



Apimondia

International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations

APIMONDIA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Dublin, Ireland
7th - 8th May 2005

Agenda of the meeting

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Report and follow-up on the organisation of the 39th Apimondia Congress
3. Review of the Letter of Agreement for the 39th Apimondia congress
4. Reports of the President, Vice-President and Secretary-General
5. Reports of the other Executive Council members
6. Report on the activities of FIITEA
7. Report on the closure of accounts of the 38th Apimondia Congress
8. Follow-up on arrangements for the 40th Apimondia Congress
9. Renewal of Apimondia management positions
10. Calendar of future international congresses and symposia
11. Renewal of Apimondia Statutes
12. Finalisation of the standard Letter of Agreement for congress organisation bidders
13. Report of the external auditor and approval of the accounts and financial report for the period 2003-2004 and draft budget for the next biennium
14. Planning on the future activities and areas of development of Apimondia
15. Any other business:
 - a) Apimondia srl
 - b) Follow-up on protocol on the organisation and bid procedures of future congresses

- c) Follow-up on registration of Apimondia as an international NGO
- d) Follow-up on 2003/04 internal workshops on Apimondia institutional activities
- e) Review of membership policies and promotion
- f) Collaboration with FAO on beekeeping projects
- g) Other issues

Present:

Apimondia Executive Council Members:

Jørgensen Asger, President
Jannoni-Sebastianini Riccardo, Secretary-General
Sommeijer Marinus, President of the Standing Commission of Pollination and Bee Flora
Van Laere Octaaf, former President of the Standing Commission on Bee Biology
Ritter Wolfgang, President of the Standing Commission on Bee Pathology
Bradbear Nicola, President of the Standing Commission on Beekeeping for Rural Development
Ratia Gilles, President of the Standing Commission on Beekeeping Technology and Equipment
Cherbuliez Theodore, President of the Standing Commission on Apitherapy

Invited:

Nöhler Ulrike, Apimondia Secretariat
Constantinescu Cristian, FIITEA Foundation
Domerego Roch, Vice-President of the Standing Commission on Apitherapy

Irish Congress Organising Committee Members:

McCabe Philip, Congress President
Burton Eymear, Project Manager
Fletcher John, World Honey Show Sub-Committee
Irvine Ethel, Cultural Programme Sub-Committee
Walsh Norman, Congress Secretary
Breandan O'Coirlain, President of the Scientific Programme
Gleeson Michael, FIBKA Representative
Hall Graham, Contests Sub-Committee
Donoghue John, Technical Tours Sub-Committee
McCabe Ciara, Ovation Group
O'Callaghan Jim, Tours Sub-Committee
Maloney Michael, Promotion Sub-Committee
Mitchell Noel, Ovation Group

Apologies:

Schieferstein Erich, resigning Vice-President
Borneck Raymond, Dean of Apimondia Honorary Members
Tam Dinh Quyet, President of the Standing Commission on Beekeeping Economy
Crewe Robin, resigning President of the Standing Commission on Bee Biology

Saturday 7 May 2005 – 9.00 hrs

1. Adoption of the agenda - Following a welcome greeting, the apologies of those not present and a brief presentation of all participants by Mr. Jørgensen, Apimondia President, and Mr. McCabe, President of the 39th Apimondia Congress, the agenda is adopted with the inclusion of two new points:

- the Honey Importers and Packers Association's proposal for a new Standing Commission on honey
- the Argentine Federation of Beekeeping Co-operatives' proposal for a new Standing Commission on co-operation issues

2. Report and follow-up on the organisation of the 39th Apimondia Congress - The members of the Irish Congress Organising Committee illustrate in turn the situation regarding the organisation of the 39th Apimondia Congress. Mr. McCabe presents the figures of the registrations received to date with 236 full participants, 74 accompanying persons, 5 full participants from developing countries, 13 additional registrations from exhibitors and 19 daily registrations. There is however an expected increase in registrations by end of May.

