



Apimondia

International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING OF APIMONDIA

Rome, Italy
21st - 22nd May 2011

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 Standing Commission
Prof. Karl Crailsheim, President of Standing Commission
Dr. Nicola J. Bradbear, President of Standing Commission
Dr. Dinh Quyet Tam, President of Standing Commission
Dr. Jacobus C. Biesmeijer, President of Standing Commission
Dr. Wolfgang Ritter, President of Standing Commission
Mr. Etienne Bruneau, President of Standing Commission

Invited:

Mr. Roch Domerego, Vice-President of Standing Commission
Mr. Cristian Constantinescu, Director of FIITEA
Ms. Marta Giogia, Chief Accountant of FIITEA
Dr. Alejandra M. Palacio, Delegate of 42nd Apimondia Congress Organising Committee
Ms. Carolina Lozano, Delegate of 42nd Apimondia Congress Organising Committee
Mr. Yuriy Riphayak, Delegate of 43rd Apimondia Congress Organising Committee

Agenda of the meeting

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Reports of the President, Vice-President and Secretary-General
3. Reports of the Presidents of the Standing Commissions
4. Report and follow-up on the organisation of the 42nd Apimondia Congress
5. Review and new proposals for amendments to the Apimondia statutes
6. Update of initiatives: website, working groups, digital kits
7. Calendar and follow-up on organisation of forthcoming international congresses and symposia
8. Report on the accounts and approval of the accounts and financial report for 2010 and review of budget for the current biennium
9. Report on the FIITEA Management Committee meeting
10. Designation of corporate PCO and review of congress organisation bidding procedures. Evaluation of bids for the 44th Apimondia Congress.
11. Review of decision on designation of the Apiacta Editor
12. Apimondia workplan for the 2011-2012 biennium
13. Collaboration with FAO: follow up on definition of Memorandum of Understanding, TecA, *Codex Alimentarius* and collaboration in symposium organisation
14. Apimondia copyright agreements
15. Apimondia srl
16. Any other business:
 - a) Follow-up on openings for collaboration/integration with other institutions
 - b) Memorandum of Beekeeping Network North South
 - c) Other issues
 - d) renewal of Apimondia Executive Council positions

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Saturday 21st May 2011

The President opens the meeting at 08:30.

- 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.

- Reports of the President, Vice-President and Secretary-General (point 2)

The President reports on the institutional activities carried out over the last months that are included in the attached report. He mentions in particular the initiatives undertaken to increase the activities of the Federation (establishment of the Apimondia Working Groups and development of Apimondia Digital Kits, set-up of the new website) as well as the numerous contacts established or renewed with the various beekeeping associations he met during his trips abroad.

The Vice-President reports on the initiatives undertaken especially for the promotion and organisation of the next Apimondia congress, as mentioned in the attached report.

The Secretary-General highlights the increased collaboration with FAO (Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations) such as the establishment of the TecA platform, the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding, closer contacts with various Divisions for future joint activities.

- Reports of the Presidents of the Standing Commissions and the other members (point 3)

The Presidents of the Standing Commissions take the floor in turn to present their reports, which are attached to these minutes.

The main points discussed are: finding ways to assess and enhance the quality of apitherapy products, development of the Apitherapy Newsletter, relations with the European Commission and the International Honey Commission on the topic of the hive products, address of the GMO issues, strengthening the collaboration with FAO on the pollination issues, proposal to have a round table in Buenos Aires on anti-dumping, relations with the European Commission on the sanitary issues, courses on bee diseases given to veterinaries, the fund-raising campaign for Haitian beekeepers and proposed questionnaire to be distributed to the congress participants in Buenos Aires.

- Report and follow-up on the organisation of the 42nd Apimondia congress (point 4)

Ms. Lozano illustrates the layout of the congress premises (poster exhibition, opening/closing ceremonies, ApiExpo areas) as well as the communication plan, the institutional support granted so far, the situation of the registrations that, at present seems promising. Most of the exhibition space for the ApiExpo has already been sold and there should not be a problem to have all the space used.

Dr. Palacio takes the floor to update the participants on the scientific programme. She then mentions the symposia that will take place either before or after the congress (OIE, Beekeeping as a Tool for Development, Melissopalynology), noting that unfortunately it has not been possible to organise a CoLoss symposium in Buenos Aires. On the other hand, the number of abstracts submitted (1,023), of which 63% from Central and South America, is very promising on a strong participation by the authors. It is asked to verify the feasibility to have some of the best posters presented orally in a special symposium. It is also discussed the possibility to re-group some of the

round tables in order to grant a consistent number of attendees. Dr. Palacio also addresses the issue on the possibility to organise short courses for the participants.

