

**FOUNDATION OF THE
EUROPEAN FOREST FIRE FIGHTING COUNCIL - EUFORFIRE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is made by and between the following institutions:

1. **Regione Toscana** – Direzione Agricoltura e Sviluppo Rurale - Settore 'Forestazione. Usi civici. Agroambiente' (Coordinator), Via di Novoli 26 - 50127 Firenze, Italy;
2. **Università degli Studi di Firenze**, Dipartimento di Gestione dei Sistemi Agrari, Alimentari e Forestali, Via S. Bonaventura 13 - 50145 Firenze, Italy;
3. **ENB** - Escola Nacional de Bombeiros, Rua Doutor António Macieira, Quinta do Anjinho – Ranholas - 2710-689 Sintra, PORTUGAL;
4. **CESEFOR** - Fundación Centro de Servicios y Promoción Forestal y de su Industria, Pol. Ind. Las Casas, calle C, parcela 4 - 42005 Soria, Spain; with collaboration of Centro para la defensa contra el fuego de la Junta de Castilla y Leon, Comandante Cortizo 24007 Leon;
5. **ENTENTE VALABRE - ÉTABLISSEMENT PUBLIC POUR LA PRESERVATION DES TERRITOIRES ET DES PERSONNES**, Centre Francis Arrighi - Domaine de Valabre - RD7 - 13120 Gardanne, France;
6. **D.R.E.Am. Italia Soc. Coop. Agr.**, Via Garibaldi 3 - 52015 Pratovecchio Stia (AR), Italy;

They may be referred to herein as a “Party” or collectively as the “Parties”.

WHEREAS Forest Fire is the most important threat to forests and wooded areas of Southern Europe;

ACKNOWLEDGING that in the last decade, the improvement of EU Countries co-operation in civil protection assistance interventions in the event of major emergencies has become one of a major priority. Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC), established in 2013, is daily working to reach this goal;

RECOGNIZING that, in the last decades, both the deployment of expert, team and equipment, among the member States in occasion of severe fire seasons has increased, and EU exercises on forest fire fighting were organized (e.g. Sardinia 2008, Prometheus 2014), thus highlighting the needs of a coordination and collaboration improvement on forest fire response capacity at EU level;

UNDERLINING that different organization of fire operators at European level already exists, such as the Federation of the European Union Fire Officer Associations, the European Fire Fighters Unions Alliance and the Confederation of Fire Protection Association Europe (Pan European Fire Strategy 2020);

NOTING that none of the existing organisations is focused on forest fires;

UNDERLINING the needs of more cooperation on forest fire prevention and suppression is very important for improving the efficiency and effectiveness.

TAKING into consideration that within the MEFISTO project has been included the development of a network of training centres and other stakeholders involved in fire fighting activities with the aims to improve preparedness on forest fire fighting and prevention.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties have reached the following understanding:

1. Purposes of this MoU
2. Aims of EUFORFIRE
3. EUFORFIRE members
4. Third part involvement
5. Commitments of members
6. Governing structure
7. Working mode and instruments
8. Entry into Force
9. Evaluation and Continuation
10. Additional Co-operation
11. Termination of Agreement
12. Language
13. Representations and warranties
14. Legal obligations

1. Purposes of this MoU

Forest areas and landscapes in the Mediterranean environment are yearly threatened by forest fires. The average annual number of forest fires throughout Southern Europe from 2005 to 2014 exceeded 47,000, with an annual average burned area higher than 356,000 hectares. Moreover, in 2017 Southern Europe experienced an even harder fire season, with many fires, very huge burned areas and, unfortunately, fatalities. Considering that climate change may lead to an increasing fire hazards and spread it in other European regions. Taking into consideration that forest fire may have strong negative effects on wooded and non-wooded areas, build-up zones and people, thus representing a menace for the health and safety of the European citizens. Considering that, forest fire may also indirectly result in soil erosion, land degradation, and loss of biodiversity.

