

EDITOR'S ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER:  
R.T.D. WILMOT  
12 Kylestrome House

Cundy Street  
London SW1W 93T  
Tel: (0171) 730-5133

Fax: (0181) 255-7903

### 1. United Nations Fire Statistics Study

The Centre presented its annual report to the UN Committee on Human Settlements at the meeting in Geneva in September 1997.

The following 8 tables of international fire costs comparisons appeared in the report:

TABLE 1. Cost of Direct Fire Losses (in millions, except for Italy and **Japan** billions)

Adjusted direct losses

Country	Curr.	1992		1993	1994	Percentage of GDP
		Direct	Losses	Direct	Direct	
Japan	Yen		440390	4800.09		
Hungary	Ft			0.12		(1986-88)
Spain	Pta			0.12		(1984)
Poland	ZI		220	2600.13		
United States	\$US		8,700	9,000		8,6000.13
Australia	\$A		690610	0.16		(1992-93)
Finland	FMJc		850	7700.16		(1993-94)
United Kingdom	£		1,200	900950		0.16
NewZealand	\$NZ		165135	1450.18		
Austria	Sch		5,000	3,500		3,8000.19
Germany	DM		5,850	5,900		6,1500.19
Netherlands	Dfl		1,000	1,450		1,1000.20
Canada	\$Can		1,700	1,650		1,6000.23
Switzerland	SwF			0.23		(1989)
Denmark	DKr		2,350	1,950		2,1000.24
Norway	NKr		2,000	1,950		1,9500.24
Sweden	SKr		3,650	3,500		3,6500.24
France	FF		18,700	17,000		17,500 0.25
Italy	Lit		4,700	5,000		0.30(1993-94)
Belgium	BF			0.40		(1988-89)

Note: Fire losses include explosion losses following fires, but exclude explosion loss where no fire occurs, eg some acts of terrorism.

Average percentage of GDP (1992-94)

**TABLE 2 . Costs of Indirect Fire Losses**

Country	
Norway	0.006
Sweden	0.008
USA	0.012
Italy	0.014 (1993-94)
Japan	0.016 (1985-86)
UK	0.018
Canada	0.022 (1991)
Finland	0.025 (1993-94)
Austria	0.026
France	0.027 (1993-94)
Germany	0.029
Hungary	0.029 (1992-93)
Denmark	0.030
Switzerland	0.095 (1989)

Note: This table must be regarded with serious reservations - the figures are produced on widely varying bases and some of the differences look too large for credibility.

**TABLE 3- Fire Deaths**

Country	Adjusted figures (fire deaths)		
	1992	1993	1994
Switzerland	45	35	35
Netherlands	95	90	90
Austria	65	60	70
Spain	335		
Australia	175	165	
New Zealand	30	40	35
Germany	910	875	745
Czech Republic	130	105	
France	645	725	
Sweden	110	120	115
UK	895	790	770
Japan	1,920	1,880	1,900
Canada	440	460	415
Norway	75	65	55
Poland	645	595	595
Denmark	90	75	90
Greece	200	170	160
USA	5,100	5,000	4,650
Finland		130	120
Hungary	315	365	335

**TABLE 4 Population Comparisons for Fire Deaths (1992-1994)**

Population comparisons for fire deaths

<b>Country</b>	<b>Deaths per 100,000 persons</b>	
Switzerland	0.55	
Netherlands	0.60	
Austria	0.82	
Spain	0.86	(1991-92)
Australia	0.97	(1992-93)
New Zealand	1.01	
Germany	1.04	
Czech Republic	1.14	(1992-93)
France	1.19	(1992-93)
Sweden	1.32	
UK	141	
Belgium	1.47	(1989-91)
Japan	1.52	
Canada	1.52	
Norway	1.59	
Poland	1.59	
Denmark	1.64	
Greece	1.70	
USA	1.91	
Finland	2.46	(1993-94)
Hungary	3.29	

Note: Population figures used are derived from the United Nations Demographic Yearbook.

