



fisuel INFO

FISUEL INFORMATION LETTER

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International Federation for the Safety of Electricity Users

Editorial

As this year closes and I have already completed my first 6 months as president, I would like to say 3 things:

- Thank my predecessor, Philippe André and congratulate him; as a dedicated, dynamic, energetic and committed President of CONSUELEC he was able to successfully launch the FISUEL "boat" with which we are all pleased and on board which we all sail. It is not easy to follow on from him, but he remains here alongside us, valiantly watching from the bridge, and for that we are grateful.

- As you know, our "crew" now has 28 members from 15 countries; there is still room on board; we must all help to fill it; the development of FISUEL is not only the responsibility of the Board of Directors. The impact of this federation, its influence, credibility, intelligence and creativity depend a great deal on its size both in terms of number of members and number of countries represented.

- For, and this is my third point, FISUEL is, and will essentially remain, what its members make of it and what they contribute to it.

Your contributions will be taken into account.

You have a voice; you can and must express yourselves.

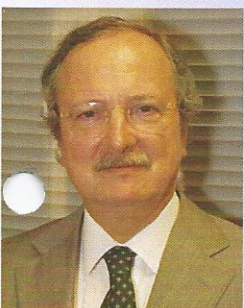
Your Board of Directors is listening and this "FISUEL info" bulletin is open to you all.

Like the federation, it will be what you want to make of it.

Please take heed of this message.

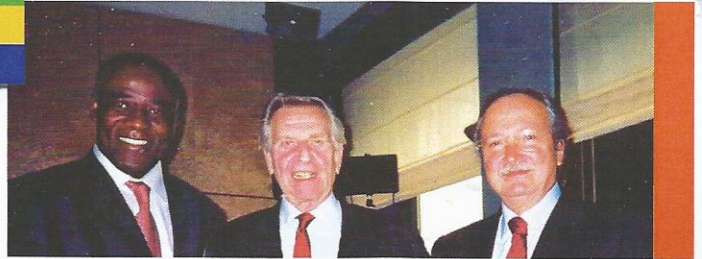
Finally, I wish everyone a happy end to the year and in conveying my best wishes for 2006 I make a point of saying that for my own part, I shall do everything in my power to stay on the course so brilliantly set by our first president.

Next port of call: Brussels on 4 and 5 May 2006, for our General Assembly.



Pleasant sailing on board of FISUEL

José TOMAZ GOMES
President of FISUEL



Edmond OKEAWELE, Philippe ANDRE, José TOMAZ GOMES

NEW ITEMS

A new member in the college of Active Members

- CONSUELEC, Gabon, Gabonese Federation for the Safety of Electricity Users Libreville, Tel. +241 06 06 00 60 – Fax +241 76 08 63

In response to problems encountered in the field of electrical safety in Gabon, i.e.:

- 90% of users exposed to the dangers of deteriorating electrical appliances,
- 10 to 20 houses catching fire each month,
- 1 death a month due to electrocution,
- more than 40% of equipment counterfeit,
- installation carried out by unqualified personnel with disregard for standards,

CONSUELEC, a non-profit-making association, was created on 7 April 2005. It is governed by Law No. 35/62 of 10 December 1962 and has the mission of:

- reducing the number of accidents on electrical installations;
- increasing awareness of the need to comply with standards and regulations in force in the Republic of Gabon,
- preparing and conducting studies and actions aimed at monitoring compliance with rules drawn up for the design and execution of electrical installations, to ensure the safety of power plants and grids, persons and property;
- promoting the notion of quality in the design and construction of electricity grids and electrical circuits;
- fighting against counterfeiting;
- signing certificates of conformity.

This brings the number of FISUEL members to 28, representing 15 countries. 🌐

General Assembly on 20 and 21 May 2005 in Luxembourg

More than 50 participants, representing nearly twenty countries, met in Luxembourg on 20 and 21 May, hosted by APEL (Association of Electrical Employers of Luxembourg) as part of the General Assembly of FISUEL.