Mr. McCabe illustrates the various promotional activities undertaken in the form of flyers, website, second announcement, E-mails, articles in specialised journals and magazines, telephone contacts, participation in the UK National Honey Show in February 2005 with a stand, the bee beard world record attempt on 25 June 2005 for the Guinness book, a campaign in Ireland through a sponsorship card scheme, national television and radio coverage and press.

For sponsorships, major European contributors to the congress are Medex of Slovenia and Vita Europe Ltd. of the UK.

The ApiExpo exhibition area has recorded strong interest and it is practically sold out with a few more applications still coming in. Plans for enlarging the floor plan are also being considered in case of saturation of the existing space.

For the contests, four applications have been received to date and more are announced in the future before the deadline for application. By the end of July all the judges are to be appointed and Mr. McCabe requests the Apimondia Executive Council members to provide/propose international candidates for the various categories. Also a sample of the medal bearing the inscription "Food first" is circulated to show the pattern chosen.

Mr. Fletcher takes the floor to report on the World Honey Show mentioning that the rules of this contest are posted on the congress website and the judges have already been appointed. The medals have been commissioned by the Royal Dublin Society on whose premises the congress is being held. Volunteers have been assigned to assist for this event.

Ms Irvine reports on the arrangements underway for the cultural programme and the definition of the protocol of the main opening and closing ceremonies and the relevant interventions of those called on the stage. Following a discussion, it is agreed that the ceremonies will be kept short and also the interventions of the Presidents of the Standing Commissions should not exceed 4 – 5 minutes each and the text of the speeches should be handed in to the interpreters' team before the ceremonies so that the simultaneous translations is facilitated and takes less time. These ceremonies should take no more than 1 and a half hour to retain the audience attention and interest and to this end short breaks between the different rounds of interventions may be foreseen.

The main programme foresees an opening ceremony on 21 August, the Australian night on 22 August, the Irish night on 23 August, the national costume evening and the World Honey Show on 24 August and the closing ceremony on 25 August.

Concerning the timing of the first General Assembly some considerations are made on the fact that in the current version of the programme there is not enough time available to carry out all the items on the agenda. After some discussion on the different possibilities in the end it is agreed to start at 18 hrs sharp on 22 August.

Mr. Jørgensen and Mr. Jannoni-Sebastianini request that the room for the first General Assembly be arranged in classroom style with a seating capacity of at least 100 people and to foresee also that places be marked with names of the countries and also small flags, if available. Translation should also be provided and the seat allocation by country should take into account this requirement of keeping homogeneous language groups close to each other.

To avoid confusion on the voting procedure and entitlements, it is decided that the settlement of the outstanding membership fees be closed at 12 hrs on Monday 22 August so that the list of voting members may be drawn and distributed and also be used for the accreditation of eligible delegates attending the General Assembly sessions.

For the presentation of the bids to the delegates it is agreed to allocate 10 minutes to each venue.

For the Presidents of the Standing Commissions at least one volunteer is assigned to each. If more people are required for specific activities or events, they can request additional volunteers. Also the Apimondia General Secretariat will have a volunteer assigned and others are foreseen for general assistance. Volunteers should also have a mobile phone so that they can be contacted in case of urgency. In total some 125 volunteers have been recruited for the entire congress.

For the scientific programme Ms. Burton confirms that the abstract submission system is still open. Mr. Jørgensen requests that notification of acceptance be sent as soon as possible in order to allow authors to seek funding for their attending the congress. He also requests the main titles of the scientific programme so that he can disseminate them.

Dr. Ritter requests that the submission system be closed by mid-May and indicates that all other abstracts can be presented as posters. He also recommends to avoid empty slots in the programme and to call separate and short briefing meetings the day before each plenary session with the authors to define the programme and check who is actually present to deliver their paper.

Mr. Jørgensen recommends that it should be possible to change the programme at short notice even the day before to avoid empty slots in the plenary sessions.

Dr. Ritter also requests means for informing authors that their time is over in order to ensure time-keeping and an orderly running of the sessions and it is agreed to provide appropriate signals to the authors.

