



# EUROPEAN FIRE SPRINKLER NETWORK

## February 2010 Report

Registration surged for the Brussels 2010 conference during February, ensuring that it will be well-attended. At a CEN meeting we made significant progress with EN 12845. We also held a productive EFSN Technical Committee meeting. I gave a presentation at a seminar in the House of Commons.

### **Brussels 2010**

Registrations for Brussels 2010 surged during February and there are now almost 180 people registered. Several major groups have yet to register so we should reach 200 participants, similar to the numbers two years ago in Copenhagen and against a much tougher economic background. While the Benelux is particularly well-represented there are registrants from 19 countries, the furthest coming from New Zealand. Preparations are continuing smoothly and I am looking forward to a successful conference.

### **New Members**

I am delighted to report that the Swiss sprinkler manufacturer Jomos joined the EFSN in February.

### **CEN TC/191 WG5 Task Group 2**

This is the committee which is drafting Amendment 3 to EN 12845, the European standard for the design, installation and maintenance of sprinkler systems. In February I attended two-day meeting in Frankfurt, where among other things we finalised the sections on ESFR sprinklers. In May the committee will meet to complete its work on the amendment before sending it to CEN for approval. At this stage it still has to consider a draft on extended coverage sprinklers; work on CMSA sprinklers and ESFR sprinklers is complete. In September the committee will begin work on a review of EN 12845. A review takes longer than an amendment and can totally change the standard, whereas an amendment may not make a change on more than 30% of the pages. The committee has a long list of items it would like to consider that could not be part of the amendments.

### **EFSN Technical Committee Meeting**

The 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EFSN Technical Committee was held in Cologne on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Despite a strike by Lufthansa 12 people managed to attend. One of the most important activities of this committee is to track developments in sprinkler standards and to provide input where necessary. The committee includes members of CEN, CEA, NFPA and national standards committees. One idea was to produce a technical

newsletter. This will depend upon EFSN members submitting material for me to collate. Two committee members committed to drafting a paper to help owners and operators of warehouses check that their sprinkler system is capable of protecting the warehouse. Minutes of the meeting have been drafted. If you would like a copy please send me an email. The next meeting will be held in Frankfurt on 9<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Parliamentary Seminar**

I gave a presentation at a seminar in the House of Commons in London, in which I summarised the progress of our sprinkler campaigns across Europe and reviewed the differences between requirements to fit sprinklers in different European countries. The seminar was very well-attended, with a large number of local councillors present, as well as some national politicians.

### **Household Insurance Discount**

I had a meeting with the head of household insurance for a major insurer in the UK. He knew little about sprinklers and held the common misperceptions. After our meeting was very positive about their benefits and prepared to offer a discount on household insurance in Wales if sprinklers become mandatory there in all new homes. While the discount would not be substantial, since fire represents only 13% of losses for his company, it would nevertheless help offset the cost of annual maintenance.

### **Next Steps**

- 1) In Brussels meet the secretariat of the European Parliament to discuss legislative possibilities.
- 2) Also in Brussels meet Malcolm Harbour MEP, the new chairman of the European Parliamentary Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection.
- 3) Participate in the second meeting of the Belgian sprinkler network at EFSN member ANPI in Louvain-la-Neuve.
- 4) In Paris meet Lt. Col. Spiess of the French fire officer training school, ENSOSP, for a dry run of the training seminars planned for April and November.
- 5) Attend an international seminar in Berlin on fire protection of wooden buildings.
- 6) Meet the Association of British Insurers in London to discuss sprinkler campaigns.
- 7) Participate in a meeting in Paris of the board of the French chapter of the SFPE.
- 8) Give a keynote presentation at a seminar in Frankfurt on tunnel fire safety, organised by EFSN member SP.
- 9) Continue preparations for the Brussels 2010 conference.