



## **Statement of solidarity with European firefighters combating wildfires**

On behalf of Fagforbundet I express our deepest sympathy with everyone affected by the horrific wildfires that are currently raging in Mediterranean countries. Greece has faced more than 500 wildfires during this summer alone. Wildfires are posing an existential threat to affected communities and have caused a large number of casualties. As a union for fire and rescue personnel, Fagforbundet expresses solidarity with all European firefighters, other first responders and volunteers currently involved in combating wildfires.

Fagforbundet, along with EPSU, urges governments to make sure that public services, such as fire and rescue departments, receive funding that enables them to train and equip their personnel sufficiently. Firefighters are facing extreme conditions and governments must preserve their health and safety in their dangerous work to save others. Further, the increasing threat of extreme weather and climate related disasters demonstrate the need for climate adaptation to reduce the risk of lives and values being lost in weather induced hazards. This cannot be done without a strong public sector. Therefore, it is essential that public services in general receive sufficient funding.

Firefighters and other workers deal with the consequences of global warming firsthand. In addition to climate adaptation, it is crucial that we confront the underlying causes of global warming with climate change mitigation. After a summer with a wide range of examples of extreme weather, we expect national governments to increase their efforts to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

### **Fagforbundet**

Mette Nord (President)