Mr. Constantinescu asks if there will be a printed copy of the programme and Mr. McCabe confirms that this publication will be produced.

For the biology and pathology sessions it is anticipated that some scientists and researchers will not be able to attend since they will participate in the IUSSE conference in St. Petersburg as it is coinciding with the Apimondia congress dates.

Dr. Ritter reports that his plenary session will have two key speakers and that there will be several German authors so an extra session is required for the control aspects of bee pathology.

For beekeeping for rural development there will be one plenary session with the best papers and three days of practical workshops for up to 50 participants.

Mr. Ratia announces that for bee technology few reports and innovations have been presented and this led to the cancellation of one symposium. He proposes to send out E-mails to try and secure more reports by mid-May.

For bee flora and pollination there are some invited speakers to increase the quality of the papers and a workshop on melissopalynology for up to 60 participants is scheduled to which also Mr. Lea of FAO has been invited. The content of this workshop looks extremely interesting even though not enough papers have been submitted.

The Standing Commission on Apitherapy has received 67 papers to date and it is noticed that not all abstracts fit with the titles and also that apitherapy lends itself to such a diversity of conditions that impacts on the potential outcomes of this branch.

Dr. Ritter announces that an OIE meeting on diagnosis of bee diseases on 19 and 20 August 2005 has been called just before the congress is due to start. This event is restricted to a limited number of invited participants due to its specialist objectives.

Concerning the participation figures on the congress it is noticed that the high prices set represent a deterrent and also another elements such as the quality of papers is not entirely satisfactory.

Dr. Sommeijer requests if it is possible for the presidents of the standing commissions to obtain discounted registrations for one or two collaborators as it was anticipated in Slovenia in 2003 and it is agreed that this option is available on request.

The General Assembly is then scheduled to take place on Monday 22 August at 18 hrs with the use of an overhead projector.

3. Review of the Letter of Agreement for the 39th Apimondia congress

Mr. Jannoni-Sebastianini refers back to the E-mail sent to the Irish Congress Organising Committee on 2 December 2004 with an annex containing some additional points to be included in the Letter of Agreement and expresses his surprise at the fact that this document was not formally endorsed and signed. Mr. McCabe and Mr. Fletcher reply that the Committee interpreted the annex as a document changing the terms of the original agreement. Mr. Jannoni-Sebastianini stresses the fact

that the agreement explicitly foresees the possibility of additional documents and annexes to integrate the content of the original document as a result of changing circumstances and requirements.

In any case, following a debate between the participants in the meeting, the Irish Congress Organising Committee formally agrees on the content of the annex and undertakes to observe the relevant provisions even though the document has not been signed.

Another issue that is raised is that of the lack of a discounted registration fee for participants from member associations despite this being explicitly foreseen in the Letter of Agreement as this has led to discontent from some members that has been directed to the office in Rome.

Saturday 7 May 2005 – 14.00 hrs

4. Reports of the President, Vice-President and Secretary-General

Mr. Jørgensen takes the floor to illustrate the activities he has carried out in the last twelve months focusing mainly on the congress promotion and following up on the Letter of Agreement with the Australian Congress Organising Committee, the juridical status of Apimondia, the contacts with other international organisations including FAO and representing Apimondia at various meetings abroad. The details are in the attached report.

Mr. Jannoni-Sebastianini reports briefly on the congress promotion activities carried out by attending a number of events in South America and Asia also to establish new contacts with local associations and beekeepers. He also comments on the situation of the office in Rome that is gradually able to perform more efficiently. Other details are contained in the report attached to these minutes.

5. Reports of the other Executive Council members

Prof. Van Laere on behalf of Prof. Crewe who has resigned from President of the Standing Commission on Bee biology illustrates his report which is attached to these minutes.

