



ORGANIZZAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE TRASPORTI A FUNE
INTERNATIONALE ORGANISATION FÜR DAS SEILBAHNWESEN
ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DES TRANSPORTS A CÂBLES
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR TRANSPORTATION BY ROPE
ORGANISACION INTERNACIONAL DE TRANSPORTES POR CABLE

O.T.A.F. NEWS

2nd Half-year 2006
The same issue has been published:
in German
French and
Italian

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President's preface

Dear readers

The want of snow and relatively high temperatures of this year's winter season quite understandably worry all professions whose activities are directly or indirectly tributary of the activities of the ropeway industry, but more than any other concerned branch, the profession of ropeway operators and ropeway manufacturers.

This circumstance no doubt heightens everybody's awareness of global climatic changes and consciousness of the need to safeguard a balanced equilibrium of development and sustainable protection.

May this situation, awareness and consciousness give birth to a constructive dialogue and improved mutual understanding between ecological associations and representatives of the economy permitting to eliminate fruitless discussions and misrepresentations of facts and truth which blur the decision makers' and users' understanding of problems.

The activity of O.I.T.A.F. study committees and working groups provides our interlocutors with results which bear witness of the fact that safety (of passengers) and sustained development rank topmost among all efforts and considerations which are being made to preserve and improve the position of ropeway installations as a means of transport serving the international tourism.

Jean Charles Faraudo

Note of the Secretary General

The predominant event in the second half of 2006 has actually been the meeting of the Management Committee held in Munich on September 18, 2006 at which the committee took several important decisions. For details see the report on the activities of the Management Committee.

The President of O.I.T.A.F. and the Secretary General have represented O.I.T.A.F. in a meeting held in Brussels by the Standing Committee, i.e. the committee which has been set up in accordance with the provisions

of the EU Directive 2000/9/EC to assist the EU Commission in matters related to the application of the EU Directive. The Secretary General has also attended the meeting of CEN TC 242 in Winterthur (CH). Having the status of observer O.I.T.A.F. is invited to attend meetings of these international institutions and is in the lucky position to have direct access to important information and pass to own members the information on decisions that have been taken and questions that have been discussed at these meetings. O.I.T.A.F. has also received a report on the annual meeting of the International Meeting of Ropeway Technical Supervisory Authorities and is pleased to convey to own members information on the most important questions which have been discussed by attending delegates. Interested readers will find a summarized report further down.

One of the organisation's aims prescribed by the O.I.T.A.F. statute being the organisation of annual seminars you will find further down a report on the seminar 2006.

It should also be mentioned that in 2006 O.I.T.A.F. has approved two O.I.T.A.F. recommendations which have been posted to all O.I.T.A.F. members and co-workers. In order to accommodate the whole text and tables produced in different colours the Recommendations for the construction and operation of material handling uni-directional and reversible aerial ropeways, cable cranes and material handling funiculars were printed and issued in the form of a book.

Reports on the activity of O.I.T.A.F. study committees and that of the working group on "Environment" are to be found on the last pages of this issue of the O.I.T.A.F.-NEWS..

Errate Corrigum

In the first issue of O.I.T.A.F NEWS 2006, i.e. OITAF-NEWS, first half-year 2006, Recommendations for the Chairlift transportation of children less than 1,25 m high : the wording of the title and of the note added in brackets to the paragraph Escort (Cf legal provisions for children which have been enforced by several countries) should read Accompanying persons and the note (Accompanying persons : Cf national regulations)

In the same issue of O.I.T.A.F. NEWS, i.e. OITAF-NEWS, first half-year 2006, chapter

International Information, paragraph Updating of harmonized standards, the English version of the report on the Standing Committee of the EU Commission is not correct. .

Paragraph 1

Add the following wording at the end of the paragraphor is not foreseen

Hence the amended English version should read :

Delegates were reminded that the last CEN standards for safety requirements of ropeway installations designed to carry persons had been published in the Official Journal of the European Communities in September 2005 and their attention was drawn to the fact that most countries have already published the source of reference of national standards transposing the European harmonized standards, that however in some countries the translation of standards has not been completed or not even foreseen.

