



Apimondia

International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations

MINUTES OF THE APIMONDIA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Bucharest, Romania
5th - 6th May 2012

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 Scientific Commission
Prof. Karl Crailsheim, President of Scientific Commission
Dr. Nicola Bradbear, President of Scientific Commission
Dr. Jacobus C. Biesmeijer, President of Scientific Commission
Dr. Wolfgang Ritter, President of Scientific Commission
Mr. Etienne Bruneau, President of Scientific Commission
Mr. José Gomercindo Corrêa da Cunha, President of Regional Commission
Prof. Cleofas R. Cervancia, President of Regional Commission
Mr. Philip McCabe, President of Regional Commission
Ms. Maureen Maxwell, President of Regional Commission

Invited:

Mr. Cristian Constantinescu, Director of FIITEA
Ms. Marta Giogia, Chief Accountant of FIITEA
Mr. Yuriy Riphayak, Member of the 43rd Apimondia Congress Organising Committee
Mr. Kyoon-Hwan Cho, Member of the 44th Apimondia Congress Organising Committee
Prof. Kun-Suk Woo, Member of the 44th Apimondia Congress Organising Committee
Mr. Sang-Kyun Cho, Member of the 44th Apimondia Congress Organising Committee
Mr. Kum-Suk Oh, Member of the 44th Apimondia Congress Organising Committee
Mr. Dimitris Selianakis, co-ordinator of Apimondia Working Group 4

Not present with apologies:

Dr. Dinh Quyet Tam, President of Scientific Commission
Mr. Mulufird Ashagrie, President of Regional Commission

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 Scientific Commissions
4. Reports of the Presidents of the Regional Commissions
5. Final report and closure of accounts of the 42nd Apimondia Congress
6. Report and follow-up on organisation of the 43rd Apimondia Congress
7. Report and follow-up on organisation of the 44th Apimondia Congress
8. Update of current projects: website, working groups, digital kits, PCO
9. Calendar and follow-up on organisation of forthcoming international congresses and symposia
10. Overview of financial situation - Report on the accounts and approval of the accounts and financial report for 2011 and review of budget for the current biennium
11. Report on the FIITEA Management Committee meeting
12. Review of Apimondia workplan for the 2012-2013 biennium
13. Collaboration with FAO: follow-up on definition of Memorandum of Understanding, TECA, *Codex Alimentarius* and co-participation in symposium organisation
14. Apimondia srl
15. Any other business:
 - a) Follow-up on openings for collaboration/integration with other institutions
 - b) Fundraising and juridical status
 - c) Overview of Apimondia statutes
 - d) Other issues

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The President opens the meeting at 8:30 and gives his welcome to all the participants, in particular to the new members of the Apimondia Executive Council, to whom a brief description of the activities carried out in Rome and Bucharest is given. He also conveys the apologies of Dr. Tam and Mr. Ashagrie, unable to attend the meeting due to other important commitments.

- 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)

Mr. Ratia reports on his most recent visits carried out in various countries and illustrates the changes and updates needed for the Federation's website; in particular, after a short report on the statistics of the contacts, he mentions the need to put more information and links on Internet search motors in order to attract more visitors and sponsors.

As for the working groups, the members resolve on having a greater involvement and advance monitoring of the Presidents of the Scientific Commissions in establishing the new Working Groups - by updating the guidelines in the website - as well as in overseeing the work carried out by them. It is also agreed to review the work done so far by the various Working Groups, try to motivate the members of the Working Groups since they all operate on a voluntary basis and, if deemed appropriate, dismiss those not active. It is also agreed to use Facebook and Twitter social networks to widen the reach of the Federation.

Mr. Martínez will report on his activities, which focussed mainly on the closing of the 42nd Apimondia Congress, in point 5 of the agenda.

Mr. Jannoni-Sebastianini reports on the latest meetings he had with officers and Permanent Representatives of FAO within the framework of developing joint technical partnerships with this organisation. He also reports on some meetings he had in order to appoint a corporate Professional Congress Organiser for Apimondia.

- Reports of the Presidents of the Scientific Commissions (point 3)

The Presidents of the Scientific Commissions, namely Dr. Cherbuliez, Mr. Bruneau, Dr. Biesmeijer, Dr. Ritter, Dr. Bradbear and Prof. Crailsheim, take the floor in turn to present their reports.

All Presidents underline the excellent outcome of the scientific programme of the 42nd Apimondia Congress, due to the good co-ordination between the Commissions and the local Secretaries as well as the high quality of the papers presented.