Parties to this MoU share a will to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness in forest fire prevention and fighting by means of international collaboration. The purpose of this MoU is to strengthen the relationship between the European stakeholders that want to address the issues of active prevention and fight against forest fires by the Creation of the 'EUropean FOrest FIRE fighting Council' (EUFORFIRE). EUFORFIRE will be an open and volunteer association of bodies aiming to a better preparedness on forest fire fighting and prevention.

At the Sintra meeting (Portugal) of the project MEFISTO, November 9th – 10th 2017, the partners sign this MOU which constitutes EUFORFIRE, European network aimed at identifying the training needs and priorities for forest firefighting and to share best practices and projects, to facilitate synergies between the territories and to promote the sharing of activities. EUFORFIRE will seek to involve Training Centres in the field of forest fire fighting in European territory, with particular attention to issues relating to the most complex forest fires (big fires).

2. Aims of EUFORFIRE

The main objectives of EUFORFIRE concern:

- sharing organizational models applied in the Parties' Countries and share their developments;
- collaborating for exchanging and training methods and skill evaluation procedures in forest firefighting;

- developing and defining the minimum basic knowledge and skills to be developed in the training courses for similar position in the command chain;
- improving mutual collaboration especially in the fields of big fire management and health and safety of forest firefighters;

EUFORFIRE will receive the know-how of MEFISTO project in order to maintain minimum standards in forest fires related professions and activities, which can be applied in all European Countries.

3. EUFORFIRE members

Parties to this MoU are training centres and other stakeholders involved in fire fighting activities at European level. The founding members of EUFORFIRE are: Regione Toscana (Coordinator - Italy), Università degli Studi di Firenze – Dipartimento di Gestione dei sistemi Agrari, alimentari e Forestali (Italy), ENB (Portugal), CESEFOR (Spain), ENTENTE (France), DREAM Italia (Italy).

EUFORFIRE Network is structured on two different levels of participation:

- Member: founding members and other interested parties who join the network through a formal act and active participation in networking;
- Observatory: anyone who want to receive updates about EUFORFIRE activity without a direct involvement and formal admission. They will not participate in the work planned by the network.



4. Third part involvement

Each member of the EUFORFIRE network may suggest the involvement of other qualified and useful stakeholders, with specific competence and knowledge in fire prevention and fighting, for achieving the goals of the network.

5. Commitments of members

Each member of EUFORFIRE will commit its active participation in the activities and in the development of EUFORFIRE aims, as well as its active support in dissemination and in the engagement of new agencies/institutions interested in it.

6. Governing structure

The main governing body of the EUFORFIRE is the Assembly, comprising all Members. Members nominate their representatives to take part in the Assembly, who are duly authorized to take decisions. A Coordination Committee including the representatives of three Members is established by the Assembly, as the main executive body between Assembly meetings, to manage the first steps in the development of EUFORFIRE.

The EUFORFIRE Secretariat, initially supported by the Tuscany Region and rotating on a voluntary basis, provides support to common activities under the guidance of the Coordination Committee. The Assembly will develop and adopt rules and operating procedures for the EUFORFIRE Secretariat. The EUFORFIRE Secretariat, until otherwise agreed upon by the Assembly, shall be headquartered at regional centre of Tuscany Region named 'Pineta di Tocchi'.

7. Working mode and instruments

The Parties will undertake common activities for the attainment of the above-mentioned objective. Each year, EUFORFIRE Assembly will decide on the specific topics to be analysed and developed and their timing. The actions will be shared between all members and developed also through meetings and workshop. EUFORFIRE Coordination Committee will decide how to distribute the works.

The activities can include but are not limited to:

- providing support in training, advice and any other requested assistance to the other Parties or to organizations/agencies of Countries not included in EUFORFIRE organization;
- disseminating information (website, newsletter, etc.) about EUFORFIRE aims and activities (included in the project MEFISTO until its end);
- organizing regular opportunities (seminars, field visits, online Meetings, web conferencing etc.) for the network's members to exchange information, experience and know-how on key issues for the regions;
- providing continuing support in respect of the preparation, implementation, dissemination and consolidation of co-operation projects involving members of the network;
- supporting innovation and experimentation in order to find solutions adapted to the specific contexts of the fire-prone Mediterranean Basin.