This was the opportunity to take stock of actions conducted by the federation over the last year and its planned actions for the coming years, under the heading of our major objectives:



- Promoting electrical safety,
- Helping governments to implement a monitoring system if they currently do not have one,
- Helping those who wish to improve a system and guarantee its future,
- Moving ahead with the setting up of periodic and systematic inspections of older installations,
- Promoting our members.



José TOMAZ GOMES and Philippe ANDRÉ

This General Assembly was also the occasion to elect a successor for Philippe André, President of CONSUEL and first President of FISUEL, which he founded in 2002.

José Tomaz Gomes (Portugal), Administrator of CERTIEL – one of the first active members of FISUEL – became the federation's second president.

José Tomaz Gomes will be joined on the Board of Directors by:

- Philippe ANDRÉ, Past President, (CONSUEL, France)
- David LATIMER, Vice President (NICEIC, United Kingdom)
- Romualdo ARIAS, Vice President and Treasurer (FENIE, Spain)
- Adiouma DIONE, Vice President (PROQUELEC, Senegal)
- Guy GEFFROY (APEL, Luxembourg)
- Raymond KORKMAZ (ODI, Lebanon)
- Bodi Théodore KOUASSI (LBTP SECUREL, Ivory Coast)

Finally, as is our custom, this meeting was followed by some excellent addresses by:

- Edmond Okemvelé on CONSUELEC (Gabon), latest active member of FISUEL,
- Soemedi Tunggono, on KONSUIL (Indonesia),
- Sandro Rollan, on APSE (Argentina),
- Romain Becker (Luxembourg), on the consequences of liberalisation of electricity contracts at CEGEDEL,

allowing us all to broaden our horizons of thought.

FISUEL is now entering the second phase of its existence, and proud of the success of its first steps, it invites its members to Brussels in May 2006 for its next statutory General Assembly, hoping on that occasion to have crossed the barrier of 30 members, and strengthened its presence in Asia Pacific.



Casablanca 23 November 2005, International Forum on Electrical Safety (Morocco)

This was the united them of the Forum organised by FENELEC (Fédération Nationale de l'Electricité et de l'Electronique du Maroc) FISUEL (Fédération Internationale pour la Sécurité des Usagers de l'Electricité) and UTE (Union Technique de l'Electricité) within/during the Elec Expo Exhibition in Casablanca, on 23 November 2005.

In presence of Presidents Taariji (FENELEC), Tomaz Gomes (FISUEL) and André (CONSUEL), who chaired the meeting, 70 participants, from about 20 countries, were, thanks to speakers from different backgrounds, made aware of the importance of Standardisation where electrical safety is concerned, and of the necessary verification of the application of the relevant Standards.

Once again, it became clearly apparent, that if a Standard was substantially the same for all, and that if the final goal – safety of electricity user – was also the same, in whatever



Abdellaziz TAARIJI, J. TOMAZ GOMES, P. ANDRÉ

country, there nevertheless might be several "routes" to the achievement of that goal.



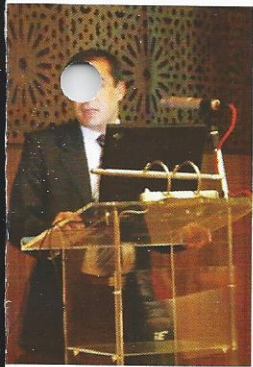
For example: electrical contractors may be either qualified or registered; projects may be submitted beforehand; there can be inspection of installations may be either

by sampling or by full inspection; there can be solutions combining different systems...

But, generally speaking, in all countries, connection to the network can be made only subject to the certainty that the installation is compliant with the Standard.

Existence of a joint, national or local, organisation in charge of delivering an attestation of such compliance allows, besides other advantages – such as the training of installers, objectivity, neutrality... – this guarantee of compliance to be given.

