

“Health and Safety Strategy for Firefighters in the European Mediterranean Area”
2° Workshop 13-14-April 2009 - Diary by Franco Moretti.

They have participated to the meeting the secretary in charge of the EPSU, Penny Clarke, the President of the Services international Publics (PSI) Peter Waldorff, the secretary of the international field of the CCOO Jaceck Ciacma, the national secretary of the international field of the FP-CGIL, Rosa Pavanelli, the national firefighters secretary of the FP-CGIL, Franca Peroni and the national responsables of the trade-union firefighters associations, with many trade-union delegates of the countries partners in the project, coming from Spain - organizing country of the Workshop - Italy, Portugal, Greece, Malta and Slovenia.
The Croatia was absent for inherent problems to the trade-union rights.

The two days of job have dealt and deepened thematic relative to health and safety already delineated in the 1st Workshop of Rome fed from the contribution of the scientific study introduced from the Dr. Eldemiro Costas and from the Dr. Manuel Ariza on the protection devices or equipment used by the firefighters in their service. Through the job of the Dr. Sebastian Carton Gutierrez and of the Dr. Vicente M^a Moreno Mellado of the “Servicio Médico of the Cuerpo de Bomberos Comunidad de Madrid”, formative activities have been evidenced on the plan of the physical controls and medical profits to reduce to the lowest the risks for health and safety of the operating ones in the moments of the greater psycho-physical stress.

In the same meeting the Dr. Stefano Supino searcher and associate university professor of the university of Urbino, expert of the project, has introduced the results obtained through the questionnaire that has revealed itself, through the 180 voices of inquiry, one absolutely extraordinary instrument in order to trace a first one step of surveying in parallel of the state of the service in the countries of the area of the Mediterranean relatively to the organizational model, political of health and safety and to the estate of the social dialogue.

The argument has been ulteriorly enriched from the testimony directed from the zone of the earthquake of Aquila of the 24 april from the italian trade-union delegate Antonio Salvatori, that hat made to record commotion for the tragedy of the 300 dead and moments of solidarity strongly participated from part of all the present ones, for the debilitating work of the firemen for the aid to the hit populations, to greater reason because many rescuers, like Antonio, in that moment were also victims of the calamity, with relatives wife and sons remained without house.

Nadia Pagano, member of the secretariat of the project, has introduced the WEB, purposely constituted and previewed from the project in order to continue in the time informative/formative activity between the trade-union delegates of the Mediterranean Area.

Beginning from the initial speech of Jaceck Ciacma, the topic conductor of the workshop has been the universal character of the activity of the firefighters, everywhere it comes carried out. Between these they detach the professional risk and therefore the necessity to activate politics of health and safety for the operators and the extreme confidence that alloy this category of workers to the populations. Leaving from the history of the activity of firefighters since the times of the “gilda” in the first millenium, it has created a temporal relation between the refusal of the insurance companies to underwrite indemnifying policies to the firefighters, in reason of the risk inborn in the profession, and the daily times where they are the national or local governments to deny those resources financial indispensable to protect firefighters, being based on the same motivations.

Peter Waldorff makes know to the assembly the substantial uniformity of problematic existing between firefighters to world-wide level. The insufficient penetration of the trade-union associations allows that firefighters are deal to the stregua of the soldiers, without rights to contract to rights and protections, like as an example in Japan, one of the countries to the world more hit from natural calamities and with a great exposure of the workers to the professional usury, where does not exist the strike right and numerous suicides are recorded. In compensation, in the zones of the Pacific exists a net with Korea of the South and Australia between firefighters workers and of the

ambulances workers, that facilitates a standardization of the service, than reveals element of absolute guarantee regarding the estate of the health and safeting of the operating ones.

Damian Rodriguez, secretary of the firefighters of the CCOO, in quality of assembly president has marked the rhythm of the speeches by the representatives of the trade-union delegates on the starting relationships, evidencing a total picture of difficulty just on the plan closely connected to the protection of the health and safety, beyond of the remarkable existing differences in several countries from the point of view of the organizational model and the estate of the social dialogue.

All the countries participants have evidenced the deficiencies of political strategies in favour of the firefighters from part of the national governments, which base the own furtiveness just on the task that is not worth the pain to apply the guarantee norms that exist in other fields of the jobworld to a dangerous profession. In such sense the legend of the fireman-hero is revealed harmful, through which the consent of the populations is used just in order not to allocate enough resources to finance an increase of the standards of the equipment, the medical controls and the professional formation. Numerous participants have raised various objections on use of the voluntary service to political scopes and for clear attempt of privatization, for which their participation on the scenes of intervention instead of being a wealth it is becoming the excuse in order not to invest resources or to use them in way distorted to how much profit for the public service.

Penny Clarke has placed the accent on the usefulness of a push action of the governments of the single countries in the comparisons of the UE to the aim to obtain directives in field of civil protection in order to arrive to short to models standard regarding the interventions and to the prevention from jobincidents and professional diseases.

She has proposed to carry the project of the Mediterranean Area inside the European arguments of the Firefightingmeeting for the next 23 September , at last to mature common sets and proposed. The participants to the project must enter stably in the already existing net in Europe. The relative vicissitudes to the working hours gushed from the Bolkenstein directive have demonstrated that it is not useful to talk over local problem, since do not exist different problematic for the job world as it has remembered us in this workshop the world-wide movement publicworkers represented from the PSI.

Franca Peroni has evidenced that the problem of the working hours, place from the Bolkenstein directive, demonstrates that the UE is losing its functions of guarantor subject of the levels of the public service, promoting in first person the connected social dumping to the lowering of the protections till now guaranteed from one great tradition of social Europe. On this general condition are grafted also the reasonings on the voluntary service, it is to define who makes what, where the professionals must arrive and where the voluntary service, for this beside the regulator activity of Europe are useful good laws, placed side by side from one contractual ability of the mayoralty to the national governments and to European level.

Rosa Pavanelli, in drawing the conclusions of the two days of workshop has indicated in the project in course an opportunity for giving body to that paper of European firefighters rights a lot laboriously constructed. The questionnaire has carried to turns out that they constitute a sure ahead step, that July will be necessary translate in the time of means until the reunion of Lubiana of the 7 p.v. in one regarding vindicative platform the topics deals and in particular those to you of the protection of the health and the emergency of the operating ones. An obviously common goal of the EPSU and the National Fire Departments in the comparisons of the UE. The SITUATED one, purposely constructed, could be the instrument with which convogliare flows of coming from ideas from the countries of the Area of the Mediterranean, putting them in condition for opening a permanent dialogue with other countries already in Europe or candidates to become it and that put in contact working and city. The battle gained against the directive on the working hours renders the importance of the common action of all the European mayoralties obvious, so that the UE not only watches with greater attention to the rights of the job and the people and to the understood one them and the banks.

