



**Federation of the European Union Fire  
Officer Associations a.s.b.l**  
[www.f-e-u.org](http://www.f-e-u.org)

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC ORDER & CITIZEN PROTECTION  
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Via e-mail [pressoffice@yptp.gr](mailto:pressoffice@yptp.gr)  
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- The President –  
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Dear Sir,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Federation of European Fire Officer Associations (FEU) currently comprising member organisations from 22 European countries represented by principle career fire officers.

The principal aim of FEU is to enhance fire safety and provide expertise to European bodies in matters concerning the development of fire brigades and fire safety in Europe and especially in respect of organization and management, structure; technical skills, training and fire engineering so as to gain the most effective, efficient and economic means for mitigating the loss and damage to life, property and national economies by fire, other emergencies (including catastrophic national disasters) and all related environmental issues.

The fire chiefs in Europe are seeing the economical crisis as the major challenge for their services in the future. All our colleagues are trying hard to face that challenge without an unacceptable reduction of the quality of the fire service.

The example of Estonia may highlight that extreme cuts of the fire service budget (since 2009) have a very negative effect on the capability of the fire service to protect the citizens, their property and the natural treasure of the country.

We are well aware of the need for the Greek government to cut costs to overcome the economical crisis and we hope that Greece will succeed.

These savings weigh heavily on the nation as a whole and consequently also on our Greek colleagues and their families.

We sincerely hope and beg you to take into account in your difficult decision process that

- cuts of salaries must not force fire fighters to leave the service;
- the capability of the fire service (equipment, maintenance and personnel) must not be decreased to a level that compromises safety of people and may result in bigger losses of property and environment in the future;
- an efficient and effective fire and rescue service means much more than only costs for a country; but it protects people's lives and also helps to reduce bad effects on the economy if a fire, a manmade or natural disaster occurs.

Sincerely

  
**Dieter Nuessler**  
**President**