Some 611 registrations have been received to date of which around 50% are from the Americas.

The Presidents of the Standing Commissions are then asked to define the schedule of the meetings that will take place during the congress in order to finalise the relevant programme to be posted on the website.

Finally, the delegates of the 42nd Apimondia Congress Organising Committee illustrate the latest developments as for the contests and the technical tours that will last one or two days.

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

The Secretary-General illustrates the proposed amendments to the Statutes elaborated by the Managing Board that focus on the establishment of the category of Regional Members that would be incorporated in the Associate Members category, the establishment of five Regional Commissions and the specific mention of the emblem and flag of the Federation.

A short discussion follows and the amendments are approved with slight corrections. The final version of the proposed amendments will be forwarded to all voting members prior to the General Assembly for their consideration.

- Update of initiatives: website, working groups, digital kits (point 6)

The President presents and illustrates the creation of the new Apimondia Working Groups (AWGs).

The ensuing discussion highlights the issue that such groups are being created without the direct involvement and supervision of the Apimondia Standing Commissions and that of the relevant Presidents. This aspect is of some concern and it is agreed that the activities of such groups are then brought closer to the Standing Commissions also to increase their status and authority. Such groups should also have a more defined and limited remit and their activities monitored more closely also in terms of their achievements.

For the Apimondia digital kits it is agreed that their outputs come more directly from the activities of the Apimondia Working Groups for the benefit of the members and in line with their specific needs.

- Renewal of Apimondia Executive Council positions (point 16 d)

The Secretary-General reads the list of the positions expiring this year. All of the incumbents, Mr. G. Ratia (Apimondia President), Dr. T. Cherbuliez (President of the Standing Commission for Apitherapy), Prof. K. Crailsheim (President of the Standing Commission for Bee Biology), Dr. W. Ritter (President of the Standing Commission for Bee Health) and Mr. E. Bruneau (President of the Standing Commission for Beekeeping Technology and Quality) express their intention to serve for another term of office.

The General Secretariat, in the General Assembly convening letter due to be sent out in mid-July, will ask all members to put forward proposals for said vacant positions that will be discussed during the assembly. It is decided that said candidatures are to be submitted by early September 2011.

- Calendar and follow-up on organisation of forthcoming international congresses and symposia (point 7)

The forthcoming symposia that have been slated for 2012 are presented and illustrated in their main features and objectives.

The following events are scheduled to take place under the aegis of Apimondia next year:

The Influence of Beekeeping Technologies and Environment on the Quality of Bee Products (ApiEcoTech), Belgrade, Serbia - February

1st Apimondia Bee Health Symposium, Dublin, Ireland - March

2nd World Conference on Organic Beekeeping, San Cristobal, Mexico - March

1st ApiEcoFlora Symposium, San Marino, Republic of San Marino - October

3rd Symposium on Queen Breeding & Selection, Quebec, Canada - November

4th Apimedica & 3rd Apiquality Forum, Beijing, China - date to be defined

BNNS (Beekeeping Network North-South) Symposium, Tanzania - date and venue to be defined

Sunday 22nd May 2011

The President opens the meeting at 08:00.

- Apimondia copyright agreements (point 14)

The Executive Council approves Prof. Crailsheim's proposal to make appropriate arrangements to collect in advance the agreement and clearance of the copyrights from the authors presenting papers at Apimondia events.

- Report on the accounts and approval of the accounts and financial report for 2010 and review of budget for the current biennium (point 8)

The Secretary-General reports on the accounts of the Federation for the year 2010 and highlights the fact that due to the significant investment required for the restoration of the building located in Castel Porziano in order to bring it up to standard for leasing it to a company offering hospitality services to elderly people he had lent personal funds to Apimondia also to facilitate and expedite the process.

The building has been leased since November 2010 and it is now gradually bringing in steady funds to repay the loan and in due course also provide additional revenue for investment in new human resources and equipment.

As a result of such financial commitments, 2010 has closed with a deficit of Euro 3,460.16 which is not of excessive concern given the above-mentioned outlay of funds for the refurbishment of the Apimondia property and the fact that 2010 was a non-congress year.

The accounts, budget and financial report are approved.

The contracts and salaries of the staff are also discussed since at present the two collaborators of the office in Rome are working on the basis of project contracts that are renewed yearly and the salaries have not increased for the last few years. In order to recognise the significant contribution provided by the staff and also retain their best motivation and services it is agreed that efforts should be made to duly phase and upgrade the contracts to continuing as soon as possible through the intermediate stage of biennial fixed contracts, if need be, and in line with the foreseen financial resources available in Apimondia. As for the salaries it is deliberated to increase them with immediate effect based on prevailing rates for the duties performed and seniority accrued, taking though in due consideration the Federation's financial situation.