8. Entry into Force

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into effect on November 10th, 2017, and remain in effect until December 31st 2019. After that date, the MoU will be considered to remain in effect for annual periods unless otherwise explicitly decided by the Assembly.

9. Evaluation and Continuation

Parties commit themselves to participate in interim and final evaluations, and decide for continuation of the EUFORFIRE initiative accordingly.

10. Additional Co-operation

The Participants will seek ways and means to strengthen co-operation among them with regard to exchange of experience, with a view to implement further activities for the purposes of this MoU.

11. Termination of Agreement

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, any Party may terminate its participation under this MoU by giving notice in writing to the Coordination Committee of its decision to leave. Such termination will be effective once the Committee has received such notice.

12. Language

English is the official language of this Memorandum and the official language to communicate inside the association. EUFORFIRE supports and appreciates the translation of reports and other documents in other EU languages to increase the dissemination between stakeholders.

13. Representations and warranties

Each Party hereby represents and warrants to the other Parties that: (i) it has the corporate power to enter into this MoU; (ii) it is not a Party to any agreement or understanding and knows no law or regulation that would prohibit it from entering into and performing its obligations under this MoU or that would conflict with this MoU; and (iii) it shall perform its obligations under this MoU in compliance with all applicable laws in its Country or region.

14. Legal obligations

This MoU does not create any legally binding obligations among the Parties and is not binding under international law. In witness thereof, the undersigned, being duly authorized, have signed this Memorandum of Understanding in 7 copies in English.

Given in Sintra (Portugal), the 10th day of November of 2017.

Regione Toscana – Settore Forestazione. Usi civici. Agroambiente

Paola Pasquinelli



Centro de Servicios y promoción forestal y de su industria de Castilla y León – CESEFOR

Roberto Rubio Gutiérrez



Dipartimento di Gestione dei Sistemi Agrari, Alimentari e Forestali - GESAAF

Universita' degli Studi di Firenze

Prof. Enrico Marchi



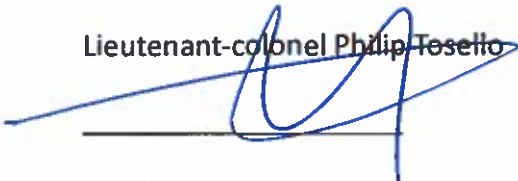
D.R.E.Am. ITALIA SCRL

Dott. For. Luca Tonarelli



ENTENTE VALABRE Etablissement public pour la préservation des territoires et des personnes

Lieutenant-colonel Philip Tosello



Escola Nacional de Bombeiros – ENB

Dr. José Ferreira





UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
FIRENZE

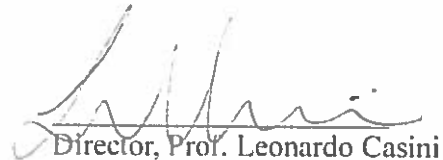
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURAL, FOOD AND
FORESTRY SYSTEMS

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

To Whom it May Concern:

By means of this letter, I, Prof. Leonardo Casini, Director of the Department of Agricultural, Food and Forest Systems –GESAAF- of the University of Florence (Italy), delegate the authority herein described to the Prof. Enrico Marchi, on the following terms and conditions:

1. Prof. Marchi may sign, on my behalf, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the foundation of a network of training centres and other stakeholders involved in fire-fighting activities with the aims to improve preparedness on forest fire fighting and prevention, as planned in the European Project 'MEFISTO' (ECHO/SUB/2016/742556/PREP24), in which GESAAF is involved as Coordinator. Prof. Marchi may officially sign the MOU during the official MEFISTO's technical meeting, which will be held in Sintra (Portugal) from November 9th to 10th, 2017.
2. The person delegated is not subject to sub-delegation without my prior and express written consent.



