



APIMONDIA

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING OF APIMONDIA

Istanbul, Turkey
2nd - 4th June 2017

Present to the meeting:

Mr. Philip McCabe, President
Mr. Lucas Daniel Martínez, Vice-President
Mr. Riccardo Jannoni-Sebastianini, Secretary-General
Prof. Karl Crailsheim, President of Scientific Commission
Dr. Nicola J. Bradbear, President of Scientific Commission
Prof. Kun-Suk Woo, President of Scientific Commission
Dr. Jeff Pettis, President of Scientific Commission
Mr. Etienne Bruneau, President of Scientific Commission
Mr. Mulufird Ashagrie, President of Regional Commission
Mr. Misael Cuevas Bravo, President of Regional Commission
Prof. Cleofas R. Cervancia, President of Regional Commission
Mr. Diego Pagani, President of Regional Commission
Ms. Maureen Conquer, Vice-President of Regional Commission

Invited:

Mr. Ziya Şahin, President of the 45th Apimondia Congress
Dr. Ash Özkirim, Secretary-General of the 45th Apimondia Congress
Mr. Ünal Bilgin, Delegate of the 45th Apimondia Congress Organising Committee
Mr. Burak Kaptan, Delegate of the 45th Apimondia Congress Organising Committee
Dr. Pierre Giovenazzo, President of the 46th Apimondia Congress
Mr. Rod Scarlett, Executive Secretary of the 46th Apimondia Congress
Representative of the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture
Representative of the Municipality of Istanbul
Mr. Cristian Constantinescu, Director of FIITEA
Ms. Marta Giogia, Chief Accountant of FIITEA

Absent with apologies:

Dr. Cristina Mateescu, President of Scientific Commission
Dr. Jacobus C. Biesmeijer, President of Scientific Commission
Ms. Jodie Goldsworthy, President of Regional Commission (represented by Ms. Conquer)

Agenda of the meeting

Friday 2nd June 2017

MORNING SESSION

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Overview of financial issues:
 - a) report on the accounts and approval of the accounts and financial report for 2016,
 - b) Apimondia srl
3. Review and new proposals for amendments to the Apimondia Statutes
4. Evaluation of bids for the 47th Apimondia Congress
5. Apimondia workplan for the 2018-2019 biennium
6. Apimondia budget for the 2018-2019 biennium

AFTERNOON SESSION

7. Report and follow-up on the organisation of the 45th Apimondia Congress
8. Report and follow-up on the organisation of the 46th Apimondia Congress
9. FIITEA report

Saturday 3rd June 2017

MORNING SESSION

10. Apimondia policy:
 - a) review of content and implementation of terms of reference for Scientific and Regional Commissions and Volunteers,
 - b) process of definition of policies on global beekeeping topics (sustainability of agricultural systems, chemical companies, government policies, GMOs, adulteration of bee products),
 - c) definition of Scientific and Regional Commissions' workplans
11. Admission of new members and exclusion of non-paying members
12. Renewal of positions of the Executive Council
13. Proposal of new Honorary Members
14. Collaboration with FAO: follow-up on definition of Memorandum of Understanding, TECA, *Codex Alimentarius* and co-participation in symposium organisation
15. Follow-up on Apimondia accreditation as international NGO and framework collaboration / technical partnerships with other institutions

AFTERNOON SESSION

16. Update of current projects: website, working groups, digital kits
17. Calendar and follow-up on organisation of forthcoming international congresses and symposia
18. Reports of the Members of the Executive Council
19. Any other business

Sunday 4th June 2017

20. Meetings on the scientific programme of the 45th Apimondia Congress

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Friday 2nd June 2017

The President opens the meeting at 8:30 AM. In welcoming the participants present, he informs that Dr. Mateescu, Dr. Biesmeijer and Ms. Goldsworthy 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 issues (point 2)

a) report on the accounts and approval of the accounts and financial report for 2016

The Secretary-General takes the floor to report on the accounts of the Federation for the year 2016 which shows a profit of € 7,263.57. After a discussion on the process to recover the credits still pending as well as on the 5% due to Apimondia from the registration fees of the symposia organised under the aegis of Apimondia, the accounts and financial report for 2016 are approved.

b) Apimondia srl

The Secretary-General reports that the current rents of the building in Castel Porziano as well as the outstanding rents from previous years are being regularly paid by the tenant according to the agreed repayment plan and therefore the advance payment made by the Federation for the restoration works is being steadily recovered.

