



**“Recent Developments and Needs for Wildfire Fighting on the Ground:
Tactics and Technologies”**

A Video Conference organized by

Field Analytical Chemistry and Technology Unit/ National Technical University of Athens
(FIACU / NTUA), FP7 FIRELI project (No 222152)

Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) (Conference Chair)

European Center for Forest Fires (ECFF)

10 June 2010

10:00 CET

**Video broadcasting at:
<rtsp://147.102.221.130:5554/broadcast/groundmeans.rm>**

The video conference was organized in cooperation and participation with:





Conclusions of the Conference: A Catalogue of Ideas

- During an extremely large forest fire event (fire emergency situation), countries that are asking for assistance often are faced with problems of compatibility both in technical and procedural terms. Compatibility of equipment / appliances for fire suppression, including water supply, are critical.
- Agreements and use of standards of hoses and hose couplings in EU countries would increase interoperability of cooperating teams. Training programs (exercises), especially among countries sharing a common border, are recommended. Cooperation agreements between authorities at local and regional levels would increase the speed and efficiency of border-crossing
- Safety of firefighters extremely depends on the hose life during the fire-suppression; sufficient fire and abrasion resistance, so that to water circulation inside the hose without any leaking or pressure drop is ensured.
- Operational performance of an innovative formula for fire-fighting hoses has been evaluated and validated through a field test protocol, by simulating real fire conditions.
- Benchmarking of existing ground fire fighting means, e.g. coupling and hoses, as well as recording of end-user requirements could show technological trends and challenges for new effective products
- Furthermore it was noted that:
 - Aerial firefighting could be used supportively to ground means suppression
 - Early Detection Systems can contribute to fire risk reduction; this is specifically important for coping with extremely dangerous situations, such as fires in irradiated forests and terrains contaminated by Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and land mines
 - The development and use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and robotics should be promoted as tools for field monitoring in a fire incident (fire behaviour, fire emissions, etc.)