

## EPSU Statement (draft proposed by FBU Board)

1. Please could each union send a one-paragraph summary of how austerity has affected firefighters in their country (pay, pension, job, training and equipment cut-backs)? This can then be used to add further examples in the text.

2. Could each union send the following figures for the number of firefighters employed in 2008 and 2014. Ideally these figures should be both headcount and full time equivalent, although we appreciate this may not be possible for all.

If these returns can be sent to Paul Hampton (paul.hampton@fbu.org.uk), who works at FBU head office by Friday 17 October, he can rejig the statement and compile the figures in a spreadsheet for the meeting.

Hi Paul,

this is the numerical situation of the Italian firefighters

<i>Country</i>	<i>Career FF</i>	<i>Part-time</i>	<i>Volunteer FF</i>	<i>Total No. FF's</i>
ITALY				
31 March 2008	<b>27.950</b>	-----	Aprox. 7.000	<b>34.950</b>
31 March 2014	<b>32.473</b>	-----	Aprox. 7.000	<b>39.473</b>

In Italy we have only professional firefighters because we are a National Corps and we have some volunteer FF, but only in some regions (90% in north).

Our structure is divided in 18 Regional offices and 100 Provincial Commands, all subordinates to a General Chief and Department of the Italian Ministry of Interior.

The National Fire Brigade is in charge of rescue service to ensure public safety in the event of fires, natural disasters and great disastrous events.

The Italian Ministry of Interior is responsible for providing public rescue service in the event of fire fighting and prevention operations, natural disasters and great disastrous events all over the national territory, through the National Fire Brigade, a State organised body governed by civil law, working within the Department for Fire Service, Public Rescue and Civil Defence.

It carries out civil defence functions through the setting up of a National Plan for Civil Defence which defines risks, explores possible scenarios and identifies measures to be adopted. The National Plan represents the general directive for developing both plans worked out by public/private agencies supplying essential services and 103 Provincial Plans drawn up by Prefects.

Since 1941 the National Fire Brigade has been in charge of rescue service to people, property preservation and environment protection. Interventions can be asked by citizens for a wide range of emergencies, including opening of an apartment door, extinguishing a fire, recovering a submerged motor vehicle in a river, rescuing people from mountains or wells, recovering an animal and rescuing people involved in a car accident.

Everyday firefighters have to cope with all kinds of situations and they are the first responders when a natural calamity and great disastrous events occur. For this reason they are given a special training enabling them to rapidly and appropriately cope with any kind of emergency.

The National Fire Brigade deals with the identification, development and implementation of standard operational procedures for rescue operations. This activity involves assessing the effectiveness of rescuers' safety system and developing possible scenarios and risk maps. When carrying out emergency technical rescue operations, the National Fire Brigade coordinates its activities with those of Civil Protection Department, local authorities concerned and voluntary organisations.

Fire prevention includes a range of activities that are intended to prevent the outbreak of fires or to limit the consequences. It is a multidisciplinary approach including identification, promotion and drafting of measures and implementing rules and procedures. Prevention activities include:

- those related to industrial fire and explosion hazards, great disastrous events requiring inspection activities, post-accident on-site inspections, fire fighting technical assistance when designing electro power plants, power lines, etc.;
- developing fire prevention standards both for civil, commercial, handicraft and industrial facilities and for nuclear sector;
- fire protection research study involving qualification testing, certification delivery, homologation service, technical approvals, advisory activity and analytical evaluations, standard testing development, product evaluation and classification;
- passive protection activity involving study research in the following sectors: fire resistance and reaction to fire, fire evacuation systems and phenomenology of fire (e.g. reaction to fire testing is a key element to evaluate the contribution of a material to fire growth.);
- active fire protection involving study research on active fire protection systems and devices.

Civil defence is part of the national defence structure. It ensures continuity to government action, on the one hand, by protecting the economic, productive and logistic capacity and, on the other hand, by reducing the impact of critical events affecting the population.

According to article 14 of Legislative Decree no. 300 dated 30 July 1999 (as subsequently amended), the Ministry of Interior, in its capacity as institution responsible for security and safety, is entrusted with civil defence. The Central Directorate for Civil Defence and Civil Protection Policies was established within the Department for Fire Service, Public Rescue and Civil Defence with the specific aim of carrying out this institutional mission.

## **Volunteer**

The National Fire Brigade avails itself of the contribution provided by both volunteer firefighters enrolled in the lists of provincial fire brigades and volunteer auxiliary firefighters formerly enrolled for service in provincial fire brigades. Citizens wishing to join the National Fire & Rescue Service as volunteer firefighters are required to submit an application either to the fire brigade in their province of residence or to a neighbouring one.

## **About the austerity**

In the last years, starting from 2010, we have had a cut on the financings of around 49%.

The hypothesis for 2015 is of a further cut of € 159 million.

Our salaries have been blocked in 2009 and they are still blocked.

We have fought with success to defend our pension age (60 years) from the attack of the government in 2011 that wanted to raise it to 62.

Our P.P.I. are old and they should be updated but we don't have the economic resources to do it.

We have had an increase of 1.000 firefighters in 2013 and other 1.000 firefighetrs in 2014.

We are using the few economic resources to train them.

Hoping to be useful I send you the best regards,

Danilo Zuliani.