



APIMONDIA

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING OF APIMONDIA

Rome, Italy
17th - 18th May 2014

Present to the meeting:

Mr. Gilles Ratia, President
Mr. Lucas Daniel Martínez, Vice-President
Mr. Riccardo Jannoni-Sebastianini, Secretary-General
Prof. Woo Kunsuk, President of Scientific Commission
Prof. 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 Conquer, President of Regional Commission

Invited:

Mr. Cristian Costantinescu, Director of FIITEA
Ms. Marta Giogia, Chief Accountant of FIITEA
Ms. Tetyana Vasylykivska, President of 43rd Apimondia Congress
Mr. Yuriy Riphyak, Delegate of 43rd Apimondia Congress Organising Committee
Mr. Cho Kyoohwan, President of 44th Apimondia Congress
Ms. Lee Boram, Delegate of 44th Apimondia Congress Organising Committee
Ms. Park Suhyun, Delegate of 44th Apimondia Congress Organising Committee
Mr. Bahri Yılmaz, President of 45th Apimondia Congress
Mr. Cafer Kaba, Delegate of 45th Apimondia Congress Organising Committee
Mr. Tuğrul Çamaş, Delegate of 45th Apimondia Congress Organising Committee
Mr. Ünal Bilgin, Delegate of 45th Apimondia Congress Organising Committee
Ms. Müge Duman, Delegate of 45th Apimondia Congress Organising Committee
Ms. Jodie Goldsworthy, Member of Regional Commission

Absent with apologies:

Dr. Theodore Cherbuliez, President of Scientific Commission
Prof. Karl Crailsheim, President of Scientific Commission
Dr. Nicola J. Bradbear, President of Scientific Commission
Mr. Mulufird Ashagrie, President of Regional Commission

Agenda of the meeting

Saturday, 17th May 2014

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Collaboration with FAO: follow-up on definition of Memorandum of Understanding, TECA, Codex Alimentarius and co-participation in symposium organisation
3. Overview of financial situation - Report on the accounts and approval of the accounts and financial report for 2013 and review of budget for the current biennium
4. Apimondia srl
5. Update on: a) designation of the Apimondia corporate PCO, b) Fundraising and c) Apimondia policy regarding chemical companies
6. Review and new proposals for amendments to the Apimondia Statutes
7. FIITEA Management Committee meeting
8. Final report and closure of accounts of the 43rd Apimondia Congress and official resolutions
9. Report and follow-up on organisation of the 44th Apimondia Congress
10. Report and follow-up on organisation of the 45th Apimondia Congress

Sunday, 18th May 2014

11. Review of content and implementation of terms of reference for Scientific and Regional Commissions
12. Calendar and follow-up on organisation of forthcoming international congresses and symposia
13. Follow-up on Apimondia accreditation as international NGO and collaboration/integration with other institutions
14. Update of current projects: website, working groups, digital kits
15. Reports of the President, Vice-President and Secretary-General
16. Reports of the Presidents of the Scientific Commissions
17. Reports of the Presidents of the Regional Commissions
18. Any other business

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Saturday, 17th May 2014

The President opens the meeting at 8:30 am. He welcomes the members present and conveys the apologies of Dr. Cherbuliez, Prof. Crailsheim, Dr. Bradbear and Mr. Ashagrie who, due to unavoidable commitments or other important personal reasons, are not able to participate in the meeting.

- Adoption of the agenda (point 1)

The agenda is unanimously adopted with minor amendments to the order of discussion of the items to be dealt with.

- Collaboration with FAO: follow-up on definition of Memorandum of Understanding, TECA, Codex Alimentarius and co-participation in symposium organisation (point 2)

Following the meeting held at FAO Headquarters on 16th May, the President asks the members to express their comments on such meeting. He himself reports that in two days he met nine different co-ordinators and officers and hopes that for the next time more time could be devoted to better prepare the meetings as well as meet more Heads of FAO Divisions.

During such meetings, some useful contacts have been made with the FAO Unit dealing with partnerships and capacity development and it appears that the process for reaching a memorandum of understanding with FAO is not as complex as it was initially envisaged.