Paragraph 3 : The English version is misleading because it refers to loading bands installed in several ski areas to help skiers to board chairlifts and not to the mandate given to the new working group, i.e. the loading bands designed as an uphill means of conveyance of skiers.

The amended English version should therefore read

Delegates were also informed that the CEN Technical Committee 242 has decided to set up in addition to the various working groups which have produced the published standards a new working group and to assign it the mandate to draft a standard for safety requirements for loading bands designed as an uphill means of conveyance of skiers, even though this system of conveyance is not covered by the scope of the European Directive.

Activities of the Management Committee and of the Executive Committee.

Accepting an invitation extended by TÜV the Management Committee met for their 111th meeting on September 18, 2006 in Munich.

The most important decisions the committee has taken at that meeting were the decisions on the following issues:

- Approval of the list of requirements to be met by the place of venue of the O.I.T.A.F. worldwide International Conference 2011. (The list has already been published in the last issue of O.I.T.A.F.-NEWS.)

- Next O.I.T.A.F. seminar (Cf report further down)
- Approval of Recommendation for Chairlift Transportation of Children (the recommendation has already been published in the last issue of O.I.T.A.F.-NEWS and has been posted to all members)

No meeting of the Executive committee has been convened in the period covered by this report.

O.I.T.A.F. Seminar

We have already informed readers in the past that the Management Committee had decided to entrust to O.I.T.A.F. committee 1 "Ropeway technique and technical recommendations" chaired by Dipl. Ing. Dr. Peter Sedivy the mission to organize a seminar on

THE SAFETY OF ROPEWAY INSTALLATIONS : WHAT CAN WE DO TO REMAIN A SAFE MEANS OF TRANSPORT

Date of the seminar : April 18, 2007

Place of venue : Kongresszentrum
Innsbruck am Rennweg, meeting room
"Innsbruck".

Time 9.30 a.m.

Interpretation provided into: German, English, Italian, French

The programme of the seminar includes an opening address by the President of O.I.T.A.F., J.C. Faraudo, an introductory presentation of the subject of the seminar by Dipl. Ing. Dr. Peter Sedivy, the moderator of the seminar, and the following lectures:

10.00 a.m. **„BEGINNING OF SAFETY – HAZARD SCENARIOS”**
Fritz MEYER (SUVA)

10.30 a.m. **“CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES : EXTENT AND UTILITY”**
Michael Mathis (Doppelmayr Garaventa)

11.00 a.m. **“EXPERIENCE SO FAR MADE BY A NOTIFIED BODY, THE TÜV SÜD, WITH THE EU DI-**

**RECTIVE RELATING TO
ROPEWAY INSTALLATIONS
CERTIFICATION OF SUBSYS-
TEMS AND SAFETY COMPO-
NENTS, INTERFACES**

Hans-Ulrich Zbil (TÜV SÜD)

11.30-12.00 a.m. **QUESTION TIME: Dis-
cussion of and replies to ques-
tions**

Break for lunch

1.30 p.m. **“SAFETY ANALYSIS ACCORD-
ING TO THE REQUIREMENTS
OF THE EU DIRECTIVE: OB-
JECTIVE AND FEED BACK”**

Jean Paul Huard (Pomagalsky)
Gaetan Rioult (STRMTG)

2.00 p.m. **“THE SAFE COUPLING PRO-
CEDURE ,HAZARDS ARISING
DURING THE ATTACHMENT
AND DETACHMENT OF GRIPS
AND APPROPRIATE MEAS-
URES TO PREVENT OR
ELIMINATE THESE HAZARDS”**

Rudolf Beha (Leitner)

2.30 p.m. **“OPTIMIZATION OF RESCU-
ING METHODS – RESULTS OF
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PRO-
JECTS”**

Frank Wagner (BG Bahnen)
Hans Jürgen Ottersbach (BG Ar-
beitsschutz)

3.00 p.m. **„THE OPERATION OF ROPE-
WAY INSTALLATIONS – THE
LAST ELEMENT OF THE
SAFETY ANALYSIS“**

Walter Bolliger (Swiss Ropeways
Association)

3.30 p.m. **QUESTION TIME: Discussion
of and replies to questions**

3.45 p.m. **CONCLUSIONS**

Readers will find enclosed in this issue of O.I.T.A.F.-NEWS a registration form. May we ask interested readers to compile it and send it to the O.I.T.A.F. Secretariat. Registration forms can also be loaded down from the O.I.T.A.F. Homepage.

INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION

**EU Directive 2000/9/EC relating to rope-
way installations designed to carry per-
sons**

Standing Committee established under the provisions of the Directive 2000/9/EC relating to ropeway installations designed to carry persons.

The Standing Committee for ropeway installations designed to carry persons has been convened for its 6th meeting in Brussels on December 1st, 2006. Under the provisions of the same Directive the Standing Committee has the task to assist the EU Commission in matters related to the application of the Directive relating to ropeway installations designed to carry persons. The Standing Committee is composed of representatives of member countries. Several representatives without voting rights, i.e. representatives of three international organisations i.e. O.I.T.A.F., IARM (the international organisation of ropeway manufacturers) and FIANET (the international association of ropeway operators), as well as representatives of notified bodies are also invited to attend meetings of the Standing Committee.

The meeting addressed the following important issues:

Meeting of the group “Notified bodies”

The Standing Committee were informed that H. Weiss, TÜV SÜD, has taken his retirement and has hence resigned his office as convener of the above group. At this group’s last meeting Senior Miguel Blanco Rodriguez, AENOR, Spain, has accepted to chair this group in future. Senior Blanco Rodriguez has also submitted a report on the outcome of and activities carried out by the last meetings of this group. He reported in particular on the following issues:

- Recommendations for use
At their last meeting the group approved the draft Recommendations for use, a document which specifies procedural requirements for the execution of conformity assessments of safety components (Annex V of the EU Directive) and subsystems (Annex Vii of the EU Directive). Information on these Recommendations was spread within CIRCA.

- Period of validity of certificates
Even though the Commission had declared that with one exception, i.e. the module B certificates, in their view no time limit needs ought to be specified for the validity of certificates, time limits have been introduced in some instances.

Chaired by Daniel Bunch and Mrs. Belen-Niceas Martinez-Arriola the Commission has addressed the following issues:

Loading bands designed as up-hill means of conveyance of skiers

Mandate to draft harmonized standards for loading bands designed as up-hill means of conveyance of skiers.

CEN has filed with the EU Commission the application for a mandate to draft a harmonized standard. The wording of the wording of the application has however been deemed to be imperfect in that no reference is made therein to the applicable directive.

Jacques Laravoire, president of CEN Technical Committee TC 242 drew the meeting's attention to the fact that it is rather difficult to identify clearly the applicable directive seen that in his view there are two EU Directives which might be considered as being applicable to this means of conveyance, i.e. the EU Directive relating to ropeway installations designed to carry persons and the EU Machine Directive. This is why CEN have decided to examine this issue at length and in depth and having done so submit an additional well-founded report to the EU Commission.

National transposition of CEN standards relating to the operation of ropeway installations i.e. standards which are directly correlated with essential requirements of the EU Directive, such as for instance parts of the standard EN 1909 – Operation, standard EN 1709 – Precommissioning inspection, maintenance and operational inspection - and standard EN 1909 – Recovery and evacuation - as well as parts of other standards.

In reply to a question raised by Sweden the meeting's attention has been drawn to the fact that in principle operation as such and all issues which have a direct bearing on the operation of ropeway installations are deemed to be national affairs, but that notwithstanding that in the Annex ZA of the above mentioned

standards reference is made to the EU Directive.

The role of governmental authorities and the importance of effect their decisions have for the use of ropeway subsystems and safety components.

The EU Commission declared in quite definite way that governmental authorities shall not be permitted to create obstacles to trade and introduction on the market of safety components and subsystems.

Cases of existing obstacles have already been notified to the EU Commission,

Technical documentation which must be submitted to authorities for certified components of a ropeway installation

Reference has been made to a document submitted by the EU Commission containing a table listing all documents that must be submitted for subsystems and safety components.

Agreement has been reached on this document and the tables after a short discussion.

Extent to which the EU Directive is deemed to be applicable to refurbished ropeway installations

The EU Commission stressed the fact that Art. 1, par. 4 of the EU Directive has to be complied with and that national authorities are required to decide the extent to which this provision of the EU Directive shall be complied with.

