident room of the other region too. The first team sent to the area to verify the fire will be the nearest one, independently of its origin. Later, if the fire can interest both regions, operations will be in charge of both Tuscany and Liguria. If only one region is involved, only its forces will be involved in fire fighting. When teams from both regions are working together, two incident Commanders – one for each region- will operate jointly in order to be efficient in extinguishing fire in the interconnection area. Each Incident commander can ask for national aerial support to its incident room. The two Regions have exchanged a sufficient number of radio devices in order to be able to communicate during common operations. Specific radio frequencies have been fixed in the agreement for communication with aerial means.

Each region guarantees that its forces are well trained and able to operate in forest fire fighting. Moreover, operators have to be covered by an insurance against injuries that could occur in interconnection area.

The list of border municipalities and maps of the interconnection area are reported as annexes to the agreement.

V.2 Agreement between Tuscany (Italy) and Umbria (Italy)

Operative procedures between Umbria and Toscana regions for forest fire fighting in neighbouring areas.

The agreement between Tuscany and Umbria regarding forest fire fighting is very similar to the one between Tuscany and Liguria. Contents, organisation, operative procedures and definition of interconnection area are the same.

V.3 Agreement between Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy) and Carinthia (Austria)

Memorandum of understanding between the Carinthia Region (Austria) and the Civil Protection of Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy) for prevision, prevention and reciprocal assistance in emergency.

Friuli Venezia Giulia Region have signed another agreement with the Austrian region of Carinthia. The structure of the agreement is very similar to the one signed with Slovenia (see IV.1), and contents are, in practical, the same. The only interesting difference under a fire fighting perspective, is the absence of the article on aerial means exchange. The competent Operative Centre of Carinthia is the “Landesalarm und Warnzentrale Karnten” of Klagenfurt. The other contents are the same described for the general agreement between Friuli and Slovenia.

V.4 Agreements between Castilla y León and other Autonomous Communities

Castilla y León has agreements of collaboration with all the bordering Autonomous Communities. Along the boundaries a belt of 2 km width has been identified for immediate mutual intervention, where the means of both sides (Communities) can intervene.

The existing agreements are the following:

- Collaboration agreement between Castilla y León, Castilla La Mancha and the community of Madrid, in the field of Extinction of Forest Fires. Madrid, May 22nd, 1996;
- Collaboration agreement between the Community of Castile and Leon and the Community of Extremadura, in the matter of Extinction of Forest Fire. Merida on June 17th, 1998;
- RESOLUTION of April 14th, 2002, of the General Directorate of the Secretariat of the Board and Institutional Relations, ordering the publication in the "Official Gazette of Castilla y León" of the Collaboration Agreement between the Autonomous Community of Galicia and the Autonomous Community of Castilla y León, in terms of forest fire suppression;

- LEY 14/2005, of December 23rd, for the approval and authorization of the collaboration agreement between the Government of La Rioja and the Junta de Castilla y León on forest fire suppression;
- On March 8th, 2010, several Autonomous Communities (Cataluña, Andalucía, La Rioja, Comunidad Valenciana, Aragón, Castilla La Mancha, Islas Baleares and Castilla y León) participated in the VI Meeting of Autonomous Communities for the development of the Autonomous Statutes, and they signed a collaboration agreement to facilitate the extinction of forest fires;
- RESOLUTION of March 16th, 2011 of the General Directorate for Institutional Relations and External Action, ordering the full publication in the "Official Gazette of Castilla y León" of: "Collaboration Agreement between the Autonomous Communities of Asturias, Cantabria and Castilla y León, for the prevention and extinction of forest fires.

The main points of the collaboration agreements with the neighbouring Autonomous Communities are similar to each other. They admit two types of interventions:

- **Zone of fast aid** or relief in a area of 2km width across the boundaries. In this area, the direct intervention is admitted from both sides, and it is coordinated by the Border Control Center;
- In the rest of the territory, an Autonomous Community has to write an official request to the other asking for support in its internal territory. In the case of Castilla y León, authorization is processed from the Regional Command Center (*Centro Autonómico de Mando, CAM*) with authorization from the Directorate General of the Natural Environment.

Compensations between the Autonomous Regions have never been established, although the agreements contemplate them as possible.

The media request is made by FAX, although it is acted upon before it is received for greater agility.

Note: the Regional Command Center is the Command Coordination Center at the regional level, and is located in the Defense of the Natural Environment Service, which is included in the General Directorate of the Environment of the "Consejería de Fomento y Medio Ambiente" of the "Junta de Castilla y León".

