



APIMONDIA

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING OF APIMONDIA

Kiev, Ukraine
13th - 14th April 2013

Present to the meeting:

Mr. Gilles Ratia, President
Mr. Lucas Daniel Martínez, Vice-President
Mr. Riccardo Jannoni-Sebastianini, Secretary-General
Dr. Theodore Cherbuliez, President of Scientific Commission
Prof. Karl Crailsheim, President of Scientific Commission
Dr. Nicola J. Bradbear, President of Scientific Commission
Dr. Dinh Quyet Tam, President of Scientific Commission
Mr. Etienne Bruneau, President of Scientific Commission
Mr. José Gomercindo Corrêa da Cunha, President of Regional Commission
Prof. Cleofas R. Cervancia, President of Regional Commission (via Skype)
Mr. Philip McCabe, President of Regional Commission
Ms. Maureen Maxwell, President of Regional Commission

Invited:

Mr. Cristian Constantinescu, Director of FIITEA
Ms. Marta Giogia, Chief Accountant of FIITEA
Ms. Tetyana Vasylykivska, President of 43rd Apimondia Congress
Mr. Yuriy Riphayak, Delegate of 43rd Apimondia Congress Organising Committee
Mr. Cho Kyoong-Hwan, Delegate of 44th Apimondia Congress Organising Committee
Prof. Woo Kun-Suk, Delegate of 44th Apimondia Congress Organising Committee
Mr. Lee Myeong-Lyeol, Delegate of 44th Apimondia Congress Organising Committee
Mr. Kim Seong-Hun, Delegate of 44th Apimondia Congress Organising Committee
Mr. Dimitris Selianakis, member of Scientific Commission (via Skype)
Dr. François Díaz, Project manager, OIE Headquarters
Dr. Valentina Sharandak, OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe
Dr. Karin Nichterlein, Agricultural Research Officer FAO (via Skype)
Ms. Charlotte Lietaer, TECA Administrator FAO (via Skype)

Absent with apologies:

Dr. Jacobus C. Biesmeijer, President of Scientific Commission
Dr. Wolfgang Ritter, President of Scientific Commission
Mr. Mulufird Ashagrie, President of Regional Commission

Agenda of the meeting

13th April 2013

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Overview of financial situation - Report on the accounts and approval of the accounts and financial report for 2012
3. Apimondia srl
4. Follow-up on the outcomes of the following Executive Council Working Groups activities:
Designation of corporate PCO, Review of membership fees, Fundraising
5. Review and new proposals for amendments to the Apimondia Statutes
6. Report and follow-up on organisation of the 43rd Apimondia Congress
7. Report and follow-up on organisation of the 44th Apimondia Congress

14th April 2013

8. Apimondia workplan for the 2014-2015 biennium
9. Apimondia budget for the 2014-2015 biennium
10. Evaluation of bids for the 45th Apimondia Congress
11. Discussion on position of Apimondia on: pesticides, GMOs, evolution of international market, problems in each region, etc.
12. Collaboration with FAO: follow-up on definition of Memorandum of Understanding, TECA, Codex Alimentarius and co-participation in symposium organisation
13. Follow-up on Apimondia accreditation as international NGO and collaboration/integration with other institutions
14. Update of current projects: website, working groups, digital kits
15. Calendar and follow-up on organisation of forthcoming international congresses and symposia
16. Reports of the President, Vice-President and Secretary-General
17. Reports of the Presidents of the Scientific Commissions
18. Reports of the Presidents of the Regional Commissions
19. Report on the FIITEA Management Committee meeting
20. Any other business

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Saturday 13th April 2013

The President opens the meeting at 08:30, welcoming the participants present and informing that Dr. Biesmeijer, Dr. Ritter and Mr. Ashagrie could not be present at the meeting.

- Adoption of the agenda (point 1)

The agenda is approved with minor changes concerning the order of discussion of the various points as reflected in the sequence of the items addressed and reported in these minutes.

- Overview of financial situation - Report on the accounts and approval of the accounts and financial report for 2012 (point 2)

The Secretary-General reports on the accounts of the Federation for the year 2012 pointing out that for the past year there has been a deficit of € 11,858.85, mainly due to the fact that this was a non-Congress year and the need to advance money to Apimondia srl for its current costs (see point 3) which led to the General-Secretary to advance money to the Federation and withhold payments to one member of the staff; moreover, there are some problems in the money flow from Argentina for the contribution of SADA to Apimondia. He also reports that the increase of the number of members has had a low financial impact on the revenues.

