



PANHELLENIC FEDERATION
UNIONS OF FIRE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES
(P.O.E.Y.P.S.)

CYPRUS FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION
(SY.PY.K.)



European Initiative of Firefighters of Greece and Cyprus

1. Proposal for a European Directive and title of the proposed directive:

"European Directive on the Recognition of the Firefighter Profession as Dangerous and Unhealthy - Strengthening the Protection of the Health and Safety of Firefighters in the European Union".

Objective: The establishment of a common European framework that will recognize the nature of the firefighter profession as particularly dangerous and unhealthy and will impose minimum standards of protection, staffing and health monitoring.

Key points of the proposed directive:

1. Official European recognition of the firefighter profession as dangerous and unhealthy.
2. Establishing minimum standards for the health and safety of firefighters.
3. Recognition of specific forms of cancer as an occupational disease of firefighters.
4. Creation of a European register of occupational risks for firefighters.
5. Establishing minimum staffing levels in fire services.
6. Strengthening education and prevention for risks related to forest and agricultural fires, industrial accidents, natural and unnatural disasters.
7. European funding programs for equipment and protection of firefighters.

Necessity : Climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of fires and other natural disasters. Firefighters are the first line of defense for European societies and a unified European policy is needed to protect them.

2. Memorandum for MEPs (Policy Brief) Subject:

"Protection of Firefighters in Europe and the Need for Institutional Recognition of the Profession".

What is the problem:

Firefighters in many European countries work in high-risk conditions, without a unified European framework recognizing the profession as dangerous and unhealthy.

Why it is important:

- Increased forest and agricultural fires due to climate change.
- Exposure of firefighters to carcinogens and toxic fumes.
- Increasing operational pressure on fire services.



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What are the firefighters of Greece and Cyprus asking for:

1. Recognition of the profession as dangerous and unhealthy at the European level.
2. European health and safety standards for firefighters.
3. Recognition of cancer as an occupational disease.
4. Strengthening human resources in fire services.
5. European prevention and education programs.

What can MEPs do:

- Promoting debate in the European Parliament.
- Submitting questions to the European Commission.
- Support for an initiative for a European directive.
- Collaboration with firefighter organizations to promote the issue.

CONCLUSION:

Protecting firefighters is an investment in the safety of European citizens. Institutional recognition of the profession and strengthening fire services are necessary to address modern challenges.

Best regards,

For the Boards of Directors of the P.O.E.Y.P.S. and the SY.PY.K.