- Review and new proposals for amendments to the Apimondia Statutes (point 3)

Discussions are entered on the feasibility of establishing some limitations to the possibility of re-applying for staging an Apimondia congress by members that have already held one in recent years. After some general considerations it is deemed more conducive to leave it to the bidders to freely come up for candidatures without imposing limitations in doing so.

- Evaluation of bids for the 47th Apimondia Congress (point 4)

The bids for the organisation of the 47th Apimondia Congress in 2021 submitted by the following member associations: Danish Beekeepers' Association (Denmark), Russian National Union of Beekeepers (Russia), Serbian Federation of Beekeepers' Associations (Serbia) and Slovenian Beekeepers' Association (Slovenia) are accepted for being officially presented at the forthcoming Apimondia General Assembly in Istanbul.

The inspection visits to the proposed venues of the congress: Copenhagen (Denmark), Ufa (Russia), Belgrade (Serbia) and Celje (Slovenia) will be carried out by two members of the Executive Council in the following months with the external assistance of the core PCO of Apimondia.

In this context it is suggested to request the PCO to assist in the compilation of a checklist of the most crucial aspects to be verified and assessed for each bid received.

- Apimondia workplan for the 2018-2019 biennium (point 5)

The Secretary-General illustrates the proposed list of the international symposia that are foreseen to take place under the *aegis* of Apimondia in 2018, some of which have still to be defined:

Symposium on Pollination	Mexico - pending confirmation
Symposium on Biodiversity	Ireland - pending confirmation
7 th Apimedica & 6 th Apiquality Forum confirmation	Canada / Romania - pending
Symposium on Pollination	Australia - pending confirmation
5 th "ApiBio-ApiOrganica" Symposium	Germany
Symposium on Bee health issues	Italy - pending confirmation
Role of Bees in Food Production Symposium	Ethiopia - pending confirmation
ApiEcoFlora 2018	Slovenia – pending confirmation

The Executive Council members agree to the proposed above-mentioned events; the Vice-President stresses that a tighter collaboration should be kept with the Presidents of the Regional Commissions where the events are to take place.

As for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with FAO, at present the agreement is on hold, but there might be openings in the future. Following a meeting with FAO official to which also Mr. Haefeker had participated, it emerged that the procedural arrangements pursuant to the signing of MoU with FAO go through some preliminary technical collaboration on common activities. Part of this is also underway especially with TECA and further initiatives for consolidation of the partnership were discussed and agreed upon. Mr. Ashagrie proposes to include also the Regional Commissions in this exercise.

The Apimondia Working Groups (AWGs) headed by Dr. Bouga and Dr. Hatjina are very active. The discussion then veers on how to revitalise the activities and impact of the other AWGs that also address crucial issues to ensure that such topics are not neglected. At the upcoming congress in Istanbul this aspect may be duly addressed in order to align efforts and also involve new potential collaborators.

The Secretary-General stresses the importance of securing further visibility of Apimondia in the international scenario. This involvement and recognition can also be achieved by having Apimondia included in international beekeeping projects also to build up capacity and experience in this very sector and eventually be able to attract financial contributions in the future. In 2017 Apimondia has been assigned partnership status in a European Union three-year beekeeping project (BRACTICES) dealing with the identification, validation and dissemination of best management practices with a bee health as well as economic focus. Another pending partnership for Apimondia is also linked to another European Union beekeeping project that has been applied for by an international scientific team of experts.

- Apimondia budget for the 2018-2019 biennium (point 6)

The draft budget for the 2018-2019 biennium is discussed and approved.