Dr. Ritter announces that an offer for the position of Apiacta chief editor for the English version has been conveyed to Dr. Mangum who has expressed interest in this assignment. This change is to produce a new format and content for the magazine and there appears to be already a number of positive replies also in view of the fact that in future scientists will be further encouraged to publish their papers in Apiacta.

The purpose of the magazine will remain that of setting a bridge between scientists and beekeepers.

It appears that a number of articles are being received in Spanish and these will have to be translated into English as this will be the only language foreseen for the on-line version of the magazine.

Dr. Mangum has confirmed that he will attend the congress in August and on that occasion it will be possible to define the terms of his appointment as editor in chief.

Dr. Bradbear's report is also attached to this document with the details of the activities undertaken.

Prof. Domerego takes the floor to point out the level of competition that is emerging in the beekeeping sectors with a proliferation of events, congresses, symposia and workshops taking place all over the world creating also problems of overlapping of dates and topics.

Prof. Sommeijer also refers to his attached report and adds that the next edition of Eurbee is planned to take place in Prague in 2006. He also says that he has encountered technical problems with his E-mail account and this may explain why in some cases he may have not received correspondence or failed to follow-up on requests addressed to him.

Dr. Cherbuliez announces the launch of an apitherapy-related project in Cuba for which they are to receive funding and structured in four main lines: apiculture, conservation, ecology and medicine.

Dr. Domerego adds on the importance of implementing biological beekeeping and on recent contacts established in Burkina Faso for future beekeeping-related projects.

Mr. Constantinescu illustrates the projects for the FIITEA foundation in Bucharest concerning the opening of a conference centre and of a honey shop stocking Romanian as well as international honeys. As for the accounts, the results are improving and the annual contribution of Apimondia has also been set aside. The publication of the paper version of Apiacta has been discontinued as no longer profitable.

Dr. Domerego asks if it is possible for FIITEA to print the content of the apitherapy CDs with 1,000 copies each in French, Spanish, German and English and requests an estimate.

6. Report on the activities of FIITEA

Mr. Constantinescu takes the floor to present the report on FIITEA activities and the accounts for 2004 and the budget and he also illustrate the situation of the foundation in the Romanian current context.

Mr. Jørgensen briefly summarises the issues discussed at the FIITEA meeting concerning the legal aspects and the proposed change of name and address of the foundation.

7. Report on the closure of accounts of the 38th Apimondia Congress

Mr. Jannoni-Sebastianini announces that the accounts of the 38th Apimondia were closed and resulted in a net contribution of Euro 36,000.

Some issues had to be clarified on the charges made for the use of the Internet-based abstract submission system and some hospitality costs, but all was resolved with mutual satisfaction.

8. Follow-up on arrangements for the 40th Apimondia Congress

Mr. Jannoni-Sebastianini reports on the development of the negotiations with the Australian counterparts in the finalisation of the Letter of Agreement for the 40th Apimondia congress and after explaining the earlier stages of the process he requests the member of the Executive Council to express their views and requirements on issues relating to the management of the scientific programme and the financial aspects in order to reflect them in the revised version of the draft document to be sent to the Australian Congress Organising Committee for review and final acceptance.

The entire Executive Council recommends that the Letter of Agreement be signed in August in Dublin.

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Present:

Apimondia Executive Council Members:

Jørgensen Asger, President
Jannoni-Sebastianini Riccardo, Secretary-General
Sommeijer Marinus, President of the Standing Commission of Pollination and Bee Flora
Van Laere Octaaf, former President of the Standing Commission on Bee Biology
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Invited:

Nöhrer Ulrike, Apimondia Secretariat
Constantinescu Cristian, FIITEA Foundation
Domerego Roch, Vice-President of the Standing Commission on Apitherapy

Irish Congress Organising Committee Members:

McCabe Philip, Congress President
Burton Eymear, Project Manager
Walsh Norman, Congress Secretary
Gleeson Michael, FIBKA Representative

Sunday 8 May 2005 – 9.00 hrs

The meeting is preceded by an on-site visit of the congress venue to familiarise with the buildings and halls and assess any specific logistics requirements.