Relocation of existing ropeway installations is not within the competence of the EU Commission and hence only within the exclusive competence of member states.

J.P. Farauo informed the meeting that O.I.T.A.F. have decided to draft international recommendations for the relocation of existing ropeway installations.

Application of the EU Directive to ropeway installations built in ski-dromes and special atypical ropeway installations, such as for instance those built in leisure parks.

Germany submitted a report on two ropeway installations, one of which is a unidirectional ropeway in a ski-drome and the other a kind of funicular, the vehicle of which is travelling on rails and is drawn by a rope and is detached from the rope once it has completed its uphill travel. Passengers board it to be taken up-hill but it can also be used for down-

hill trips along a track similar to the track of a mountain railway.

Having discussed at length this issue all participants agreed in the end that the EU Directive is applicable.

Market control to assess the compliance with the requirements of the EU Directive

Germany informed the meeting on a proposed system of market observation applicable to the ropeway industry.

The above list of subjects that have been dealt with by the meeting shows the Commission's great interest for issues related to the safety of ropeway installations, as well as the Commission's incontestable intent to achieve a uniform and conform application of the directive in all member countries.

CEN standards

Chaired by the committee's president Jacques Laravoire, the CEN Technical Committee met for their 29th meeting in Winterthur on November 22nd, 2006.

Amongst other items of the agenda the Technical Committee addressed the following issues :



Resumption and continuation of the work on Data Recording Devices for Ropeway Installations

Switzerland having raised this issue and put questions to the meeting, the meeting had a short discussion and has finally decided to invite the ad hoc group on Data Recording Devices chaired by Ing. Fornasa to resume work and draft recommendations for Data Recording Devices by elaborating on the document which had already been produced

by this working group and submit their draft to the Technical Committee 242.

This is why the Secretary has sent a letter to all members of CEN TC 242 inviting them to let the Secretariat know the names of experts they intend to delegate into this ad hoc working group latest by February 14, 2007.

Standardisation of loading bands designed as an uphill means of conveyance of skiers.

The draft standard produced by the CEN Working group on Loading bands designed as uphill means of conveyance chaired by Monsieur Bonnetton has been sent to all member countries for comment. The working group are now waiting for their comments.

J. Laravoire reported that the EU had not so far issued the mandate to draft a harmonized standard because people are still wondering whether the standard is meant as a supporting standard of the EU Machinery Directive or of the EU Directive relating to ropeway installations designed to carry persons.

This question has also been discussed by the Standing Committee of the EU Commission. Cf. the report on the Standing Committee.

Harmonisation of information signs installed in and along ropeway installations

Sweden has asked whether CEN have in mind to produce a standard for information signs, signs giving directions and prohibiting signs to be installed in and along ropeway installations.

Having discussed this question at length the Technical Committee have taken the following decision: Provided the issue has not been and is not being dealt with by ISO, the CEN Technical Committee 242 would accept to produce a Technical Report (CEN/TR) on standardised signs intended as a means of information for users of ropeway installations. Responsibility for the drafting of this technical report has been assigned to an enlarged working group on Operation.

We wish to inform herewith our readers that ISO have already approved standards for information signs.

Procedures for the amendment of harmonised standards (Standard maintenance)

Austria has submitted several amendments to published harmonised standards. The meeting has discussed at length two proposals relating to the procedure to be followed..

Seen that it seemed impossible to reach agreement in the meeting the President Laroivre suggested to ask for the time being the Project Group to examine the amendments which Austria has proposed and submit a report to the Technical Committee to be used as a working document for the exchange of information on past experience and reference document for the choice on the most appropriate procedure.

Appointment of new Working Group Convenors

The meeting agreed to appoint two Swiss delegates as future convenors of working group F – Electrical Equipment – and working Group G – Civil Engineering. They are Kuno Meier as convenor of working group F and Urs Dietrich as convenor of working group G.

International meeting of Technical Supervisory Authorities (ITTAB)

The 56th International meeting of Technical Supervisory Authorities was held in Aix les Bains from September 25 to 28, 2006.