Mr. Bruneau remarks that Apimondia should find new solutions in order to solve the current financial problems of the Federation and one solution could be to start new projects with the members and other partners that would bring in money to the Federation.

The accounts and financial report are discussed and approved.

- Apimondia srl (point 3)

The Secretary-General reports on the situation of the renting of the building in Castel Porziano, specifying that, due to the non-payment of the rent for several months, a legal action through a lawyer has been undertaken in order to activate the legal procedure for having the tenant leave the house. He underlines that this action could not have been taken before due to the fact that Apimondia had to obtain some certificates and authorisations from the cadastre and municipality offices since the ones that had been released before were wrong and this could have given the tenant a chance to sue Apimondia for lost revenues had they had to close the activity.

Now all the documents are in good order and therefore Apimondia could start the legal action against the tenant. From the talks held with them it seems that there is a new company that intends to take over the activity and could pay back the rents due; in the coming days we should meet with them and our lawyer to investigate the situation and future openings.

Furthermore, in the past year the average range of the taxes increased considerably (in some cases it tripled) and, due to the general financial situation of the market, the present monthly rent should be lowered in the future in order to expect future steady payments.

It is agreed that, following the first court hearing scheduled to take place in early May, the Management Board will review the situation with the lawyer in order to take the adequate action.

Mr. McCabe raises the question if Apimondia srl should better sell the building, the Secretary-General replies that in this economic situation the price would be unfavourable and it should be done

only in case of real need. Furthermore, this kind of operation would entail also the sale of the limited company attached to the building and the payment of significant taxes.

- Follow-up on the outcomes of the following Executive Council Working Groups activities: a) Designation of corporate PCO, b) Review of membership fees and c) Fundraising (point 4)

a) Designation of corporate PCO:

The Secretary-General reports that the Working Group met some international Professional Congress Organisers (PCOs) in order to illustrate the requirements of Apimondia for the organisation of its congresses as well as to elicit the potential services the PCOs could offer to Apimondia.

As a result, a draft of the Request for Proposal (RfP) was prepared and sent to an independent congress organiser for review and counselling on the most favourable contractual terms. In the next weeks the Working Group and other members of the Executive Council will have a Skype session in order to finalise the RfP and send it to 4 international PCOs. The Working Group will then evaluate the proposals and identify the PCO that will be in charge of organising the Apimondia Congresses for 2019 and 2021.

The selection of the corporate PCO will also take into account the capacity of the PCO to help Apimondia in some aspects of the general management of the Federation such as identifying sources of sponsorships, improving membership retaining, etc.

b) Review of membership fees:

The Vice-President illustrates the membership situation versus the general financial situation of Apimondia, pointing out that the fees should be increased in order to give more stable revenue to pay the running costs of the Federation. He also underlines that the fees have not been increased in the past 8 years and therefore they do not reflect the inflation rate occurred during this time; he also proposes to adopt less categories on which to establish the basic fee that would be integrated with a coefficient, calculated on the UNDP Human Development Index for each country, that would take into account the different economic development in the countries.

A discussion follows on the need of Apimondia to provide more services to its members if the increase is requested. It is proposed that each Scientific and Regional Commission is to deliver a report on the present situation of beekeeping worldwide and the prospective future trends of that particular area that could be followed, where applicable, by a “political” position of Apimondia on different topics, since beekeepers expect Apimondia to deliver directives and guidance of beekeeping topics.

Furthermore, the members discuss on the different ways this increase should take place (percentage/progressive increase, flat/straight increase, etc.) and then, on a biennial basis apply the inflation rate. The possibility to raise the Federation’s revenues with sponsors is also duly considered (see point c).

It is agreed that the Executive Council members should share opinions during the next month and by June the Working Group has to prepare different projections and scenarios to be submitted to the General Assembly for discussion and approval.

c) Fundraising:

Mr. Selianakis illustrates the work done so far on the issue of fundraising, namely he identified 3 categories of sponsors to approach: institutions, companies and individuals. All members agree that Apimondia should be very cautious in choosing the right company that should comply with a strict moral conduct and avoid those ones that operate green laundering. It is also underlined that the campaigns should have a clear objective that could be easily checked by everyone.