9. Renewal of Apimondia management positions

The positions expiring at the next congress are the following:

- Vice-President where Dr. Schieferstein has resigned and it is proposed to seek new candidates especially from areas like Latin America in order to balance the composition of the Executive Council;
- Secretary-General where the incumbent, Mr. Jannoni-Sebastianini, confirms his availability to offer his services for another mandate;
- President of the Standing Commission on Bee Biology where Prof. Crewe has resigned due to a new academic assignment and the name of Dr. K. Crailsheim is proposed;

- President of the Standing Commission on Beekeeping for Rural Development where the incumbent, Dr. Bradbear, also intends to continue the relevant activities;
- President of the Standing Commission on Beekeeping Economy where the incumbent, Mr. Tam, confirms his availability to sit for another term.

10. Calendar of future international congresses and symposia

Dr. Ritter proposes a symposium on residues to take place in Kassel (Germany) in 2006.

Dr. Bradbear announces the 4th Caribbean Beekeeping Congress in Trinidad from 14 to 18 November 2005.

Dr. Sommejer reports on the preparation of a symposium on the relationship between bees and trees in indigenous environments to take place in El Salvador and adds that he will also be involved in the 2006 edition of Eurbee in Prague.

Prof. Domerego indicates that there may be an apitherapy symposium in Europe in winter 2005, but this depends on whether they go ahead with the launch of a concurrent UN project in Burkina Faso.

11. Renewal of Apimondia Statutes

Dr. Ritter requests to have the name of the Standing Commission on Bee Pathology changed into that of Bee Health to convey a more positive connotation of the commission's focus.

Mr. Jørgensen illustrates the proposals received for changes to the statutes that will be submitted to the General Assembly:

- creation of a new Standing Commission on Honey;
- creation of a new Standing Commission on Co-operation;
- revision of the objectives of Apimondia to align them to current external requirements and challenges;
- provisions for takeover procedures in case one of the members of the Apimondia Managing Committee is temporarily or permanently incapacitated in performing his/her institutional duties;
- creation of a new position of editor in chief for Apiacta in case this charge is functional to the appointed person's taking up of the post. Some discussion ensues on this point as there are some objections to setting up a position in the Executive Council for this post and it is concluded that since it is an unpaid position the provision will be considered for approval only if really needed by the candidate's status to enable him/her attend the Apimondia Executive Council's meetings;
- change of the official currency of reference for the Federation's accounts from the US dollar to the Euro to overcome the negative impact of the devaluation of the US currency against the Euro;
- there is also a proposal for the determination of a minimum number of years in membership status before being able to bid for staging an Apimondia congress.

12. Finalisation of the standard Letter of Agreement for congress organisation bidders

Mr. Jørgensen announces that Apimondia is preparing a general letter of agreement covering the arrangements and requirements for the organisation of an Apimondia congress in order to submit it to the member associations bidding for the event and have it preliminarily signed by them as a pre-requisite for applying.

Mr. Jannoni-Sebastianini reports that he is now finalising this document so to have it ready for presentation, discussion and official approval by both parties on the occasion of the inspection visits to the proposed congress sites for the 2009 edition of the congress to be arranged in July 2005.

Mr. Jannoni-Sebastianini stresses the importance of having the document signed before the bidding takes place and adds that the congress registration fees must be endorsed by the Executive Council before they are officially disseminated.

Moreover, Apimondia must be in a position to monitor the inflow of the registration fees and this can only be done if these remittances are sent to Rome and as Apimondia has no reason for withholding these funds from the local congress organisers these sums will be promptly forwarded to the local congress organising committee and it is also possible that Apimondia advances part of their share to assist the financial situation of the early stages of the congress organisation.

Also the use of the logo and name of Apimondia needs to be regulated to guarantee that any commercial application yields royalties to Apimondia.

Following a discussion on the best way to reconcile different requirements and objectives emerging between Apimondia and the local congress organisers it is agreed to call a meeting in Rome in early 2006 to address the main guidelines to be followed in the organisation of an Apimondia congress and also the format and content of the event.