They also comment on the outcome of the scientific programmes of the symposia already carried out (ApiEcoTech Symposium in Serbia, Bee Health Symposium in Ireland) as well as on the organisation of those due to take place in the current year (ApiEcoFlora Symposium in San Marino, Apimedica & Apiquality Forum in China and Queen Breeding, Selection and Honeybee Health Symposium in Canada). In some cases the communication between the Presidents of the Commissions and the local organisers has been rather poor.

Other main topics are: the work done for the certification of apitherapy products; the proposal to sign a formal agreement with OIE; the harmonisation of the issues to be dealt with by the different Commissions.

- Reports of the Presidents of the Regional Commissions (point 4)

The Presidents of the Regional Commissions, Ms. Maxwell, Prof. Cervancia, Mr. McCabe and Mr. Corrêa da Cunha take the floor to present the activities carried out in their respective continents.

The Presidents have contacted many associations in order to raise the profile of Apimondia among the various beekeeping entities although, in some cases, they witnessed little response and feedback. It is agreed that, upon request by Prof. Cervancia, the Asian Apicultural Association country delegates act as official correspondents of the Regional Commission for Asia. It is also stressed that the dates of the symposia should be better co-ordinated in order to avoid unnecessary date clashing.

The reports of the members of the Executive Council are attached to these minutes.

- Final report and closure of accounts of the 42nd Apimondia Congress (point 5)

Mr. Martínez makes a short presentation on the most outstanding achievements of the 42nd Apimondia Congress, in particular he mentions the largest number of abstracts submitted to an Apimondia Congress, the organisation of the round tables, the presentations made by the member Associations as well as the mini courses that have been much appreciated by the participants and the large number of exhibitors at the ApiExpo.

All the members express their praise for the dedication and the excellent work carried out by the members of the Local Organising Committee, especially by the Scientific Co-ordinators.

- Report and follow-up on organisation of the 43rd Apimondia Congress (point 6)

Mr. Riphyak presents the report on the activities done so far for the organisation of the Apimondia Congress in 2013, which has been promoted by electronic means and in over 20 domestic and international events.

The main activities carried out in the past months are the following: set-up of the budget, hiring of personnel for the administrative tasks, finalisation of the layout of the congress premises, contacts taken with local and national public entities to support the event, negotiations carried out with over 20 major international sponsors, development of a programme dedicated to children, planning of an open space for the general public outside of the congress premises and set-up and running of two websites (one each for the domestic and international participants). Over 40 companies already requested exhibition space for over m² 1,000.

The scientific programme will be organised taking into consideration selected Millennium Goals of the United Nations. The idea is to have, at the end of the event, the conclusions of the congress approved and signed by Apimondia and thereafter sent as an open letter to the United Nations. Mr. Riphyak illustrates the proposed topics to be addressed by each Scientific Commission. The Presidents ask Mr. Riphyak to have the names of the members of the Local Scientific Committee in order to start working together on the programme and have it defined by September 2012.

It is also proposed to have some symposia also in Russian, after a short discussion it is agreed to have the symposia presented only in English. An alternative solution would be to accept the second language provided that the abstracts and PowerPoint presentations be only in English.

It is also recommended to: define an adequate minimum length of text for the abstracts, since in the past congresses it happened that the short text of some abstracts was misleading for a proper

assessment; organise a “happy hour” for the poster session, so that authors and participants may be enticed to meet and discuss on the scientific works displayed; have the posters stamped before being exhibited, in order to be able to identify them and remove those that have been displayed without permission.

The members underline that it is paramount important to address in due time the issue of the visas considering the time needed to obtain them as well as being aware of the cases of people who - with no relation to beekeeping - are trying to enter the country as well as giving detailed information on the importation rules applying in Ukraine to be delivered to all prospective exhibitors.

It is also strongly recommended to: streamline the process of accreditation of the official delegates before the opening of the General Assembly sessions and review the guidelines for presentations of the bids for the future congresses (task assigned to Mr. P. McCabe, Ms. M. Maxwell, Mr. L. Martínez, Mr. R. Jannoni-Sebastianini and Mr. F. Jannoni-Sebastianini); take more care of the social events, that most participants deem important. As for the honey contest, it is suggested to contact the International Honey Commission that could provide professional honey tasters from different countries in order to set up a truly international panel.

It is also agreed that the Executive Council members should, as far as possible, be more in contact with the participants since the Congress is the only occasion when the latter can meet them. To this end, during the Congress the members of the Executive Council will spend some time at the Apimondia stand, according to a timetable that will be displayed at the stand so that every participant can know in advance when he/she can meet a given official.

- Report and follow-up on organisation of the 44th Apimondia Congress (point 7)

Prof. Woo reports on the activities undertaken since the election of Daejeon as venue of the 2015 Apimondia Congress. He briefly presents the set-up of the Local Organising Committee, the premises of the event as well as the accommodation facilities. Thereafter the draft of the scientific programme is shown for which there might be simultaneous translation also in Chinese and Japanese if the number of participants from these countries justifies it. The expected attendance is in the range of 8,000 participants and the early bird registration fees would range between US\$ 250 and 350.