Mr. Selianakis reports that he already identified three fund raising offices that operate to link the sponsors to the associations and is negotiating with them on the terms of the co-operation. Due to the sensitivity and importance of the topic, it is agreed that a formal document be signed between Apimondia Management Board and Mr. Selianakis that should regulate the actions to be taken by him in his future negotiations with third parties.

Dr. Bradbear suggests applying a contribution to the members bidding for the organisation of an Apimondia Congress. She is asked to prepare a proposal to be circulated among the Executive Council members before being submitted to the General Assembly in Kiev.

- Follow-up on Apimondia accreditation as international NGO and collaboration/integration with other institutions (point 13)

Dr. Díaz illustrates the activities of the World Organisation for Animal Health (formerly OIE), an intergovernmental NGO with 178 member countries and 5 Regional Offices, which focuses on the improvement of the animal health worldwide.

Concerning the beekeeping sector, Dr. Díaz informs the members present that his Organisation works on six different bee diseases as well as on the standards for the trade of bee products.

The relations with Apimondia are well established also thanks to the work done so far by Dr. Ritter who organised various joint Apimondia/OIE symposia in the past years. Dr. Díaz hopes that this collaboration may increase in the future, through an enhanced exchange of information, common action on various topics and collaboration in future events. Thanks to the good relations of OIE with both FAO and WHO, it is suggested that Apimondia tries to build up through OIE stronger links with these agencies focussing on bee diseases and bee products.

Further to the E-mail sent by the Secretariat earlier this year in which all the references of Apimondia with the United Nations agencies were mentioned, the Presidents of the Scientific Commissions are asked to put down proposals of joint projects with UN agencies.

- Collaboration with FAO: follow-up on definition of Memorandum of Understanding, TECA, Codex Alimentarius and co-participation in symposium organisation (point 12)

Dr. Nichterlein briefly presents the TECA Beekeeping Exchange Group, launched in 2010 by FAO with the support of Apimondia, to offer a platform to stakeholders in beekeeping to connect and exchange knowledge and information worldwide.

She mentions that this platform is highly appreciated by the TECA members who, however, demand a more science-based technical expertise. Therefore, in order to improve the quality of the response to the users, Dr. Nichterlein proposes that Apimondia could offer this technical expertise through its Scientific and Regional Commissions by identifying some reference people (Presidents of Apimondia Scientific and Regional Commissions, junior experts, contacts in the field, etc.) who should moderate the discussions on the various topics and give prompt and correct answers to queries that may come up in the various discussion groups. The commitment should not be too time-consuming, since each

moderator has the chance to limit the scope of his/her collaboration to the time he/she can give in this exercise.

As a result of such collaboration, Apimondia, FAO and the stakeholders could benefit from the TECA: updated, science-based information, improved response to the needs of the users, reference point for reliable information, improved communication and outreach, strengthened mutual relationship.

Dr. Nichtelein suggests that Apimondia review the proposal and thereafter sign a Letter of Agreement with FAO where it would be stated in detail the contribution given by Apimondia. The agreement would be set up for one year.

Having checked the support by all the Presidents of the Apimondia Scientific and Regional Commissions present, it is agreed that Secretary-General assess the availability of the Presidents not present at the meeting and thereafter the Executive Council review this proposal and that the Apimondia Scientific and Regional Commissions start identifying the resources needed in order to eventually sign the agreement with FAO.

The Secretary-General reports that contacts concerning the Memorandum of Understanding are still ongoing with a division of the Forestry Department of FAO as a possible counterpart for signing the agreement since the other divisions dropped out because their focus is not on beekeeping and they have no internal personnel capacity to handle bee-related issues.

As for the Codex Alimentarius, the Secretary-General asks the present to let him know which issues they wish to be addressed by Codex Alimentarius.

It is agreed that Apimondia should investigate if FAO is available to participate more in our events, also in conjunction with the World Organisation for Animal Health (formerly OIE). Further relations should be sought with EFSA as well as Greenpeace and Slowfood.

- Review and new proposals for amendments to the Apimondia Statutes (point 5)

It is agreed to review Bylaw 3 “Guidelines for making a bid for an International Apicultural Congress”, in order to give clearer information on the process and especially on the dissemination of information allowed prior to the selection of the venue as well as to change the deadline for the Executive Council new candidatures from two weeks to two months prior to the General Assembly. Furthermore, it is discussed the feasibility of foreseeing an application fee for all the bidders interested in organising an Apimondia Congress. These amendments will be sent out to the members at least two months prior to the Apimondia General Assembly date.