Director, Prof. Leonardo Casini

Florence, November 2nd, 2017

Acknowledged and agreed:



Prof. Enrico Marchi

Florence, November 3rd, 2017

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

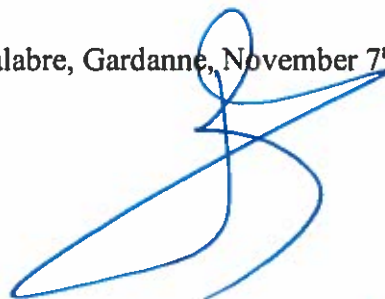
To Whom it May Concern:

By means of this letter, I, Colonel jean-marc BEDOGNI, Général Director of the ENTENTE pour La Forêt Méditerranéenne Centre Francis Arrighi Domaine de Valabre 13120 GARDANNE FRANCE , delegate the authority herein described to Lieutenant-Colonel Philip TOSELLO, on the following terms and conditions:

1. Lieutenant-Colonel Philip TOSELLO may sign, on my behalf, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the foundation of a network of training centres and other stakeholders involved in fire-fighting activities with the aims to improve preparedness on forest fire fighting and prevention, as planned in the European Project 'MEFISTO' (ECHO/SUB/2016/742556/PREP24), in which ENTENTE is involved as Partner.
2. Lcl Philip TOSELLO may officially sign the MOU during the official MEFISTO's technical meeting, which will be held in Sintra (Portugal) from November 9th to 10th, 2017.
3. The person delegated is not subject to sub-delegation without my prior and express written consent.

General Director Colonel Jean-Marc BEDOGNI

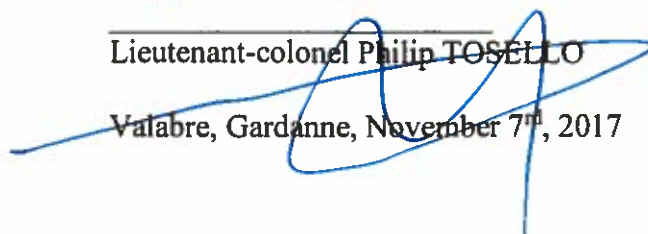
Valabre, Gardanne, November 7nd, 2017



Acknowledged and agreed:

Lieutenant-colonel Philip TOSELLO

Valabre, Gardanne, November 7th, 2017





DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

To Whom it May Concern:

By means of this letter, I, Sandro Pieroni, Responsible Manager of 'Forestazione. Usi civici. Agroambiente' area of Tuscany Region administration (Italy), delegate the authority herein described to the Paola Pasquinelli, on the following terms and conditions:

1. Paola Pasquinelli may sign, on my behalf, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the foundation of a network of training centres and other stakeholders involved in fire-fighting activities with the aims to improve preparedness on forest fire fighting and prevention, as planned in the European Project 'MEFISTO' (ECHO/SUB/2016/742556/PREP24), in which REGIONE TOSCANA is involved as partner. Paola Pasquinelli may officially sign the MOU during the official MEFISTO's technical meeting, which will be held in Sintra (Portugal) from November 9th to 10th, 2017.
2. The person delegated is not subject to sub-delegation without my prior and express written consent.

Responsible Manager Sandro Pieroni

Florence, November 6th, 2017

Acknowledged and agreed:

Paola Pasquinelli

Florence, November 6th, 2017

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

To Whom it May Concern:

By means of this letter, I, Antonio Taboada Moreno, General Director of the CESEFOR Foundation (Spain), delegate the authority herein described to Roberto Rubio, on the following terms and conditions:

1. Roberto Rubio may sign, on my behalf, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the foundation of a network of training centres and other stakeholders involved in fire-fighting activities with the aims to improve preparedness on forest fire fighting and prevention, as planned in the European Project 'MEFISTO' (ECHO/SUB/2016/742556/PREP24), in which CESEFOR is involved as Partner. Roberto Rubio may officially sign the MoU during the official MEFISTO's technical meeting, which will be held in Sintra (Portugal) from November 9th to 10th, 2017.
2. The person delegated is not subject to sub-delegation without my prior and express written consent.

Director, Antonio Taboada Moreno
Soria, November 6th, 2017

Acknowledged and agreed:

Roberto Rubio
Soria, November 6th, 2017