- Report and follow-up on the organisation of the 45th Apimondia Congress (point 7)

After a visit to the premises of the Istanbul Congress Centre, venue of the 45th Apimondia Congress, Mr. Şahin, President of said congress, welcomes those present and reports that the Local Organising Committee, assisted by various public institutions, has worked hard for this congress and he is sure

that all beekeepers, both from Turkey and abroad, will be certainly satisfied. He also mentions that every effort is to be made for having the final report of the event recognised by the authorities.

Mr. McCabe, on behalf of Apimondia, expresses appreciation to the Local Organising Committee for the hard work done so far, mentioning the productive meeting he had the day before with the Governor of Istanbul as well as the excellent features of the convention centre where the congress will be held.

Mr. Kaptan, member of the Local Organising Committee, illustrates the progress report on the organisation of the 45th Apimondia Congress, highlighting the figures on the registrations, the submission of scientific abstracts, the selling of the booths at the ApiExpo and the sponsor agreements. On 4th June the Presidents of the Scientific and Regional Commissions will discuss with their counterparts of the Local Scientific Committee in detail the topics and programme of the scientific sessions as well as of the round tables and the screening of the abstracts received for each commission. In this respect, Messrs. Martínez and Bruneau stress that the round tables should cover relevant current topics that would attract both academicians and beekeepers.

Mr. McCabe urges all present to work hard for the promotion of the congress. The representatives of the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and of the Municipality of Istanbul assure their respective entities fully support and extensively promote the event.

As for the general programme, the draft programme of the opening and closing ceremonies is discussed and it is underlined that every effort should be made for keeping the interventions short as well as to briefly present the main topics of the scientific sessions and round table to the audience. As for the security issues related to the Congress, Mr. Şahin confirms that every measure is being taken with the local authorities to provide a safe environment during the Congress.

It is agreed to try to keep the General Assembly session short and to involve as much as possible the members of the Federation as well as to contact the International Honey Commission (IHC) to finalise their presence at the congress and see if it would be feasible to have a dedicated slot for reporting at the Congress on the works and conclusions of the IHC conference that will be held in Antalya just before the Apimondia Congress.

The members resolve to have a debriefing meeting at the end of the congress on 5th October in order to review the performance of the event and pinpoint the shortcomings that might have occurred.

- Report and follow-up on the organisation of the 46th Apimondia Congress (point 8)

Dr. Giovenazzo, President of the 46th Apimondia Congress, takes the floor to illustrate the draft programme of the event, the premises of the convention centre and the sponsoring opportunities from governmental and municipal authorities.

The Local Organising Committee urges Apimondia to finalise the contract with the core PCO as well as to determine a detailed budget for the promotion of the congress in Canada. It is also discussed on the financial issues pertaining to the grants received from public institutions and how to channel them in the Congress accounts. It is agreed that Apimondia will send a list of the sponsors that will not be accepted on the grounds of ethical parameters.

Saturday 3rd June 2017

The President opens the meeting at 8:30 AM.

- Apimondia policy (point 10)
 - a) review of content and implementation of terms of reference for Scientific and Regional Commissions and Volunteers,
 - b) process of definition of policies on global beekeeping topics (sustainability of agricultural systems, chemical companies, government policies, GMOs, adulteration of bee products),
 - c) definition of Scientific and Regional Commissions' workplans

The issuance of the terms of reference for the members of the Executive Council is discussed and the Secretary-General insists on the need for each member of the Apimondia Executive Council to seriously engage in carrying out the responsibilities attached to their position. The signing of the respective terms of reference by each appointed member would therefore act as a formal commitment to engage accordingly in the activities of Apimondia. If any Executive Council member is not able to devote time to Apimondia matters during their mandate they should either not accept the position in the first place or should arrange for some members in their own team to take over and deal with any emerging task effectively. The Executive Council agrees on having the terms of reference issued and signed by each incumbent holding office.

Mr. Bruneau proposes to focus the activities on few crucial issues (pesticides, parasites, adulteration) and produce documents. It is also proposed to have tangible programmes from each Commission for each biennium. In this context, the Secretary-General proposes to produce an Apimondia flagship publication that would reflect the official position of the Federation on key international and local beekeeping issues so that it can also act as a reference document for policy-makers and anyone involved in beekeeping.