Moreover, according to the decision of the General Assembly on the proposal of changing the calculation of the membership fees, Article 5 “Members of Apimondia” and Bylaw 2 “Members, individual correspondents and relevant fees” may also be amended in Kiev.

- Report and follow-up on organisation of the 43rd Apimondia Congress (point 6)

Mr. Riphyak illustrates the report on the organisation of the 43rd Apimondia Congress to date, highlighting the characteristics of the venue premises that will be visited the following day, the promotion carried out with different means and media, the support obtained from public and private institutions and the promising situation of the registrations received so far as well as the selling of the ApiExpo space.

He also reports on the various contests and awards foreseen during the event, the accommodation facilities for the participants and briefly describes the social programme and the pre- and post-Congress tours.

As for the scientific programme, Mr. Riphayak illustrates the figures on the abstracts received and the prospective schedule of the sessions, symposia and round tables. In particular it is agreed that the round tables will address the following topics: 1. Achievements, potential and problems of Ukrainian apicultural science, 2. Organic beekeeping, 3. Adulteration of honey, 4. Conservation / bee colony losses, 5. GMOs and their impact on beekeeping, 6. Pesticides.

As for the possibility to have the live broadcasting of the sessions, it is resolved that the Local Organising Committee should provide a detailed proposal that should take into consideration the issue of the release of the clearance by the authors for such service. It is also suggested to have only some events broadcast live (exhibition, opening and closing ceremonies, etc.).

Furthermore, in order to streamline the smooth running of the General Assembly meetings, it is resolved to establish a quicker method for the accreditation of the official delegates as well as to find out if other means for the voting procedure (e.g. electronic voting) would better serve the purpose.

It is also recommended to the Local Organising Committee to ease as much as possible, in close contact with the Ukrainian authorities, the process of the issuance of the visas to the prospective participants.

- Report and follow-up on organisation of the 44th Apimondia Congress (point 7)

Prof. Woo, Delegate of 44th Apimondia Congress Organising Committee, illustrates the activities carried out in the past year for the organisation of the 2015 Apimondia Congress highlighting the contacts made with the institutions and sponsors that would support the event, the organisation chart, the layout of the programme and ApiExpo and the commitment of the Local Organising Committee to facilitate the participation of beekeepers coming from developing countries. The Executive Council members thank Prof. Woo for the excellent work done.

At the end of the meeting, Ms. Vasykivska presents the members of the 43rd Apimondia Congress Local Organising Committee as well as the representatives of the regional beekeeping associations and of the major providers of said congress to the Executive Council.

The President thanks the representatives of the 43rd Apimondia Congress Local Organising Committee for the positive results achieved so far.

Sunday 14th April 2013

The President opens the meeting at 08:30.

- Report on the FIITEA Management Committee meeting (point 19)

Mr. Constantinescu reports on the development of the restoration of one wing of the FIITEA premises that has been rented to an international company for the establishment of an oncologic clinic that will be completed, after some delays due to bureaucratic reasons and adverse weather conditions, by the end of the current year.

He also illustrates the beekeeping activities carried out both at international and domestic level. At the end, Ms. Giogia reports on the financial situation of the Foundation.

- Apimondia workplan for the 2014-2015 biennium (point 8)

The Secretary-General illustrates the proposed list of the international symposia that are foreseen to take place under the aegis of Apimondia in 2014:

3rd International Symposium on Organic Beekeeping, Bologna, Italy - March

2nd ApiEcoFlora Symposium, San Marino, Republic of San Marino - September

1st Apimondia Symposium of African Bees and Beekeeping, Arusha, Tanzania - November

5th Apimedica & 4th Apiquality Forum, Mugla, Turkey - date to be defined

2nd ApiEcoTech symposium - under assessment

4th Symposium on Queen Breeding & Selection - under assessment

1st Mediterranean Beekeeping Conference - under assessment

The Executive Council members agree to better define the Letter of Agreement terms with the local organising associations in order to have a smoother organisation of the events.

- Apimondia budget for the 2014-2015 biennium (point 9)

The Secretary-General presents the budget for the 2014-2015 biennium underlining that it has been drawn on conservative figures as a reflection of the current financial situation and subject to the outcomes of Apimondia finding more sources of funding (sponsors/increased membership fees).