Finally, this meeting once again brought out within FISUEL the continuing interest in the possibility of exchanges and



debates between members, because, while there may be some significant differences between them, no one country can pride itself to hold the whole truth.

It is one of the great attributes of FISUEL that it promotes electrical safety, makes it advance and assists its members also to also advance in this field..

The final words were expressed by President Taariji who, having thanked both the participants and the speakers, confirmed FENELEC's wish to continue to advance along this road.

BTP Sécurel



Origins

The conclusions of the assessment of progress in standardisation and industrial regulation in the five member countries of the Council of Understanding, bringing together Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Niger and Togo led the Ministry of Industry of Ivory Coast, EECI (Ivory Coast Electrical Energy, the electricity distribution operator at the time) and LBTP (Building and Public Works Laboratory) to concert their actions for implementing Decree 81 388 of 10 June 1981 requiring inspection of indoor electrical installations before first connection. SECUREL.



Bodi Théodore KOUASSI
CIO of LBTP Sécurel

The company capital of LBTP SECUREL (Mixed economy public company) was then 100 million Francs CFA, divided into shares as follows:

• State of Ivory Coast	52%
• Ivoirienne de Participation et d'Etudes (IPE)	10%
• CEBTP (France)	10%
• APAVES SUD (France)	10%
• SOCIMAT	5%
• Personnel	3%

In 2005, the state increased its share in kind by putting up an extra 900 million Francs CFA.

Objectives and areas of responsibility

- To allow the population throughout the national territory to benefit from inspection of indoor electrical installations at rates calculated to be accessible to all income groups. (Order No. 1058/MEF of 30/10/82);
- To clean up the electrical equipment market: electrical equipment from countries with no product certification organisation was flooding the market with counterfeit electrical equipment;
- To organise the electrical installer's profession: previously, this activity was too often practised by painters, plumbers and other trades working in the building sector;

- To allow the inhabitants of Ivory Coast to have electrical installations guaranteeing a maximum level of safety.

Indoor electrical installations concerned by inspection are:

- residential houses;
- small shops;
- small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs);
- premises receiving the public;
- industrial units.

Methods, principles, strengths and assets

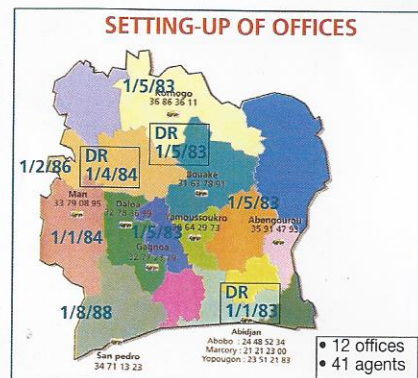
SECUREL's inspection procedure, inspired by the CONSUEL procedure, is initiated by purchasing a "certificate of conformity" form. This is validated by sample inspection for electrical installers of recognised competency or else an appointment is made for a site inspection. This form remains valid for the number of inspections needed for approval to be obtained.

This principle keeps the cost of the operation within reach of the entire population. However, it increases the costs of the mission if the electrical installers are not well trained.

Resources

SECUREL, employing 35 inspectors, has decentralised its activities over the entire national territory with delegations in the major regions.

For isolated regions, the system relies on inspection teams "doing the rounds". Their programmes are displayed in representations of CIE (Ivory Coast Electricity Company), which has replaced EECI.



Difficulties encountered during start-up

The start of SECUREL's operations was not easy. All the parties involved reacted according to their own interests. This included especially the population at large, the electricity distributor's personnel, electrical goods retailers and electrical installers.

• Population

The population does not understand the usefulness of this extra "middle-man" between it and the electricity distributor. The price of certificates, wrongly seen as an additional tax, and the higher cost of standardised equipment, were additional difficulties at the start of SECUREL's activity.

• Electrical goods retailers

Many retailers saw several of their customers return with equipment rejected by SECUREL as non-compliant. The stock of non-compliant equipment is becoming difficult to sell.