The delegation of USA

Delegates of the technical supervisory authorities of the following countries have attended the meeting : the host country, France, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Spain, Andorra, Finland, USA, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Poland, Slovakia, Japan and for the first time China, South Korea, Rumania and Portugal

The host of the meeting, F. Gruffaz, Director of STRMTG, presented an overall survey of the structure of the French ropeway supervisory authority, as well as of the four laws

which were passed in the last few years to meet the new requirements of the Directive, i.e. a decree specifying requirements to be met by ropeway master plans, a decree relating to the operation of ropeway installation and the conditions to be met, a decree relating to the construction and operation of skitows and last but not least a decree relating to loading bands intended as up-hill means of conveyance for skiers.

In his statement F. Gruffaz also stressed the importance of the meeting of supervisory authorities in that it offers to all supervisory authorities the possibility to meet as partners and exchange their views.

As in past meetings, this year again the exchange of information about significant events and accident of ropeway installations may be regarded as the main item of the meeting's agenda, an exchange which includes also the presentation of national statistical surveys showing the number and type of ropeway installations built in the respective country, the number of carried persons and the number of declared events and accidents. These surveys also showed that all countries record a slight decline of accidents.

The consequences of an earthquake in Japan, degree of intensity 6.8, are quite impressive i.e. the derailment of the rope of 45 ropeway installations (39 fixed grip and 6 detachable grip ropeways).

As for the problem of passengers falling down from the chair of chairlifts a special mention ought to be made of the regulation passed in Andorra: indeed under this regulation all ski schools are required to organize teaching courses on rules of behaviour for users of ropeway installations. The timely, or rather untimely opening of the safety bar is an important aspect which is also being dealt with in these teaching courses. Andorra is no doubt in the position to convey an all-round information of skiers seen that skiing is a compulsory teaching subject of school going pupils until they have completed the age of 15 years.

The second main subject addressed by this meeting were the technical problems of ropeway installations.

Switzerland made a presentation of a newly developed safety monitoring system of ropeway installations. The system is supported by the following three essential pillars :

- 1) Recording
- 2) Overall knowledge of events
- 3) audits, operational checks, technical checks

France has also carried out last year with highly satisfactory results the audit of three ropeway operators which have been certified to ISO 9001. Several members of the STRMTG staff have attended training courses for auditors. The scope of the audit includes an audit of the operation and an audit of the maintenance. Audits were carried out to the French ropeway standard and not to ISO 9001. It has been pointed out that audits are complementary to the recurrent technical visit of ropeway installations. This approach has been developed first for railways and in a second step extended to include ropeway installations.

Switzerland reported on the positive experience which has been made with locked safety bars of chairlift chairs which remain locked during the trip. If chairs have no footrest this solution may be recommended only for chairlifts having a short travelling time. The same subject has been dealt with by France whose delegate presented an illustration of a patent which has been filed. The solution consists of a permanent magnet fixed to the back of the chair. Another, yet smaller magnet is placed in the rucksack worn by children. Thus owing to the exerted attraction the child is held back on the chair and against the back of the chair. A short time before the chair reaches the unloading point an electromagnet perturbs the permanent magnet, the child is no longer held back by the magnet and can disembark.

This effect is achieved by introducing an extra low voltage at the unloading point. The system was to be fitted to two detachable grip chairlifts in France and tested during the winter season. Ski schools have accepted to lease for rent the rucksacks with the magnet. As for the non destructive testing of carrier grips France announced that France prefers to use an improved magnetic induction test procedure combined with ultraviolet light instead of the dye penetration test. Of course the test piece has to be carefully cleaned before the test.

The party were taken to a trip and offered the opportunity to visit the two tiers reversible ae-

rial ropeway "Vanoise Express", the carrier carrying 117 persons on the lower tier and 84 on the upper tier which make up to an overall carrying capacity equal to 201 persons. The single span which is 1824 m long connects unsupported the two terminals 380 m above the valley below.

ACTIVITIES OF O.I.T.A.F. COMMITTEES

O.I.T.A.F. COMMITTEE 1: Ropeway technique and technical recommendations
 Chairman : Dipl. Ing. Dr. Peter Sedivy, Österreichisches Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Innovation und Technologie
 Dr. Sedivy's has sent the following report:

In the year 2006 the committee met for a first two-days meeting in Vienna on May 9 and 10 and for a second two-days meeting in Prague on October 5 and 6. The committee has hoped to finalize their draft Recommendations for hazard scenarios of continuous movement aerial ropeways which ought to be taken into account in a safety analysis of continuous movement ropeway systems. Unfortunately they were not able to do so and have therefore decided to meet again on January 25 and 26, 2007 in Chur to terminate their work and proceed to an editorial revision of the document, the latest version of which covers now 55 pages. The committee is hence confident to be able to submit the completed final version of the draft recommendation to the Management Committee in the Spring 2007. Having completed their work the committee are eager to accept another brief.

