



Apimondia

International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING OF APIMONDIA

Bucharest, Romania
20th - 21st May 2000

Agenda of the meeting

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Reports of the President, Vice-President and Secretary-General
 - Reports of the Presidents of the Standing Commissions
 - Reports of the other members of the Executive Council
3. Report on the Apimondia accounts for 1999
 - Report of the Auditors
4. Report on IITEA activities
 - Renewal of the Managing Committee positions
 - The new Apiacta
5. Report of the Webmaster
6. Report on FAO INTID programme
7. Report on the *Codex Alimentarius* activities
8. Report on Apimondia Srl
9. Report on the closure of the 36th Apimondia congress operations
10. Report on future congresses and symposia
11. Report on the preparation of the 37th Apimondia Congress
12. The statutes of Apimondia
13. The future of Apimondia

14. Any other business

Present:

Mr. A.S. Jørgensen, President
Dr. E. Schieferstein, Vice-President
Mr. R. Borneck, Dean of the Honorary Members of Apimondia
Mr. R. Jannoni-Sebastianini, Secretary-General
Dr. M. Peroutka, Elected Member
Prof. O. Van Laere, President of Standing Commission
Dr. N. Bradbear, President of Standing Commission
Dr. M. Sommeijer, President of Standing Commission
Mr. G. Ratia, President of Standing Commission
Prof. R. Domerego (on behalf of Dr. T. Cherbuliez)
Mr. K. Gladines, Auditor
Mr. K. Wyder, Auditor

Invited:

Dr. A. DuToit, 37th Apimondia Congress Secretary-General
Dr. S. Cannamela, Honorary Member of Apimondia
Mr. C. Constantinescu, IITEA Director
Ms. E. Dumitrascu, IITEA Editor-in-Chief
Ms. M. Giogia, IITEA Chief Accountant

Absent with apologies:

Mr. E. Lear, Elected Member
Dr. T. Cherbuliez, President of Standing Commission
Dr. W. Ritter, President of Standing Commission
Mr. H. Watanabe, President of Standing Commission

1. The meeting was opened by the President by welcoming all those present and conveying the apologies of those unable to attend. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and the agenda was adopted with a slightly different order to enable the discussion on the organisation of the forthcoming congress to take place later on without interruptions and with more time available. The various points are however reported in the order outlined in the agenda.

2. The President took the floor to report on the activities carried out since the closure of the congress held in Canada. In January 2000 he paid a visit to Apimondia headquarters in Rome with the Vice-President for an update on the ongoing activities and to discuss with the Secretary-General on the Federation's current workplan. The visit was also an opportunity to enable the Vice-President to become acquainted with Apimondia's office structure and resources as well as the legal framework of both the Federation and the Apimondia Ltd. company status. During the visit a meeting had also taken place with the President of the Italian Beekeepers' Federation on the collaboration to arrange the relocation of the Apimondia new office in Rome.

Later in March another visit was made to Rome this time to meet with FAO officials to discuss on the collaboration for the INTID (International Network on Transboundary Insect Diseases) programme, attend the Apimell Fair in Piacenza in northern Italy to meet the representatives of Italian beekeeping, participate in a symposium on organic beekeeping and deliver a speech on Apimondia activities and an invitation to the audience to attend the next congress in South Africa.

The Vice-President took the floor to present his report on the legal framework of Apimondia and IITEA after the collation of the relevant documentation from both bodies.

The Secretary-General reported on the meetings held with the President and Vice-President during their visits to Rome earlier in the year, on the office move that was underway after the relocation to another area of the building in the centre of Rome and the general improvements that would enable to hire a collaborator to take care of the Federation's routine administrative work. He also mentioned the status of the accounts reconciliation after the closure of the Canadian congress and that the settlement of the balance of the 10% quota was underway.

The Dean of the Honorary Members of Apimondia took the floor to report on his work within the *Codex Alimentarius* Commission and a copy of the text is attached to these minutes.

The Presidents of the Standing Commissions in turn took the floor to deliver their reports which have been attached to these minutes for reference.

3. The audit on Apimondia accounts had taken place the day before on 19th May 2000 and this enabled the auditors to review the background documentation and issue their clearance statement. The accounts were found in good order and the auditors after checking the invoices, the bank statements and the resulting entries on the financial statements recommended to change the phasing of the amortization plan of some office equipment to be more in line with its actual foreseen use and duration. It was also agreed to offset one against the other on the financial statement two long-standing liabilities and receivables entries relating to previous congresses for which there would be no reasonable expectations of solution.

4. Also the IITEA Managing Committee meeting had taken place the day before when an in-depth analysis of the Institute's activities and situation had been carried out. The Director of IITEA took the floor to update the Executive Council on the highlights of the previous day's meeting. A copy of the meeting minutes and state of the accounts is attached to this report.