13. Report of the external auditor and approval of the accounts and financial report for the period 2003-2004 and draft budget for the next biennium

Mr. Jannoni-Sebastianini presents the audited accounts attached to this document showing that in 2003 a profit of US\$ 20,172.52 was made whereas in 2004 recorded a loss of US\$ 7,885.04. He also highlights how the devaluation of the US dollar against the Euro has impacted negatively on the accounts to the extent that one fifth of the loss of 2004 is due to the unfavourable exchange rate of the US dollar against the Euro.

Also the budget for the next biennium is presented and attached to these minutes.

14. Planning on the future activities and areas of development of Apimondia

It is agreed that Apimondia should look more closely at the congress organisation process and also on the feasibility of changing the format and content of its events. In this context, it may prove more viable to organise smaller events, but more frequently and in more locations with a variety of themes.

Also marketing activities may be foreseen with promotional items to be distributed at various international events or through the website.

These issues will be addressed at the internal meeting to be held in Rome early next year, as anticipated under point 12 above.

15. Any other business:

a) Apimondia srl

Mr. Jannoni-Sebastianini reports that as from May 2004 the rent is being fully paid to the company as the advance repayment plan of the restoration works undertaken back in 1999 by the tenant has been completed. These additional funds will be then used partially to set up reserves for the company and also to reimburse to the Federation the advances made over the years in order to balance the liabilities and inject new funds for the institutional activities.

b) Follow-up on protocol on the organisation and bid procedures of future congresses

This point has been addressed and discussed under point 12.

c) Follow-up on registration of Apimondia as an international NGO

Mr. Jannoni-Sebastianini summaries the steps taken to date to investigate the requirements for the recognition of Apimondia as an international NGO with the Technical Co-operation Department of FAO and also with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The has been diverse since in the first case it has been indicated that the acknowledgement would come as a result of activities undertaken in running projects in the field whereas in the second it has been stated that a formal submission of financial and institutional documentation is required in order to be registered. In any case a starting point is the already granted consultative status of Apimondia as international NGO for beekeeping by FAO and this is coupled with the same recognition by the ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council in the UN).

Mr. Jannoni-Sebastianini adds that he is also going to explore the possibility of whether the FAO recognition can be used as a springboard for obtaining the same status from the other UN agencies as they share the so-called “common system” and therefore allowing the extension of any given status from one agency to all the others.

Prof. Domerego explains the kind of status and juridical set-up that in his opinion is required of Apimondia in order to apply for project funds from international institutions clarifying that the recognition by FAO of Apimondia as an international NGO may not be enough and that the Federation requires an official recognition. To this end he and Dr. Cherbuliez suggest to consult an expert in this area in order to obtain all the details on the procedure to follow to obtain this recognition.

Mr. Jannoni-Sebastianini replies that Apimondia in addition to holding a *de facto* registration as a federation also holds a limited company with the same operative statutes as Apimondia (Federation) so this juridical entity may also be used for this purpose, but in any case he will enquire on the steps to be taken to be granted the official recognition as an international NGO, as requested. He also adds that if this was not done earlier it was due to other impending priorities linked to unavoidable institutional exigencies.

d) Follow-up on 2003/04 internal workshops on Apimondia institutional activities

It is agreed to address these topics at the next internal meeting scheduled in Rome in early 2006, as indicated under point 8 above.

e) Review of membership policies and promotion

In this area it is foreseen to extend and promote memberships in areas like Latin America, Asia and Africa taking into consideration the possibility of offering incentives for those that may need assistance to become members or retain their status.

f) Collaboration with FAO on beekeeping projects

Details of contacts made with FAO on this issue are contained in the Secretary-General's report attached to these minutes.

g) Other issues

The dates of next year's Executive Council meeting will be established during the meeting scheduled to take place in Dublin just before the congress starts.

Having covered all the points on the agenda, Mr. Jørgensen calls the meeting to an end.