The Vice-President stresses that communication among the members should be further enhanced during the year since a two-day meeting a year is far too little. In this context, the President reports that the publication of the Newsletter proved to be well appreciated by the members of Apimondia and further steps should be taken in this direction in order to supply the members with a constant flux of information.

To this end, the Newsletter would have to focus on general information on what is happening in apiculture to be distributed to the international beekeeping community whereas the flagship publication would focus on more scientific topics and substantive policy issues. Mr. Bruneau suggests that the Regional Commissions should highlight sensitive topics affecting the beekeeping community and the Scientific Commissions should intervene to address them holistically. After a round of questions to the Presidents of the Regional Commissions, it emerges that the most sensible topics at present are: strong impact of the adulteration of honey, biosecurity, ecosystem management, need to promote pollination, organic beekeeping and availability of technologies. It is agreed that these topics should be addressed by the round tables that are to be organised during the Congress in Istanbul.

Mr. McCabe also proposes to have a list of representatives of beekeeping associations in countries that are not members of Apimondia in order to involve them more in the Federation's activities and initiatives and also to have a better representative coverage of international and local beekeeping interests.

Mr. McCabe raises an issue on the specific terms of representativeness of some beekeepers' associations in Apimondia whereby the boundaries and criteria for establishing the status of Full Member and Associate Member of the Federation determine the eligibility to hold an Apimondia Congress. The current interpretation, rationale and content of the Apimondia Statutes may have to be revised in the light of this emerging issue.

- Admission of new members and exclusion of non-paying members (point 11)

The Secretary-General reports on the beekeeping associations that have submitted the application to join Apimondia as Full or Associate Members as well as on those Members that will be excluded from the Federation due to the non-payment of the membership fees. Said associations will undergo the official endorsement of acceptance/exclusion by the General Assembly, due to convene in Istanbul next September. The list of the new Individual Correspondents is also distributed. The members of the Executive Council approve the applying Full and Associate Members as well as Individual Correspondents whose applications will be submitted to the General Assembly for official endorsement.

- Renewal of positions of the Executive Council (point 12)

The Secretary-General provides the list of the positions that will undergo election at the 45th Apimondia Congress: Vice-President (incumbent: Mr. Lucas Daniel Martínez), Secretary-General (incumbent: Mr. Riccardo Jannoni-Sebastianini), President of the Scientific Commission on Beekeeping for Rural Development (incumbent: Dr. Nicola J. Bradbear), President of the Scientific Commission on Beekeeping Economy (incumbent: Prof. Kun-Suk Woo), President of the Scientific Commission on Pollination and Bee Flora (resigning: Dr. Jacobus C. Biesmeijer), President of the Regional Commission for Africa (resigning: Mr. Mulufird Ashagrie), President of the Regional Commission for Asia (incumbent: Prof. Cleofas R. Cervancia).

Mr. Martínez, Mr. Jannoni-Sebastianini, Dr. Bradbear and Prof. Woo all confirm their availability to stand for another terms if re-appointed. Prof. Cervancia informs that she would step down unless no other candidate comes forward for election.

Upon receipt of the candidatures for the afore-mentioned positions by the deadline, as per the Apimondia Statutes, the General Secretariat will send them out to all the members for their due information and evaluation.

- Proposal of new Honorary Members (point 13)

No proposals are submitted for the time being. At the meeting before the opening of the 45th Apimondia Congress, possible proposals will be discussed.

- Collaboration with FAO: follow-up on definition of Memorandum of Understanding, TECA, Codex Alimentarius and co-participation in symposium organisation (point 14)

The item concerning the Memorandum of Understanding with FAO has been dealt with at point 5.

As for the TECA technical partnership, the third collaboration ended at the beginning of this year following a deadline extension. The Secretary-General proposes to invite a high rank officer of FAO to the congress and try to develop future collaborations with this Organisation also on account of the new corporate focus that it is taking on beekeeping.