For the new format of *Apiacta* it was stressed the importance of looking for good articles to publish and of keeping a number of them in the pipeline ready for review and publication in the following issues of the magazine. All the Presidents of the Standing Commissions were encouraged to contact the authors who had attended their respective plenary sessions at the last congress in order to obtain their full reports for review and publication.

5. The Apimondia webmaster presented his report which had been integrated in the one prepared for the Standing Commission on Beekeeping Equipment and Technology of which Mr. Ratia is also President. Both reports are attached herewith for reference.

6. The President and the Secretary-General reported on the meeting they had attended in Rome at FAO in March on the future development of the INTID programme. It was agreed to forward a copy of the draft presentation of the project to the members of the Executive Council to elicit their comments, suggestions and collaboration in the definition and implementation of the programme including proposals to strengthen Apimondia's specialist involvement in this initiative.

7. Mr. Borneck in his capacity of the appointed Apimondia representative in the activities of the *Codex Alimentarius* took the floor to present the outcome of the various meetings he had attended and the inputs made in the revision of the *Codex* normative, the details of which are included in the above-mentioned report of the Dean of Honorary Members of Apimondia.

8. The Secretary-General took the floor to update the Executive Council on the latest developments of the Apimondia Ltd. company's activities. After the installation of the new tenant in the house at Castel Porziano some steady income has been recorded for Apimondia. In order to shorten the payback period for the restoration work undertaken by the tenant a number of repayments were anticipated so that Apimondia would be able to cash full rents earlier than planned. As a result of the just recent connection to the main water system it was possible to change the destination of the water tanks room and gain yet more storage space in the house basement used by Apimondia. In general the situation was deemed to be satisfactory as the level of income would enable Apimondia to build some financial resources for future investments on staff, office equipment and facilities.

9. The Secretary-General circulated the figures received from the Canadian Organising Committee of the congress accounts reconciliation. In view of the fact that a VAT rebate had been put forward with the Canadian authorities there remained some outstanding instalments of the 10% quota that would be compensated upon receipt of the refund. Satisfaction was expressed unanimously by the Executive Council members on the congress organisation and the attendance level recorded as well as for the scientific contents and outcome of the various sessions. It was estimated that some US\$ 50,000 would be transferred to Apimondia for its 10% share on the congress registration fees.

10. For the future congresses and symposia, a meeting had been scheduled in Slovenia in September 2000 to discuss and sign the letter of agreement with the Slovenian Organising Committee and discuss any preliminary organisational issues on the occasion of the survey mission.

The Standing Commissions were encouraged to get involved in the organisation of specialistic symposia in their field of activity and to this end there were already in the pipeline a number of proposals underway/on schedule.

11. Dr. DuToit, in representation of the South African Organising Committee, had delivered a report to the members of the Executive Council to present the work carried out so far and to highlight some crucial issues on which decisions were required in order to proceed with the work and necessary logistic arrangements. The content of the report was thoroughly reviewed and all the points were addressed to the satisfaction of both parties. The presence of IITEA representatives enabled to sort out also the issues concerning the complex activities related to the preparation and printing of the congress literature. A copy of letter of agreement was also handed over to Dr. DuToit to enable him to discuss it with the South African Organising Committee upon return to South Africa. In October, on the occasion of the President's visit to Durban, it was foreseen to finalise the content of this document and sign it for further implementation. The letter of agreement in fact reflects in detail all the main responsibilities, duties and workplan concerning the organisation of the congress and it will enable to set the remaining areas and guidelines of intervention leading to the congress.

12. Dr. Schieferstein took the floor to report on the developments underway on the Deutscher Imkerbund's proposal for new statutes. It was agreed to reiterate the request to the member associations to submit their comments and inputs in order to be able to send out the new draft by the required deadlines before the next congress when it will be discussed and voted at the General Assembly.

Dr. Sommeijer underlined the proposal put forward by the Stichting Bedrijfsraad voor de Bijenhouderij in Nederland concerning the feasibility of appointing an external auditing body to review the Federation's accounts and enquired about enshrining this point in the new statutes proposals that are being consolidated.

13. On the future of Apimondia a number of points were taken into consideration. Dr. Cherbuliez had undertaken to work on the mission statement that would characterise the future activities of the Federation. The proposal for new statutes also fitted in this process towards changes that would streamline the structure of Apimondia and bring it closer to the needs of the membership. The almost completed recovery plan from the difficult financial period was also deemed essential in providing crucial momentum to this change as a result of the availability of a stable level of resources to fund the activities planned.

14. The Secretary-General reported on the payment of part of the membership fees in arrears by the Argentine (SADA) and the French (UNAF) member associations. It was mentioned that in order to facilitate the re-instatement of member associations with outstanding debts only two instead of four annual membership fees in arrears would be deemed sufficient to restore the specific association's status within Apimondia. It was also envisaged that these terms would apply to any other member association falling under the same conditions.

Having addressed all the items on the agenda, the President called the meeting to an end.