• Electrical installers

We must not forget the impact on the population, which had until then considered all electricians to be talented technicians. Incompetent electricians, afraid of being rejected by the new system, misinform their customers about the "real motifs behind SECUREL": **SECUREL, they claim, is just another tax.**



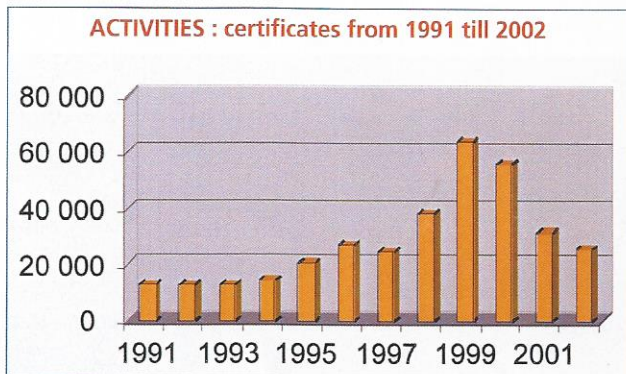
• Electricity distributor (EECI)

For some of the personnel of EECI (Ivory Coast Electrical Energy), the monopoly it had always held in the sector is difficult to share with a newcomer who seems to be setting itself up as an inspector of the all-powerful distributor.

SECUREL needed to stop "electricians" from EECI personnel from carrying out indoor installations under the cover of their employer.

Results

After more than two decades, the overall result can be considered to be positive:



- the whole of Ivory Coast is covered by inspection of indoor electrical installations set up on 31 December 1987,
- more than 400,000 electrical installations have so far been inspected,
- unfortunately, the equipment market, which was gradually being cleaned up during the 1990s, is once again faced with counterfeiting...
- electrical installers are known. Those who could not cope with the new situation changed jobs. SECUREL has produced a list of more than 2500 "recommended" electrical installers. They enter the list after receiving 5 approvals within the space of one year. 1000 of them across the entire country are approved (those whose average inspection score is above 12).

A major step forward: the CEI/LBTP Agreement of 1997

To allow:

- the population to benefit from safety inspection in good time,

- CIE to honour its commitments,
- and LBTP to accomplish its public service mission, an agreement was signed between CIE and LBTP on 22 September 1997. This agreement defines the conditions for applying the SECUREL procedure.

Owners of electrical installations already in place before the SECUREL procedure was applied are increasingly requesting checks in order to bring into conformity out-dated systems with no earth connection or differential device protecting users against direct contact.

Attitude of the Public Authorities

The results obtained were only possible because the public authorities supported the SECUREL procedure, especially during the most difficult times.

When housing developers are obliged to replace all the power cables in several hundred houses because SECUREL declares them to be non-compliant, the support of the public authorities in applying Decree 81 388 is invaluable.

The setting up of an independent structure to prepare and generalise the NI Label (Ivory Coast Standard) by CODINORM (Ivory Coast standardisation) is an illustration of the political will to provide the population with high quality services and products.

Seen from today's perspective...for those who would like to set up a system

At first, a determined political will to set up a structure of electrical installation inspection across the entire country was the key factor.

If this will does not exist there is no point taking the initiative any further.

As the electricity distributor's turnover dropped, only the firmness of the persons in charge in the various ministries involved in the process kept the project on course through the standardisation of the activity.

In parallel, the co-operation of top management of the electricity distributor (EECI) contributed to keeping the resistance of its commercial managers at bay.

Finally, the awareness of the entire population and training of electrical installers were precious assets.

In conclusion: unconditional support from public authorities, a motivated power distributor, trained installers and an aware population are the 4 essential factors of success.

Dates for your diary

- **4 May 2006 – BRUSSELS**
- WG Exchange and Convergence (to confirm)
- **5 May 2006 – BRUSSELS**
- General assembly



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