



# Apimondia

Federación Internacional de Asociaciones de Apicultura

## MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING OF APIMONDIA

Rome, Italy  
5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> May 2007

### Present to the meeting:

Mr. A.S. Jørgensen, President  
Mr. L. Martínez, Vice-President  
Mr. R. Jannoni-Sebastianini, Secretary-General  
Dr. T. Cherbuliez, President of Standing Commission  
Prof. K. Crailsheim, President of Standing Commission  
Dr. N. Bradbear, President of Standing Commission  
Dr. W. Ritter, President of Standing Commission  
Prof. M.J. Sommeijer, President of Standing Commission  
Mr. G. Ratia, President of Standing Commission

### Invited:

Prof. Dr. O. Van Laere, Honorary Member  
Mr. P. McCabe, appointed consultant for congress organisation  
Mr. C. Constantinescu, Director of FIITEA  
Ms. M. Giogia, Chief Accountant FIITEA  
Ms. J. Barfield, Delegate of 40<sup>th</sup> Apimondia Congress Organising Committee  
Mr. G. Arnold, Delegate of 41<sup>st</sup> Apimondia Congress Organising Committee  
Ms. J. Rocheblave, Delegate of 41<sup>st</sup> Apimondia Congress Organising Committee  
Mr. R. Cirone, President of the Italian Beekeepers' Federation  
Prof. A. Canini, University of Tor Vergata-Rome

### Not present with apologies:

Mr. D.Q. Tam, President of Standing Commission

## **Agenda of the meeting**

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Report, review and follow-up on the organisation of the 40<sup>th</sup> Apimondia Congress
3. Review of the Letter of Agreement for the 40<sup>th</sup> Apimondia Congress
4. Reports of the President, Vice-President and Secretary-General
5. Reports of the Presidents of the Standing Commissions and the other members
6. Report on the activities of FIITEA
7. Report on the closure of accounts of 39<sup>th</sup> Apimondia Congress
8. Follow-up on arrangements for the 41<sup>st</sup> Apimondia Congress
9. Renewal of Apimondia management positions
10. Calendar of future international congresses and symposia and review of bids
11. Review of Apimondia Statutes
12. Proposals of new Honorary Members
13. Review of the standard Letter of Agreement for congress organisation bidders and relevant procedures
14. Report of the external auditor and approval of the accounts and financial report for the period 2005-2006 and draft budget for the next biennium
15. Any other business:
  - a) Apimondia srl
  - b) Procedures for additional registrations of Apimondia as an international NGO with other bodies and institutions
  - c) Review of membership policies and promotion
  - d) Collaboration with FAI and the University of Tor Vergata - Rome
  - e) Other issues

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The President opens the meeting at 9:15.

- Adoption of the agenda (point 1)

After conveying the apologies of the member, Mr. Tam, unable to attend the meeting, 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 this document.

- Report, review and follow-up on the organisation of the 40<sup>th</sup> Apimondia Congress (point 2) and
- Review of the Letter of Agreement for the 40<sup>th</sup> Apimondia Congress (point 3)

The members start the discussion on some crucial aspects that need to be improved, in particular the management of the abstracts, since it appears that some abstracts have disappeared from the system, the exchange of communications with the authors who submitted papers for the Congress sessions, a greater involvement of and co-operation with the Scientific Committee from Australia, the organisation of the foreseen excursion related to pollination. It is also underlined that the Executive Council does not receive regularly the minutes of the meetings of the Australian Organising Committee.

In order to facilitate the exchange of information between Apimondia and the Australian Organising Committee, represented in this meeting by Ms. Barfield, attachée to the Australian Embassy in Rome, a teleconference is set up with Messrs. T. Ryan and K. McIlvride. During this contact, other issues are raised, in particular those referring to the selection of the key note speakers. Furthermore, the Australian Organising Committee representatives assure the Executive Council members that, as mentioned in the Letter of Agreement, they will provide Apimondia with access to the data concerning the registrations, budget and abstract and session planning. It is also requested to Mr. Ryan to provide, as soon as possible, timely information on the country of origin of the present registrants as to act in due time on the countries less represented.

As for the simultaneous translation issue, Mr. Constantinescu underlines that FIITEA was not asked any estimate. It is also requested to review the list of developing countries eligible for the reduced registration fee as the one posted on the congress website appears to be too restrictive.

To improve the impact of the congress it was proposed in connection or just before the closing ceremony to organise a “round table” discussion with the Presidents of the Standing Commissions to present the most important issues dealt with at the congress. The major loss of bee colonies in many countries could be foreseen to be an important issue, on which Apimondia should send a message from the congress.