- Evaluation of bids for the 45th Apimondia Congress (point 10)

The four bids for the organisation of the 45th Apimondia Congress in 2017 submitted by the member associations of Bulgaria, Italy, Sweden and Turkey are all accepted for being officially presented at the forthcoming General Assembly in Kiev.

The inspection visits to the proposed venues of the congress (Sofia, Bulgaria; Verona Italy; Stockholm, Sweden and Istanbul, Turkey) will be carried out by an *ad hoc* team in the following months.

An internal working group (Lucas Daniel Martínez, Riccardo Jannoni-Sebastianini and Philip McCabe) is set up in order to review the bidding guidelines as well as the procedures to be adopted for the official presentations before the General Assembly.

- Discussion on position of Apimondia on: pesticides, GMOs, evolution of international market, problems in each region, etc. (point 11)

With regard to the proposed Apimondia declaration to be issued at the closing of the 43rd Apimondia Congress and to be delivered to various international organisations and agencies, the members present agree that, in order to tackle the current main problems related to beekeeping worldwide, Apimondia should find a way to harmonise the Apimondia Scientific and Regional Commissions' activities and views on these issues in order to reach an official position by Apimondia.

Due to the complexity of the issues at stake, it is also agreed to reduce the topics to be included in the official final declaration. In this context, consensus is reached on preparing a draft on the following topics: Definition of Bee Products (Mr. E. Bruneau), GMOs (Dr. W. Haefeker), Endangered Species (Prof. K. Crailsheim), Evolution of the International Market (Mr. E. Bruneau), Neonotinoids (Mr. E. Bruneau).

- Update of current projects: website, working groups, digital kits (point 14)

It is agreed that, in order to have a closer control and smoother running of the various Apimondia Working Groups, the co-ordinators of said groups should be preliminarily approved by the respective Scientific Commission Presidents and enhanced contacts be kept by the presidents and all the members of the working groups.

- Calendar and follow-up on organisation of forthcoming international congresses and symposia (point 15)

This item has been dealt with at point 8.

- Reports of the President, Vice-President and Secretary-General (point 16)
- Reports of the Presidents of the Scientific Commissions (point 17)
- Reports of the Presidents of the Regional Commissions (point 18)

The above-mentioned reports are attached to these minutes.

- Any other business (point 20)

The Secretary-General reads the list of the beekeeping associations that have submitted the application to join Apimondia either as Full or Associate Member as well as those that will be excluded from the Federation due to non-payment of the membership fees. These associations will undergo the official endorsement of acceptance/exclusion by the General Assembly due to convene in Kiev next September.

Two months prior to the General Assembly the list of the positions expiring this year will send out, which are: Vice-President (incumbent: Lucas Daniel Martínez), Secretary-General (incumbent: Riccardo Jannoni-Sebastianini), President of the Scientific Commission for Beekeeping for Rural Development (incumbent: Nicola J. Bradbear), President of the Scientific Commission for Beekeeping Economy (incumbent: Dinh Quyet Tam), President of the Scientific Commission for Pollination and Bee Flora (incumbent: Jacobus C. Biesmeijer), President of the Regional Commission for Africa (incumbent: Mulufird Ashagrie), President of the Regional Commission for Americas (incumbent: José Gomercindo Corrêa da Cunha), President of the Regional Commission for Asia (incumbent: Cleofas R. Crevancia), President of the Regional Commission for Europe (incumbent: Philip McCabe), President of the Regional Commission for Oceania (incumbent: Maureen Maxwell). In particular, since at the last General Assembly all the Presidents of the Regional Commissions were appointed for a 2-year term, it is resolved that prior to the elections of these positions, a ballot will take place in order to indicate those Presidents that will be elected for a 2-year period and those for a 4-year period.

The Secretary-General also reminds the members present that the General Assembly in Kiev will have to vote for the renewal of the appointment of the Apimondia Auditor.

Finally, the members agree to submit to the next General Assembly the proposal to appoint Messrs. Asger Søgaaard Jørgensen, former President of Apimondia, and Lucas Daniel Martínez, President of the 42nd Apimondia Congress, Honorary Members of Apimondia.

The next Executive Council meeting will be convened in Kiev, Ukraine, on 29th September 2013, before the 43rd Apimondia Congress opening ceremony.

Having covered all the agenda, the President calls the meeting to a close at 16:40 hrs.

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