- Update of current projects: website, working groups, digital kits, Professional Congress Organiser (point 8)

The members, on account of the statistical data retrieved from the contacts to the Federation’s website, agree to delete some pages of the website (forum, apishop and classified ads) as well as those Working Groups that have not yielded any significant result. It is also proposed to have the beekeeping magazines paying a small fee to publish the reports of the Apimondia Congresses in their publications, with the prior agreement of each author. The Regional Commission Presidents are asked to search sponsors for banners in order to pay a webmaster to run the website.

As for the recognition of Apimondia as an NGO, the Secretary-General informs the members that at present Apimondia has a consultative status with FAO and ECOSOC of the United Nations; whereas, in order to file the request at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the prerequisite is 3 years of documented activities in international development projects and, to this end, he asks the Presidents of the Scientific Commissions to submit proposals for technical collaboration in this field in order to obtain the required expertise.

Mr. Sellianakis, co-ordinator of the Apimondia Working Group 4 “Good beekeeping practice for medical grade bee products”, presents the recently established NGO “PlanBee” which addresses the topic of defining the honey and inform people on the benefits of consuming bee products. It is agreed that, although the honey is already categorised by the IHC, this Working Group should focus its activity of standardisation at pharmaceutical level.

Dr. Walter Haefeker, co-ordinator of the Apimondia Working Group 10 “GMOs and impact on the beekeeping sector”, intervenes via Skype in order to inform the members on the work done by his group: developing a low cost method for investigating GMO contamination of pollen and searching means to establish standards for honey and other beehive products. He then asks what is the position of Apimondia about this issue. It is agreed that this topic is very sensitive and should require a deep investigation and retrieval of data from every continent before taking a formal position. The fact that in some areas GMOs are widely used whereas in other areas they are banned and that different national legislations are applied add to the problem. The President then asks Dr. Biesmeijer and Mr. Bruneau to further investigate on the issue and report to the Executive Council.

Further to the initial contacts with firms operating as professional congress organisers (PCO) and in view of identifying one that would act as a corporate agency for the Apimondia events and considering the benefits arising from such collaboration, the members agree that a team (Mr. P. McCabe, Mr. L. Martínez, Mr. R. Jannoni-Sebastianini and Mr. F. Jannoni-Sebastianini) prepare a detailed tender that will be submitted to two or three major companies and eventually decide, with the informed advice of an independent event organiser, which one to appoint for a trial period of 2 to 4 years as from the Congress in 2017. This same company could also work for the organisation of the Apimondia symposia.

- Calendar and follow-up on organisation of forthcoming international congresses and symposia (point 9)

The Secretary-General reports on the follow-up of the organisation of the international events that will be held in 2012 under the aegis of Apimondia: 1st ApiEcoFlora Symposium (San Marino - October 2012), 4th Apimedica & 3rd Apiquality International Forum (Zhengjiang, China - October 2012), Queen Breeding, Selection and Honey Bee Health Symposium (Québec, Canada - November 2012). Whereas for the symposium in Canada everything is running smoothly, for the symposia in San Marino and China there are still some issues to be sorted out.

For 2013 a symposium is foreseen in Cyprus in January; furthermore, Dr. Ritter suggests to organise an OIE/Apimondia Symposium in Kiev just before or after the Apimondia Congress where also FAO Veterinary Services could be invited to join for the technical aspects and Mr. McCabe proposes a symposium on bee health in the United Kingdom.

- Overview of financial situation - Report on the accounts and approval of the accounts and financial report for 2011 and review of budget for the current biennium (point 10)

The Secretary-General illustrates the financial report for the period 2011 that will be reviewed and certified by the external auditor after the closing of the Executive Council meeting. The financial report and the certification of the external auditor, that in the meantime have been received, are attached to the minutes. The Executive Council approves the financial report.

Although there is a profit for the past year, the Secretary-General points out that there is a shortage of cash flow. The members agree that the priority of the Federation is funding and this issue will be debated at length in point 15 of the agenda.

The draft budget that was presented at the last congress was not changed.

- Report on the FIITEA Management Committee meeting (point 11)

Mr. Constantinescu reports on FIITEA's activities for the period May 2011 - April 2012, informing the members of the initiatives carried out and meetings held with various beekeeping associations. The report is attached to these minutes.

The Foundation signed a contract with a Turkish firm to establish an oncological clinic in one of the wings of the FIITEA premises where patients will be treated also with apitherapeutic products. The rent from said clinic, that is due to start its activities in 2013, will fund the future institutional activities of FIITEA.