- Follow-up on arrangements for the 41<sup>st</sup> Apimondia Congress (point 8)

Mr. Ratia, Mr. Gerard and Ms. Rocheblave proceed to report on the ongoing organising process of the 41<sup>st</sup> Apimondia Congress due to convene in Montpellier, France, in 2009. The Organising Committee is at present working on the “French night” scheduled during the Congress in Melbourne in order to give as much detailed information of the event in due time to all prospective participants on the programme, budget, registration fees, etc.. The co-operation with the local PCO is good and it is stressed that, as for the scientific sessions, it is foreseen to strengthen as much as possible the collaboration and exchange of information with the Presidents of the Standing Commissions, whereas for the invited speakers it is foreseen the free entry to the Congress but they have to pay for their own travel expenses. Furthermore, it is reminded that it is important for the

Presidents of the Standing Commissions to meet the French Scientific Committee the day before each scheduled plenary sessions in order to review the planning of the sessions and solve possible problems that may arise, such as the no-show of speakers. It is reminded that the phenomenon of no-showing is particularly strong at the Apimondia congresses and a responsible congress official is needed to tackle this problem. Finally it is reiterated to keep a strict control on the time schedule of all sessions.

A special mention is made for students as to entice them to participate in the Congress as volunteers and therefore not having to pay the registration fees and to monitor those who have accepted papers to register in time and help them with the possible issuing of the visa.

It is also reminded that, according to what has been agreed during the internal workshop held on 4<sup>th</sup> May, it is to be avoided that plenary sessions fall in competition to which the French Organising Committee representatives agree. As for the plenary sessions, it is agreed that there is to be an introduction by the relevant President of Commission of 20 minutes followed by the keynote speakers for 40 minutes after which all the other papers are presented, whereas the Closing Ceremony is preceded by a Closing Plenary Session that lasts 1 hour.

- Report on the closure of accounts of 39<sup>th</sup> Apimondia Congress (point 7)

Mr. McCabe reports that the closure of accounts of the 39<sup>th</sup> Apimondia Congress were forwarded to Apimondia in 2006 and cleared by Apimondia. He also accepted the invitation of the Federation to provide assistance for the organisation of future Apimondia events.

- Calendar of future international congresses and symposia and review of bids (point 10)

The bids that were presented in due time for the organisation of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Apimondia Congress of 2011 are those forwarded by Sociedad Argentina de Apicultores (Argentina), Confederação Brasileira de Apicultura (Brazil) and Unión Nacional de Apicultores (Mexico). These candidatures will be officially presented to the General Assembly of Apimondia due to convene in Melbourne, Australia, in September 2007. Apimondia representatives will carry out the relevant inspection visits to the three proposed sites before the General Assembly in order to verify on the spot the various organisational and logistical aspects. On that occasion each bidder will have to sign a draft contract in order to formally present the official bid in Australia. The Executive Council of Apimondia will give clear information to the members on the results of such inspection visits and explain the reasons for having accepted the bid and, according to the Apimondia Statutes, may give recommendations on the different sites.

In this context, it is agreed that for the future editions of the Congress Apimondia will be more involved in the organisation process, maybe with its own core PCO, and therefore it is recommended to review the bidding procedure and place the new version for the Congress of 2013 on the web site of the Federation. It is also suggested to set a condition by which a bidder must have been a member of the Federation for at least 2 years (point 13).

As for the calendar of other future international events planned under the aegis of or in collaboration with Apimondia, Mr. Jørgensen mentions the possibility to organise a conference on the black bee in collaboration with SICAMM in Rybnoye, Russia, in April 2008; Mr. Ratia mentions the “Symposium on Queen Bee Breeding and Instrumental Insemination” due to take place in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico in October 2008 and the Symposium on Honey Equipment in Romania in 2010. Dr. Ritter proposes an OIE Symposium in the Americas in 2008 and Mr. Martinez mentions the 9<sup>th</sup> Latino-American Congress scheduled in Concepción, Chile in September 2008. Mr. Jannoni-Sebastianini submits a proposal to hold a symposium in collaboration with the University of Tor Vergata on apitherapy and honey quality in Rome, Italy, in June 2008 and a

possible symposium on honey products in New Zealand whereas Dr. Bradbear mentions the Caribbean Apicultural Congress in Guyana in November 2008.

- Report on the activities of FIITEA (point 6)

Mr. Constantinescu reports on FIITEA's activities for 2006-2007 and distributes an audited report of the Institute's balance sheet for 2006, which are attached to these minutes. He then reports on the establishment of the Balkan Beekeeping Association and the organisation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Balkan Countries Beekeeping Congress, which took place in Istanbul, Turkey, at the end of March 2007.

