Union calls for more firefighters and better conditions

Italy

With forest fires and flooding posing increasing demands on the fire service, the Fp Cgil public service union has called for employee numbers to be increased to 40000. The union argues that the current complement of 35000 is inadequate with many firefighters working double shifts, longer hours and more overtime. Fp Cgil says that excessive workloads leave workers no time for training and is worried that in the next negotiations the fire service will actually push for longer hours rather than address the staffing shortage. The union says that recruitment is crucial to reduce the average age (currently 47) and also that investment in vehicles and equipment is urgently needed. Furthermore, firefighters need additional insurance against accidents and occupational disease.

Fp Cgil
epsucob
2021 EPSU Collective Bargaining News August No.16

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Policies
Environment/Climate Change
Staffing levels
Networks
Firefighters