The members of the FIITEA Management Committee signed the required papers for the renewal of the positions that had expired. The Committee is now composed of: Mr. C. Constantinescu, Mr. G. Ratia, Mr. R. Jannoni-Sebastianini, Prof. K. Crailsheim and Dr. J. Biesmeijer.

- Review of Apimondia workplan for the 2012-2013 biennium (point 12)

It is agreed that the top priority for the current biennium is to find sponsors to fund the Federation's activities. The Council also agrees that the International Honey Commission (IHC) be part of the Apimondia Scientific Commission for Beekeeping Technology and Quality; this organisation could help the Commission in the activities to be carried out by the Working Groups established within said Commission. Mr. Bruneau will contact IHC on this issue and Ms. Maxwell expresses her availability to assist in this activity.

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

Further to the meetings held with FAO officers, there has been a limited follow-up; the Presidents of the Scientific Commissions are therefore asked to give a feedback on the areas that would be susceptible of joint activities with FAO in order to start a proper and factual partnership.

The Secretary-General also gives a short update on the organisation of the ApiEcoFlora Symposium, where FAO will play a key role in the plenary sessions addressing pollination issues. It is also foreseen the participation of Apimondia representatives in the forthcoming FAO-COAG meeting that will be held later in May 2012.

The TECA platform is running well, although more moderators from Apimondia should be found in order to better co-ordinate the various contributions.

As for the *Codex Alimentarius*, the members reckon that this platform is very important but, due to the limited budget, it has been impossible to participate in all the meetings. It is agreed that Mr. E. Bruenau, Dr. N. Bradbear and Dr. G. Beckh, as official representatives of Apimondia in the *Codex Alimentarius*, try to increase, as much as possible, the involvement of Apimondia in said group.

- Apimondia srl (point 14)

The Secretary-General informs the participants that, due to the general economic crisis, in the last months the rent of the building in Castelporziano has been paid partially. Arrangements have been made to ensure a more regular payment as well as the recovery of the pending credits.

- Any other business (point 15):

- a) Follow-up on openings for collaboration/integration with other institutions
- b) Fundraising and juridical status
- c) Overview of Apimondia statutes
- d) Other issues

a) Issues addressed in points 12) and 13)

- c) The members debate on the membership fees and agree that they should be reasonably increased on account of the fact that the fees have not been changed for many years but the activities and related running costs of the Federation in this same period increased significantly. At the same time, it is resolved that the Federation should offer some additional services and more information to the members as well as put to adequate fruition the work done for the benefit of all beekeepers.

A team (Mr. L. Martínez, Ms. M. Maxwell, Dr. N. Bradbear, Mr. J. Corrêa da Cunha and Mr. F. Jannoni-Sebastianini) is assigned the task of preparing an integrated grid of the proposed new fees, taking into account the economic and development realities in the different countries (using data from UNDP), to be eventually submitted to the General Assembly.

- b) The members agree that fundraising is the priority issue for the immediate future, since Apimondia needs to find more financial resources in order to cover the increasing activities and related costs of the Federation and also settle some substantial pending liabilities. It is also stressed that a webmaster in charge of the website and communications is needed and the relevant costs should be considered. The members agree that Apimondia should look for long-term sponsors, focussing especially on big companies; of course even short-term and smaller partners would be more than welcome. It is also underlined that Apimondia needs to carefully select the prospective sponsors on the basis of a strict deontological code.

In order to attract prospective sponsors, Mr. Sellianakis proposes to prepare a document illustrating the activities carried out by Apimondia and its worldwide importance and role as well as a sponsoring plan before approaching the companies. He also mentions that he can approach a fundraising agency that could help Apimondia in this exercise, without the need of a down payment.

The members agree that the team appointed for fundraising (Mr. D. Sellianakis, Ms. M. Maxwell and Mr. P. McCabe) take the following steps: 1. draft an ethical code for selecting the sponsors, 2. establish a categorisation of sponsors, 3. draft different sponsoring plans for different categories of sponsors.

Due to its importance, this topic will be discussed at the very beginning of the meeting in May 2013.

At the end of the meeting, the participants are asked to list the improvements that should be implemented for a better running of the next meeting. The following points are suggested: the order of the items in the agenda should better reflect the importance of the topic to be discussed, interventions should be more structured and stick more strictly to the timetable, reports should be sent in time in order to allow participants to read them and devote more time to productive discussion.

All members appreciated the inclusion of the Regional Commissions in the Executive Council, noting however that the respective Presidents should cover, as far as possible, the whole continent and not only certain geographical areas.

The Executive Council deliberates on convening the next meeting in Kiev, Ukraine, and to decide on the date at a later stage.

Having covered all the agenda, the President calls the meeting to a close at 18:00.