Furthermore, due to Dr. Ritter's intention to resign from the position of Member of the Managing Committee of FIITEA, the members welcome the proposal to elect Dr. Sommeijer to replace him. As a result, the Managing Committee consists of the following members: Mr. C. Constantinescu, Mr. A.S. Jørgensen, Mr. R. Jannoni-Sebastianini, Prof. O. Van Laere and Dr. M. Sommeijer.

- Reports of the President, Vice-President and Secretary-General (point 4)

The President reports on the institutional activities carried out over the last 12 months that are included in the attached report, mentioning in particular the increase of the recognition of Apimondia worldwide and the increased number of events organised in collaboration with the member Associations.

The Vice-President reports on the initiatives undertaken with the involvement of Apimondia in the Latin-American region, as mentioned in the attached report.

The Secretary-General reads the report he had prepared on the work carried out at the General Secretariat in Rome that is attached to these minutes, referring in particular to the forthcoming events to be organised in the next year. The Secretary-General also mentions the situation and activities of Apimondia srl (point 15 a).

- Reports of the Presidents of the Standing Commissions and the other members (point 5)

The other members of the Executive Council are then invited in turn to deliver their own reports, the copies of which are attached to these minutes. Of particular mention are the various events and initiatives in which the Presidents provided their assistance and took part in such as "Apimedica 2006" which took place in Athens, Greece, in October 2006, the establishment of the ApiTrade Africa network, the "Trees for Bees" programme, the current situation of the international honey market, the transfer of the Apimondia Museum to Eeklo, Belgium, the study of the extraordinary losses of bee colonies phenomenon, the Symposium on "Queenbee Breeding and Selection" which took place in Sofia, Bulgaria, in September 2006.

In the following debate it is underlined that Apimondia should still improve the scientific level of its Congresses, adopting stricter measures on the schedules of the sessions and stricter criteria on the quality of the papers submitted. It is also stressed the importance to improve the quality of the papers to be published in *Apiacta*, by enhancing the evaluation system of the papers and the communication between the Presidents of the Standing Commissions and the Editor of *Apiacta*. It is also recommended that *Apiacta* reaches a higher impact factor by improving its screening and peer review processes that would eventually lead to a consistent high scientific quality level and increased circulation.

- Review of Apimondia Statutes (point 11)

Upon suggestion of Mr. Ratia, the members agree to submit the proposal to the next General Assembly to change the name of the “Standing Commission on Beekeeping Technology and Equipment” into “Standing Commission on Beekeeping Technology and Quality”.

It is also mentioned the need to review the consistency of the whole text of the Statutes and to define the membership category of applicants carrying out commercial activities, as currently they are incorporated as Individual Member (point 15 c).

- Renewal of Apimondia management positions (point 9)

The Secretary-General reads the list of the positions expiring this year and asks the relevant incumbents - Mr. A.S. Jørgensen, Dr. T. Cherbuliez, Dr. W. Ritter and Mr. G. Ratia - whether they intend to serve for another term of office. All confirm their willingness to be re-appointed. On account of the fact that Prof. Crailsheim took over from Prof. Crewe at half term and in order to realign the renewal deadlines of the Executive Council positions, the charge of President of the Commission for Bee Biology comes to the end of its mandate this year and is due for renewal this year; the incumbent Prof. Crailsheim confirms his availability for another term.

- Proposals of new Honorary Members (point 12)

According to the Apimondia Statutes, Mr. Terry Ryan, as President of the 40<sup>th</sup> International Apicultural Congress, will be elected Honorary Member of Apimondia. The Executive Council will look for other candidates to propose to the General Assembly in Melbourne.

- Report of the external auditor and approval of the accounts and financial report for the period 2005-2006 and draft budget for the next biennium (point 14)

The Secretary-General reads the financial report for the period 2005-2006 audited by the external auditor explaining in detail the various entries of the report. The financial report and the certification of the external auditor are attached to the minutes.

- Procedures for additional registrations of Apimondia as an international NGO with other bodies and institutions (point 15 b)

Apimondia has an accreditation as an international NGO in the U.N. NGO system. registrations with other international organisations require presentation of budgets and evidence of involvement in projects on development.

- Collaboration with FAI and the University of Tor Vergata, Rome (point 15 d)

At the end of 2006 in collaboration with FAI and Confagricoltura a new magazine under the name of Apimondia Italia was launched. This monthly publication in Italian includes also a section dedicated to Apimondia activities and its reports.

Prof. A. Canini of the University of Tor Vergata and Mr. R. Cirone, President of FAI, present a report on a proposed international symposium to be organised in Italy in 2008 under the aegis of Apimondia. The proposed themes are on honey quality and apitherapy and this will allow to link this event to the second edition of Apimedica.

The Executive Council deliberates on convening the next meeting in Rome, Italy, from 7 to 8 June 2008.

Having covered all the agenda, the President calls the meeting to a close.