Special mention ought to be made of the unrestrained disposition of all members to contribute to the teamwork, unrestrained desire to find compromise solutions for important problems and readiness to leave personal interests behind. Membership of this O.I.T.A.F. committee is composed of representatives of several ropeway manufacturers (Doppelmayr, Leitner, Doppelmayr-Garaventa, Poma), several concerned and involved parties (authorities, experts in occupational safety, testing organisations, notified bodies, designers and operators). Unfortunately neither the French nor the Swiss supervisory authority have at present a delegate serving on this committee.

Once the committee will have definitely finalized their current mission efforts will be made to convince authorities to join the committee's activities.

The next meeting of O.I.T.A.F. Committee 1 is due to take place on May 9 to 11, 2007 in Sicily, the Italian supervisory authority (represented by Dr. Ing. Siazzu) having offered to organize the meeting and make the necessary arrangements.

O.I.T.A.F. COMMITTEE 2: Characteristics and Inspection of Ropes
Chairman: Eric Premat, STRMTG – Supervisory Authority (France)

Chairman's report:

No meeting of committee 2 has been convened in the second half of 2006. In the meantime however Laurent Reynaud has resigned his function as chairman of committee 2 and taken up work as new Director of SNTF. The chairmanship of committee was therefore passed on to Eric Premat, operations manager of the notified body STRMTG. The newly appointed chairman was to enter upon his new function at the first meeting of committee 2 to be held in 2007, and precisely on January 15 and 16 in Milano.

Committee 2 availed themselves of the opportunity to express their sincere gratitude to Laurent Reynaud, the outgoing chairman, for his indefatigable commitment as head of the committee. Thanks to his guidance the committee has addressed and finalized discussions of a great variety of subjects ranging from a subject such as the accuracy of non destructive testing down to test procedures for the assessment of the conformity of ropes and CE marking, as well as problems of lubrication and re-lubrication of ropes.

The agenda for the committee's next meeting in Milano includes the following items:

1. Discussion of re-lubrication guidelines
2. Two case-studies of non destructive testing
3. Accuracy of non destructive testing of closed coil ropes
4. Presentation of the Swiss research project on visual inspection and non destructive testing of ropes
5. Work programme for the three years to come

The work programme for the year 2007 includes the following items:

- Survey of rope testing procedures
- Investigation of torsion tests
- Exchange of information on and gained experience with new regulations and standards
- CE marking of ropes
- Socketing
- Vibrations
- Rope lifetime
- Rope pressure

The next meetings of committee 2: the first one was to take place on January 15 and 16, 2007 in Milano and the second is due to take place on September 3 and 4, 2007 in Dübendorf (EMPA).

O.I.T.A.F. COMMITTEE 3: Electrical equipment and components of ropeway installations

Chairman: Dipl. Ing. Fredy Lang, Federal Office for Transports, Switzerland.

Chairman's report

Membership situation

The committee has at present 17 members.

It proves to be rather difficult to find motivated younger persons who would accept to step in for members who resign membership for having reached the age of retirement. It is a pleasure to announce that a representative of the German operators, Peter Huber, Bayerische Zugspitzenbahn, has decided to step in for G. Karl and join committee 3. Unfortunately his overcrowded agenda did not permit him to attend meetings of the committee in the two last years.

As for the French delegation I have received in autumn optimistic signals. A manufacturer of electrical equipment has let me know that he is interested and willing to serve on committee 3.

Report on the committee's activity

This year again the committee held two meetings.

An important and recurrent item of all meetings of this committee is the recurrent exchange of information on accidents and disorders brought about by the electrical equipment of ropeways. The knowledge thus acquired permits an early identification of likely weak points of a ropeway installation.