The Secretary-General asks the members to actively participate in the moderation exercise within the framework of the FAO-Apimondia agreement on TECA. Some members have already positively contributed, but there are more discussions that need to be moderated.

The members remark that this is a positive step for the future co-operation with FAO, being now aware of the new strategic objectives of the UN agency and having had face-to-face contacts with various officers of FAO. It is also underlined that Apimondia should have a more structured and focused strategy in order to carry out joint actions / lobbying with FAO as well as clearly defined aims to see if they fit with those of FAO. A good aspect is that FAO recognises Apimondia as expert counterpart for beekeeping and therefore there is room for positive developments.

It is proposed to focus on more selected issues (e.g. pollination, sustainability, adulteration) in order to make sure to carry out joint actions. In this context, it is also proposed to strengthen ties with FAO and invite their people to deliver presentations at the Apimondia Congresses as it is already done with other organisations.

The Secretary-General reaffirms that, also on account of the requests by some members of Apimondia who asks the Federation to act as an umbrella organisation in the beekeeping sector, more action should be taken and proposes that each member approaches its respective Permanent Representative to FAO in order to make sure that some key issues on beekeeping be placed consistently in the FAO agenda.

At the end, the President identifies the following issues as the most important ones in this exercise:

- enhancement of focus of proposed collaborative initiatives and actions,
- more direct involvement with FAO Units,
- enhancement of communications to improve external visibility and awareness.

- Overview of financial situation - Report on the accounts and approval of the accounts and financial report for 2013 and review of budget for the current biennium (point 3)

The Secretary-General illustrates the financial report of Apimondia, which shows for the financial year 2013 a profit of Euro 50,191.01. However, he mentions that there are still problems in the cashflow, due to the fact that some contributions from the past two congresses have not yet been remitted and the imbalance created by the funds advanced to Apimondia srl for the building restoration.

This situation led regrettably to the impossibility of renewing Ms. Nohrer's project collaboration as from 1 May 2014. This extreme measure has been adopted on the understanding that, if in the future financial conditions allow, Ms. Nohrer can be hired again. In the meantime, she has a one and a half year contract with a major Italian trade union operating in the agricultural sector with better contractual terms. Some remarks are expressed on the timeline with which the measure was adopted and the relevant communication.

On account of this development the new budget is being adjusted to reflect the reduced staff costs and the positive impact on building up a more favourable pattern of cashflow.

After a brief discussion, the members approve the accounts, financial report and budget.

- Apimondia srl (point 4)

The Secretary-General reports on the situation of the limited company, mentioning that, as from July 2013, a new management company took over the firm renting the house together with the rents in arrears left by the former management company. Under the new tenants the rents have been paid on a regular basis and in the meantime arrangements are underway to set a plan for the recovery of the rents in arrears that is to be agreed upon by mid-July 2014.

In this context, in 2013 Apimondia srl hired a lawyer in order to take care of the interests of the limited company and ensure adequate recovery of any sums still due. On 14 July 2014 a court hearing is scheduled to settle the case with the current tenants.

- Update on: a) designation of the Apimondia corporate PCO and b) fundraising (point 5)

a) The Secretary-General reports on the latest developments concerning the designation of the corporate Professional Congress Organiser (PCO) that should take care of the logistic aspects of the organisation of the future Apimondia Congresses as well as help improve the management of the Federation. He mentions that in July 2014 the President and himself will meet with the independent advisor, who assessed the 43rd Apimondia Congress in Kiev, in order to finalise the request for proposal and identify those PCOs to whom the document is to be sent.

The tender will then proceed with the screening of the offers received and it is foreseen to reach a decision on the appointment by the end of the year so to forewarn in good time the bidders of the 2019 Apimondia congress about the name, role and involvement of the corporate PCO that has been appointed.

b) The President appeals to all the members present to actively work on the fundraising, with both the firm hired for the campaign and the associations / organisations they are in contact with.