The World Bee Day (WBD) initiative has been through various evaluation levels at FAO and by the end of the year, if endorsed at the FAO Conference in July 2017, it will be further forwarded to the UN General Assembly for the final decision and official endorsement on the adoption of the WBD as an international UN day. Therefore, if all is cleared, the first official celebration would be on 20th May 2018.

- Follow-up on Apimondia accreditation as international NGO and framework collaboration / technical partnerships with other institutions (point 15)

Steps have taken by the Secretary-General to establish collaborations with other organisations that would share common objectives with Apimondia. In this context, contacts have been made and are currently being further developed with Alisei, an Italian NGO with 30 years of experience in project management and with Slowfood, a world known Italian organisation, that promotes a different and more balanced approach to food and its production and has expressed interest also in bee products.

Apimondia is also collaborating very actively with the Italian Regional Institute for Animal Diseases that is based in Rome especially for TECA activities within FAO and the above-mentioned BPRACTICES project.

Dr. Pettis reports that OIE has communicated that it is strongly interested in cooperating with Apimondia in the future. A first tangible step in this direction has already been taken in that OIE representatives will actively engage in some scientific sessions at the upcoming Apimondia Congress.

- Update of current projects: website, working groups, digital kits (point 16)

This item has been dealt with at point 5.

- Calendar and follow-up on organisation of forthcoming international congresses and symposia (point 17)

This item has been dealt with at point 5.

- Reports of the Members of the Executive Council (point 18)

The above-mentioned reports are attached to these minutes.

- FIITEA report (point 9)

Mr. McCabe and Mr. Constantinescu briefly report on the meeting of the FIITEA Management Board that took place on 2 June, where issues relating to the accounts, staffing and institutional activities of FIITEA were addressed. FIITEA mentioned that the Apimondia Executive Council meeting scheduled for 2018 could be held in Bucharest.

- Any other business (point 19)

Upon specific enquiries it is confirmed that the fund-raising contract with Civitas has been terminated on account of the implementation constraints encountered and that for the other proposed initiative for the certification of apitherapy products there are no further news available.

Dr. Bradbear and the Secretary-General propose to revise the format of the Executive Council meetings in order to separate administrative issues to be dealt with promptly to ensure smooth operations and foresee some other *ad hoc* sessions to address scientific and technical issues collectively within the Scientific and Regional Commissions to ensure that also these topics are addressed and implemented strategically and effectively. The opportunity of having all the members of the EC convened together should represent an excellent forum for devising workplans and programme for the year ahead to tackle the very problems raised or encountered by the beekeepers worldwide.

Mr. Bruneau proposes to have a world directory of beekeeping operators that could be then sold on condition that a sponsor is found to run this initiative. He also proposes to compile a map of the spread of *Aethina tumida* in Italy in order to then project at European/world level and then present it at OIE for action with FAO eventually sponsoring this initiative. The Executive Council supports these proposals.

On 29th September 2017, before the 45th Apimondia Congress opening ceremony, the Executive Council will meet to discuss the latest details of the Congress.

The next Executive Council meeting will be tentatively convened in Bucharest, Romania, on 4th-6th May 2018.

Having covered all the agenda, the President calls the meeting to a close at 2:00 PM.

Sunday 4th June 2017

The President opens the meeting at 8:30 AM.

- Meetings on the scientific programme of the 45th Apimondia Congress (point 20)

The Presidents of the Apimondia Scientific Commissions meet separately with their counterparts of the Local Scientific Committee in order to analyse the programme of each Commission (plenary sessions, symposia and round tables) on the basis of the abstracts received and evaluated.

The Presidents of the Regional Commissions meet to discuss on the contents of the round tables dedicated to different continents.

At the end of the meetings, Dr. Özkirim informs that she will collate all the work done and send the proposed scientific programme to all concerned for the final approval.

Istanbul, 4th June 2017

Philip McCabe
President

Lucas Daniel Martínez
Vice-President

Riccardo Jannoni-Sebastianini
Secretary-General