Recurrent subjects of special interest which have been repeatedly dealt with in the past and will no doubt be addressed at all future meetings are the following ones:

EU Directive 2000/9/EC

- Application of the EU Directive and the resulting experience
- Interface evaluation
- Safety assessment, safety report
- Conformity assessment of safety components and subsystems
- Operating conditions and limitations
- Licensing procedures for the construction and operation of ropeway installations

CEN standards

- Harmonisation and application of standards in member countries
- Application of standard EN 1709/12408 (maintenance)
- Application of standards EN 13223 and 13243
- Categories of service requirement, classification examples (analogous to annex C of EN 13243)
- Interface assessment
- Hazard scenarios
- Technical specifications for characteristics of subsystems and safety components
- Tests of ropeway installations carried out by notified bodies or authorities

Signalling and storage of disorders and operating states

Progress of the work assigned to the Ad hoc working group on Data Recording Devices. The Technical Committee CEN TC 242 has decided to request the ad hoc working group to resume their work.

WORK COMMITTEE 4: – Legal, administrative, economic and statistical matters

Chairman : Dr. Horst Kühschelm, Österreichisches Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Innovation und Technologie

The committee on legal, administrative, economic and statistical matters have addressed at their last meeting held in Paris on November 16 and 17, 2006 the following issues

1. Future work programme

The committee decided unanimously to address the following issues : position

and importance of the ropeway industry in the national economy, business economy and indices

They further decided to proceed to a revision of O.I.T.A.F. recommendations for transport conditions, to revise results of the working group on transportation of children and revise criteria for the transportation of disabled persons (to be done in close collaboration with committee 6) and to give priority to a survey of national regulations on concessions, the outcome of which could be helpful in discussions about the novel directive relating to tenders. The committee also decided to continue the regular exchange of information on matters related to the EU Directive relating to ropeway installations designed to carry persons, as well as information on court decisions, legal and economic matters of the day and important issues of environmental protection and protection of the nature which have been addressed by the Environment Forum.

2. Collaboration with committee 6 (Operation of ropeways)

As for the draft recommendation for the transport of injured persons committee 4 unanimously believe that a general, binding regulation is a rather problematic undertaking seen that a binding regulation of necessity gives rise to serious legal consequences and responsibilities which can hardly be met.

Transport conditions of injured persons shall have to be adapted to the specific conditions of every individual case.

As for the transport of disabled persons it has been agreed to set up a joint working group of both involved committees and entrust the chairmanship of the joint working group to committee 6.

3. O.I.T.A.F. Seminar 2008

It has been suggested to organize in 2008 a seminar on the economic importance of the ropeway industry and entrust its organisation to committee 4. The suggestion is to address the following subjects

- Methods to determine by means of calculations the position and importance of the ropeway industry in the economy of communities, regions and the national economy of entire states.

- Area of conflict between interests of the business economy of companies and interests of the national economy
- Conditions that define the general legal framework which permits the optimisation of the national economy and of the economy of individual companies. (liability, insurance, standards, licensing procedures)
- Conditions that define the general ecological framework

The suggested places of venue of the seminar are Grenoble (SAM) and Oslo (General Assembly of O.I.T.A.F.). It is up to the Management Committee to take a final decision.

The next meeting of committee 4 is due to take place in Munich on May 14 and 15, 2008.

WORKING GROUP ENVIRONMENT FORUM (UFO) set up by committee 4.

Convenor of the working group: Techn. Rat Dipl. Ing. Michael Manhart, Lech am Arlberg
M. Manhart submitted the following report :
Accepting an invitation extended by Gusti Kröll, the Environment Forum met last mid December 2006 in Oberstdorf and wishes to express the meeting's sincere gratitude to the inhabitants of the Kleinwalsertal.

France having submitted the general framework document encompassing the 11 subjects so far dealt with by the working group it is now up to member countries to make what additions they feel to be necessary. The completed document shall then be submitted to the Management Committee for approval as an O.I.T.A.F. Recommendation and thereafter made available together with the annexed specific papers relating to the various subjects to all O.I.T.A.F. members. The working group agreed to entrust the final editing and harmonisation of the text to the German ecologist Thomas Dietman. The working group discussed at length the subject "Climatic changes" and in particular problems of the critical altitude of ski areas, which of course depends on the specific geographic and topographic position of the ski area. The discussion has shown that the criteria referred to in environmental compatibility tests vary considerably from one country to another in terms of threshold values of admissi-

ble surface variations of the ground, as well as in terms of actual content. Noel Lebel promised to have the working group have the missing French paper on the 9th Alpine Convention by the end of January 2007.