The Vice-President takes the floor to illustrate the problem of the costs incurred personally by the President while visiting beekeepers' associations worldwide. He proposes to have the hosting associations pay the travel and lodging costs of the President.

- Review and new proposals for amendments to the Apimondia Statutes (point 6)

Following the approval of the amendments to the statutes that were approved in Kiev in 2013, it has been noted that some provisions of the new rules pose some problems in applying consistently the fees and the distribution of votes. To this end, the Executive Council will assess the feasibility of amending these provisions in the light of a more linear interpretation and implementation.

- FIITEA Management Committee meeting (point 7)

The Director of FIITEA reports on the activities carried out in the past year, outlining the rent of one wing of the FIITEA building to a Turkish clinic as well as the beekeeping events organised in said period.

Ms. Giogia then illustrates the financial report, which is attached to these minutes. The members of the FIITEA Managing Committee approve the activity and financial report of FIITEA.

Following an analysis of FIITEA staff and their job profiles it is realised that some of these human resources should be leveraged for some more specific Apimondia needs especially in the communications area.

Also the FIITEA annual contribution to Apimondia is mentioned in order to determine the entity of same. The Director will report on the options available in this respect.

- Final report and closure of accounts of the 43rd Apimondia Congress and official resolutions (point 8)

Mr. Riphayak illustrates the final report of the 43rd Apimondia Congress, outlining the high number of participants from over 100 countries, notwithstanding some logistic shortcomings, as well as the successful ApiExpo with over 200 exhibitors. One of the most successful outcomes was the World Beekeepers' Award, for which a separate report was produced. It is suggested to use this document as a reference as well as the Facebook congress page for the next editions of the event.

Despite the absence of any financial support from the public sector, the congress ended with a profit and the contribution to Apimondia amounts to Euro 64,431.37.

A copy of the detailed report is handed over to the Korean and Turkish delegations for reference in the organisation of the forthcoming Apimondia Congresses in their respective countries.

Mr. Riphayak finally asks to have the resolutions of the Congress loaded on the website since there is a great demand from many beekeepers.

- Report and follow-up on organisation of the 44th Apimondia Congress (point 9)

Mr. Cho gives a brief speech of appreciation and looks forward to the mutual collaboration between the Apimondia Executive Council and the Local Organising Committee for a successful event.

Ms. Lee and Ms. Park illustrate the interim report on the organisation of the 44th Apimondia Congress with special reference to the congress and exhibition facilities, the draft of the programme, the institutions supporting the event and the workplan. It is stressed the importance of contacting the Presidents of the Scientific Commissions in order to define the scientific programme as soon as possible.

Finally, Prof. Woo proposes to hold the next Apimondia Executive Council meeting in Korea also to show the premises and meet the staff in charge of the next congress. The members approve the proposal and it is suggested to hold it after mid-May 2015.

- Report and follow-up on organisation of the 45th Apimondia Congress (point 10)

Ms. Duman takes the floor to make the presentation of the activities carried out so far for the organisation of the 45th Apimondia Congress, showing the premises of the event and explaining in detail the system for the submission and evaluation of the abstracts; she also reports on the draft budget of the Congress.

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

Sunday, 18th May 2014

At 8:30 am the President opens the meeting.

- Update on: Apimondia policy regarding chemical companies (point 5c)

The issue of sustainability is raised. The Vice-President thinks that it is a major problem and that Apimondia should have a say, also towards the Governments. At present there are two levels of beekeeping a) industrial and b) in developing countries, but soon the developing countries will have the same problems as the industrialised ones face today. However, the proposed ensuing statement would not be of a scientific nature but focus more on policy aspects.

The President states that sustainability was also addressed at the round tables in the 43rd Apimondia Congress in Kiev; therefore the Commissions of Apimondia should finalise the “official declaration” of Apimondia, including the section on GMOs, in order to have the full document ready for distribution.

Mr. Bruneau intervenes stating that it is the whole system that is changing and therefore, as a result of the expansion of cultivations, the use of pesticides, GMOs, etc. is on the rise. Apimondia should therefore issue statements that we all have to change the agricultural system or else the ecosystem will collapse, including the bees.