**TABLE 5- Cost of Fire Fighting Organizations**

Average percentage of GDP (1992-1994)

<b>Country</b>	<b>%</b>	
Austria	0.09	(1994)
Denmark	0.09	(1987-88)
Norway	0.11	
Netherlands	0.16	
New Zealand	0.17	
Belgium	0.18	(1987-89)
Poland	0.19	(1993-94)
Sweden	0.20	
UK	0.26	
USA	0.28	
Finland	0.29	(1993-94)
Japan	0.31	
Canada	0.35	(1991)

**TABLE 6- Costs of Fire Insurance Administration**

Average percentage of GDP (1992-1994)

<b>Country</b>		
Hungary	0.01	(1987-88)
Netherlands	0.04	(1987-88)
Spain	0.05	(1986)
Canada	0.06	(1991)
Finland	0.06	(1993-94))
Italy	0.06	
Sweden	0.07	
Denmark	0.08	(1987-88)
USA	0.08	
Germany	0.09	
France	0.10	(1994)
Japan	0,11	
Norway	0.11	
UK	0.12	
Austria	0.14	(1979-80)
New Zealand	0.19	
Belgium	0.28	(1988-89)

**TABLE 7- Costs of Fire Protection to Buildings**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Fire Protection %</b>	<b>Cost (in millions except for Italy and Japan -billions)</b>			
		<b>Currency</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>
Canada	3.9	\$Can	2,300	2,400	2,200
France	2,5	FF	13,000	12,300	11,200
Italy	4,0	Lit	6,100	5,900	5,700
Japan	2.5	Yen	1,230	1,130	1,100
Netherlands	3,0	Dfl	1,830	1,830	1,830
NewZealand	2.5	\$NZ	85	110	140
Norway	3.5	NKr	2,800		3,000
Sweden	2.5	Skr	1,850	1,850	1,950
UnitedKingdom	1.8 (1992) 1.7 (1993) 1,8 (1994)	£	850	810	880
USA		US\$	17,500	18,500	20,100

Note: In the United Kingdom, the estimated lire protection costs varied from 1 per cent for housing to 7 per cent for industrial buildings, in the United States, from 2.5 per cent for housing to 12 per cent for private non-residential structures, and in Canada from 2 per cent for single homes to 13.2 per cent for high-rise apartments.

**TABLE 8- Fire Protection to Buildings**

Average percentage of GDP (1992-1994)

Country	%	
Sweden	0.13	
UK	0.13	
New Zealand	0.14	
France	0.16	
Belgium	0.21	(1987-88)
Japan	0.25	
USA	0.28	
Switzerland	0.29	(1989)
Netherlands	0.31	
Canada	0.31	
Norway	0.35	(1992, 94)
Italy	0.38	
Hungary	0.42	(1987-88)

**UN Scheme Endorsed**

In their session held in Geneva on September 17, 1997, the United Nations Committee expressed its interest in the Report, thanked Mr. Wilmot, invited him to present a similar report to its next session and encouraged countries which had not yet done so to participate in the study.

**European Parliament and Fire Costs**

Following a meeting with Sir Christopher Prout MEP and with DG ill (Industry), Sir Christopher in 1994 drafted the following Motion for resolution by the European Parliament:

“Whereas fire is currently costing countries of the European Union approximately 1% of GDP, Whereas in comparison with road safety, crime prevention and industrial safety, little or nothing is being done to monitor progress on safety measures, Whereas the rewards have been high for Governments, such as the United States of America, which have organised a determined campaign to cut fire costs,

**NOW THEREFORE**

1. The European Parliament urges the Council of Ministers to make a public announcement stating their concern over the level of fire costs in the EU.
2. The European Parliament calls on the European Commission to establish a Working Party of fire experts whose terms of reference would be to recommend ways of tackling the fire problem.”

Sir Christopher (now Lord Kingsland) is no longer an MEP, but in 1995 Ms Christine Crawley MEP put down a similar Motion which went to the Environment Committee in 1996. However, only three of the twenty proposed Motions before the Environment Committee were accepted for pursuit and, although the fire resolution was “recognised to be an issue of great importance”, it was not accepted. The Centre regards this European approach as of prime importance and continues to pursue it energetically. Lord Kingsland recently raised it with the Chairman of the Environment Committee, who said that he was happy to Support European action in this area and that he had taken the matter up with the Commissioner involved.

**International Conferences.**

The Centre was represented at the annual meeting of CFPA\* Europe in Rome in June 1997.