Also the general responsibility of the Executive Council is also discussed and it is agreed to address this issue in the context of the revision of the Apimondia statutes.

- Report on the FIITEA Management Committee meeting (point 9)

Mr. Constantinescu reports on the difficult situation prevailing in Romania and that in turn affects the financial performance of the Foundation. In particular, the situation is serious for finding and retaining capable tenants to ensure a steady income. At present the level of the available area rented is only 20% of the total. The premises have all been refurbished and now it is imperative to find suitable tenants that can rent them.

In order to face this critical situation the staff has been reduced to more manageable and less demanding levels and kept only for key activities.

The Foundation offers very interesting potential for meeting activities and this could well represent an area of promising and realistic development and exploitation for the immediate future.

- Review of decision on designation of the Apiacta Editor (point 11)

It is agreed that, given the current staffing and financial resources and the prolonged absence of an editor, it is deemed better to temporarily discontinue the publication of Apiacta and eventually resume it when conditions allow it.

- Designation of corporate PCO and review of congress organisation bidding procedures. Evaluation of bids for the 44th Apimondia congress (point 10)

Contacts have been made with a number of international Professional Congress Organisers (PCOs) to assess with the respective requirements in connection with the specific events organised by Apimondia. It is expected to enter into more concrete discussions in the coming months to see how they can eventually collaborate with Apimondia in the next international events to be organised.

As for the bids received for the 44th Apimondia congress to be staged outside Europe in 2015, only the ones received from the member associations of South Korea and China were accepted, since the one received from Mexico was incomplete and had to be turned down.

- Apimondia workplan for the 2011-2012 biennium (point 12)

The President underlines that due to the increase of the initiatives foreseen for the future, the income of the Federation should increase accordingly, namely through sponsors and new members.

The Executive Council also agrees on the fact that Apimondia should engage in participating / starting beekeeping projects drafted by the Standing Commissions and co-financed by various international organisations; for this purpose, the Secretary-General, with the help of Ms. Giogia and Mr. Ryphiak, is asked to look into the matter by assessing the possibility of Apimondia to participate in said projects and to take all the required steps in order to obtain the accreditation of NGO status.

- Collaboration with FAO: follow up on definition of Memorandum of Understanding, TecA, *Codex Alimentarius* and collaboration in symposium organisation (point 13)

The Secretary-General gives a brief report on the meetings he and other colleagues of the Executive Council had with various Divisions of FAO and stresses the fact that now the Standing Commission Presidents should implement the collaboration, by identifying the most important areas of intervention and drafting a line of action with the relevant FAO Divisions. It is also proposed to produce a kind of situation report on world beekeeping as well as organise an international beekeeping summit in Buenos Aires. Initiatives have already been implemented with FAO with the inclusion of a beekeeping dedicated section on the Technologies for Agriculture (TecA) portal and also with the Codex Alimentarius talks are underway to identify areas of common initiatives.

It is proposed to set the date for the FAO-Apimondia Memorandum of Understanding ideally by the end of 2011.

- Memorandum of Beekeeping Network North South (point 16 b):

The Secretary-General reports on the establishment of the Beekeeping Network North South, that will have a slot at the congress in Buenos Aires to show the aims of the network. Apimondia will be present and define its involvement in this initiative.

- Other issues (point 16 c):

Mr. Ryphiak, Delegate of 43rd Apimondia Congress Organising Committee, reports on the developments on the organisation of the 2013 Apimondia Congress, stressing on the work done for the promotion of the event at different levels (contacts with the Government, press conferences, attendance to fairs and seminars) and the various initiatives foreseen (Apimondia for kids, Gallery of modern art, Visual experience, etc.).

- Apimondia srl (point 15)

As already indicated under point 8), the main activity has been the renovation of the premises in Castel Porziano and the stipulation in November 2010 of a rental contract for 6 plus 6 renewable years. As for the accounting side, the financial report shows a loss of Euro 9,109.00 to be put down to the above-mentioned restoration works and the fact that for the first 10 months of 2010 the building was not rented.

- Follow-up on openings for collaboration/integration with other institutions (point 16 a)

In the context of the creation of the 5 new Regional Commissions, Apimondia will undertake a major exercise to establish and/or strengthen collaborative relations with regional beekeeping organisations, including the participation in their international events.

The Executive Council deliberates on convening the next preparatory meeting just before the Congress opening in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 21st September 2011, whereas the 2012 meeting will take place in Bucharest, Romania, in May.

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

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