

EDITORIAL



Pierre Olivier Vignaud
President

January is a time for New Year's resolutions and new beginnings and so it is with the IMEMG newsletter. First of all, I would like to thank Dr Paul Wanninger for the work he put in as president of our association, a task which I now have the honour of fulfilling. Seven years after its creation, IMEMG is now a truly European organisation with 20 member-companies and six countries represented. Our ambition is to become an incontestable industry partner for the official stakeholders in the munitions safety sector. To accomplish this, we have developed a new strategy based on producing more concrete work and coming closer to other actors (governments, EDA, NATO, UN...). Five new Experts' Working Groups have been assigned tasks such as following the evolution of regulations and measuring the consequences, studying the effect of ageing on insensitive munitions (IM), pro-

viding software tools for evaluating benefits of IM, defining computer models to assist in the design of IM, proposing alternatives to jet fuel in the Fast Cook Off test. Making things is essential. Letting people know about it is primordial. This is precisely the purpose of our Newsletter. We want to regularly report on our work and communicate our views to our fellow partners in the field of munitions safety. Every issue will interview someone closely involved with insensitive munitions: in this issue, it is Yves Guengant on behalf of EURENCO. We will then broach a technical subject: this time, we look at whether insensitive munitions should benefit from specific standards and discuss what benefits could be achieved with specific regulations. Then, our "gossip" page will tell you about who in IMEMG is doing what. Enjoy!

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NEW! Expert Working Groups

Is water explosive?

Here is a simple physics problem: what non-explosive product, when heated in an enclosed space, can send a 2.5kg weight propelled 22 metres away and thus qualifies as being hazardous?

Would you believe: water? It is the basic principle of a pressure cooker from which the lid was taken off before all the steam was out.

Using this principle tested in 2009 by SME, it was demonstrated that a few litres of water added into an ordinary steel barrel which was then heated, would blow the barrel's 2.5kg lid off to a distance



Picture caption: UN External Fire propelled lid in the upper right corner

of 22m. And that thus, according to the United Nation's safety regulation, water should be classified as having a missile effect. More precisely, it would meet the criteria in the UN's Hazard Division 1.2 that encompasses anything which can generate fragments further than 15m.

Through this test, IMEMG wanted to demonstrate to the IM community that safety standards for explosive items could sometimes be too strict. Indeed, some insensitive explosives may be considered, in terms of danger, as being not very far removed from water.