The working group hope to finalize their document when meeting the next time. The next meeting of the UFO is due to take place in Switzerland on May 21 and 22, 2007.

WORK COMMITTEE 6: Optimisation of the Operation of Ropeways

Past chairman : Ing. Francis Crouzet / Newly elected chairman : Ing. Mauro Joyeusaz

M. Joyeusaz submitted the following report :
Committee 6 met once in the second half of 2006. The meeting was held in Cadaques on September 21 and 22. Senor Manel Salsa acting on behalf of the Catalanian Ski Resorts has done excellent work in organizing perfectly the meeting in Cadaques and creating a perfect atmosphere for the committee's work.

15 members of the committee were present. Considering that Monsieur Granier would be taking within short his retirement and resign his office as secretary of the committee the committee appointed Sig. Ozel-Ballot as his successor in this office. Sig. Ozel-Ballot is an officer of the supervisory authority of the Valle d'Aosta. He is expected to take over his function at the next meeting of the committee.

As for the draft recommendation for specific applications and use of ropeway installation which require specific operating conditions, committee 6, having heard the chairman of committee 4, Dr. Horst Kùhschelm and the Secretary General Dr. Ing. Heinrich Brugger approved the proposal to set up a joint working group of committee 6 and committee 4 who are to address in particular problems involved by the transportation of disabled and injured persons, of children and bulky objects (deltaplanes) and improve on the draft produced by committee 6. Herr Sartori, Herr Steinlechner, Monsieur Petit and Sig. Joyeusaz have already accepted to serve on this joint working group.

Having taken this decision the committee concentrated its full attention to another new item of its agenda, which had been first mentioned in Turin, i.e. a recommendation which would bring to the mind of operators all elements to which they ought to give due con-

sideration every time they have in mind to work out a rescue plan and to provide operators with useful advice and indications for the correct execution of rescue operations and evaluation and assessment of the performance of rescue plans that have been carried out or of recurrent rescue training practice and tests.

Having heard the views of all attending members the committee was in the position to lay down the list of questions that need to be dealt with and to take a decision on the structure of the document. It has been agreed to write a document consisting of 4 chapters, i.e. the following ones

1. Generalities
2. Elaboration of a rescue plan
3. Execution of rescue procedures
4. Evaluation, verification and optimisation

The discussion, elaboration and drafting of these chapters is to be carried on in 4 working groups who have been invited to submit the result of their work to the next meeting of committee 6.

The next meetings of committee 6 are due to take place in

Erfurt (D) on January 29 and 30, 2007

Clermont Ferrand (F) on June 11 and 12, 2007 and in

Grindelwald (CH) on September 20 to 22, 2007.

FUTURE EVENTS

Meetings of O.I.T.A.F. bodies

(to the extent the date has already been fixed)

Management Committee April 19, 2007 in Innsbruck
Executive Committee yet to be decided

Committee 1 May 9 to 11, 2007 in Catania (I)
Committee 2 January 15 and 16, 2007 in Milano (I)
September 3 and 4, 2007 in Dübendorf (CH)
Committee 3 April 23 to 25, 2007 in the area surrounding Zurich
Committee 4 May 14 and 15, 2007 in Munich
Working group "Environment"
Forum May 21 and 22, 2007 in Switzerland
Committee 6 January 29 and 30 in Erfurt (D)
June 11 and 12, 2007 in Clermont Ferrand (F)
September 20 to to 22 in Grindelwald (CH)

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O.I.T.A.F. Secretariat

I – 39100 BOLZANO, via Crispi 10

Tel. ++39-0471-414600 Fax ++39-0471-414616

e-mail : H.Brugger@alice.it

or info@oitaf.org

If not otherwise specified text and layout by the Secretary General of O.I.T.A.F. Markus Pitscheider, member of the staff of the Secretariat was kind enough to let us have the report on ITTAB and Agostino Dallago the pictures he has taken.