VI. Evaluations on the existing agreements

In the agreements described, some common aspects and some differences emerged. Considering the financial aspects, in the majorities of documents the rule of 'reciprocity' is stated. In fact, the cross-border collaboration answers a historic and friendly approach between two countries. The country proposes its help to reduce the risk at his neighbour but also to avoid the spread at his home. It means that the country/region/administration that helps another one, does not ask for payments. Normally, the helped administration provides logistics, including fuel, accommodation and subsistence. In the countries where regional organisations normally manage fire events, national authorities can be involved in the big events, such as when an aerial support is requested (e.g. in Italy and Spain). When these major events involve more regions and other countries along the borders, regional and national authorities may need to get involved in official agreements, in order to follow planned and authorised procedures being efficient during emergencies. A common approach found in all agreements regards the definition of how a country/region can ask help to the other, including the procedure and the communication tools to be used. A very important part of the understandings is the definition of rights and duties of both the applicant and the helper. In this context, generally the cross-border collaboration is volunteer. In practical, a country/region have to help another one, only if there are not internal emergency that cannot be delayed.

VII. Definition of common rules to develop an efficient cross-border agreement in forest fire fighting

In this section a list of the different aspects to be taken into account and to be clarified in an official cross-border agreement is reported. Following the proposed scheme, an international agreement can be easily redacted in a complete and efficient way.

- **Who is involved in the agreement (Parties);**
Considering differences existing between European countries in terms of fire fighting organization, it is important to define the administration/entity involved in the agreement, in order to avoid conflicts with parties that are not taking part in the agreement.
- **The aim and the scope of the agreement;**
This is the section where the fundamental premises, the scope and the expected benefits for each signatory are clearly explained.
- **Territories included in the agreement;**
It is fundamental to clearly specify which are the areas/parts of territory included in the agreement and subject to forest fire fighting activities in collaboration between parties. In some cases only portions around national/regional borders are included, in other cases all the national/regional territory can be included in the agreement.
- **The type and the quantity of resources included in the agreement;**
It is important to define which kind of means can be asked by a part in case of emergency and if there is a limit in terms of number. An agreement could include only aerial or ground means, while another can include every mean available, in terms of both type and number. Beyond the means, it is important to define which kind of fire fighters and which figures in the chain of command can be requested/sent in the intervention.
- **Rights and duties of the Parties;**
This is a fundamental aspect to be explained in the official signed document. During fire season, it is quite common to have scarce availability of resources, due to the internal needs of intervention. It is important to clearly state in the agreement if a part is obliged or not to provide resources in case of request. It is important to define that help can be provided only if the internal conditions of the country/region allow to send means and operators to the partner who requested for help. In this section it is important to include all the other conditions in terms of rights and duties, such as disengagement rules.

- **Chain of command;**
Considering the differences between the fire fighting organizations in the different Countries, it is important to define the main aspects regarding the chain of command. In particular, it is important to define who is the responsible for the teams coming from the other country/region, and who is in charge to coordinate all resources. The specific operation procedures to apply the concepts stated in the agreement can be attached as annex (see the last point of this list).
- **Financial agreement;**
Providing means and operators to another country/region has costs. It is fundamental to clearly define who covers this costs. In particular, the main voices of cost to be considered are: i) transfer; ii) operational costs; iii) accommodation costs.
- **Safety and insurance;**
Being fire fighting a dangerous activity, it is important to guarantee an insurance to fire fighters operating outside their normal area of intervention. The insurance should cover both injuries and third party liability. In the agreement this aspect have to be defined.
- **Communication;**
In the agreement, the modalities for asking support to the partner have to be clearly stated. Moreover, eventual communication tools specifically adopted and requested between the parties have to be defined in this section. In addition, in this case, specific information should be included in the operational procedures attached to the formal agreement (see the last point of this list).
- **Validity of the agreement;**
The starting time of validity, and the expiry date should be included in the document.
- **Annexes;**
It could be necessary to attach to the official signed document one or more annexes, depending on the needs, mainly related with the operational procedures to be applied. The annexes that could be useful are i) cartographies; ii) communication plan; iii) safety plan; iv) operational procedures. The operational procedures will be deeply analysed in a different deliverable of MEFISTO project (Deliverable C.3 - *European procedures for forest fire fighting*)

VIII. Annexes

The agreements treated in the text are separately reported as annex, if the documents are public. This is the list of the included documents:

- I. Agreement between Spain and Portugal;
- II. Agreement between Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy) and the Republic of Slovenia;
- III. Agreement between France and Italy for aerial means;
- IV. Agreement between Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy) and Carinthia Region (Austria);
- V. Agreement between Toscana and Umbria (Italian regions);
- VI. Agreement between Toscana and Liguria (Italian regions).
- VII. Agreement between Castilla y León, Castilla La Mancha and Madrid
- VIII. Agreement between Castilla y León and Extremadura
- IX. Agreement between Castilla y León and Galicia
- X. Agreement between Castilla y León and La Rioja
- XI. Agreement between Castilla y León and other Autonomous Communities
- XII. Agreement between Castilla y León, Asturias and Cantabria.