Ms. Conquer, Dr. Ritter and Dr. Biesmeijer agree on the global approach and insist that Governments should be approached in order to change the system, also with the help of the farmers.

Then the President informs those present that he has the resolutions of all the round tables held in Kiev and entrusts Mr. McCabe with reviewing them and produce a one-page document to be distributed to all the members and posted officially on the website.

- Review of content and implementation of terms of reference for Scientific and Regional Commissions (point 11)

The President asks the Presidents of the Regional Commissions to give a brief account on the problems they are facing in their respective areas.

Ms. Conquer introduces Ms. Jodie Goldsworthy who showed interest in helping her in the work of the Regional Commission for Oceania and would be available to take the presidency when the position will be up for renewal in 2015.

Ms. Conquer and Ms. Goldsworthy mention that for the Oceania area the major problems beekeepers are facing are: viability of beekeeping (high costs, no subsidies to the beekeeping sector) so they feel that they should be more connected to the world in order to solve their problems. At the same time the awareness of Apimondia is low and the Regional Commission could intervene on this aspect, channelling the international support needed (namely scientific) to the local level.

Mr. McCabe relays all the information he receives to all the European member associations; in some cases some associations do not want to tackle the problem of GMOs, pesticides, etc. since sometimes there are conflicts of interests. The awareness and recognition of Apimondia activities is fairly high among European member associations. Education and training especially of young beekeepers is an issue that is much needed.

Mr. Corrêa da Cunha underlines that there is a huge contrast in the beekeeping sector between North and South America namely in relation to commercial beekeeping firms.

Prof. Cervancia reports that the main issues in Asia are: need for dissemination of information, sharing of technology, capacity building and promotion of propolis and organic honey.

The President considers that a re-definition of the terms / responsibilities may be required to align them better with the issues just highlighted.

He then asks the members to look for sponsors who would be interested in having a banner on the Apimondia website, underlining that sponsorships should be accepted on a case by case basis taking into consideration the ethical values of the would-be sponsor.

The Secretary-General advocates, in conjunction with each congress, the release by Apimondia of an official report on the state of beekeeping at international level. This report should act as Apimondia flagship publication for the sector and contain an outlook of the current situation, an outlook on prospective future trends as well as some policy statements representing the Apimondia position to address the main issues affecting the sector. The ensuing discussion reveals an orientation towards some more synthesised statements more in the form of brief news updates.

- Calendar and follow-up on organisation of forthcoming international congresses and symposia (point 12)

The President opens this topic asking the members to consider if a 2-year lapse for the symposia is too short. Some members deem that this period is too short also considering other events organised by other entities; some propose to develop different events: a) symposia (scientific) and b) symposia/workshops (scientific and practical), so to address either only the scientists or scientists and beekeepers. Moreover, Dr. Ritter and Mr. Bruneau are asked to investigate with the International Honey Commission (IHC) the collaboration between Apimondia and the IHC as no further news from their side have been received since the end of the congress in Kiev where it was agreed to define formally this collaboration.

The next Apimondia international events to be held in the forthcoming months are:

- 5th ApiMedica & 4th ApiQuality Forum: even though the event promotion has been somewhat delayed, the Forum will take place in Erzurum, Turkey, from 1 to 5 September 2014;
- 2nd ApiEcoFlora Symposium: it will be held in Rome, Italy, on 6-8 November 2014 in conjunction also with the Super-B meeting. In July Dr. Biesmeijer will meet the Local Organising Committee in Rome for further discussions;
- 1st Apimondia Symposium on African Bees and Beekeeping, will take place in Arusha, Tanzania, from 11 to 16 November 2014;

- 4th OIE-Apimondia Symposium: will take place in September 2015 in Daejeon, just before the 44th Apimondia Congress;
- the scheduled symposium on bees and food production in Pamporovo, Bulgaria, has been cancelled and it is proposed to postpone it to 2016;
- Symposium on “Asian Pollination Initiative: Stingless Bees in Focus”: Manila, Philippines, 2016. Prof. Cervancia illustrates this proposed event that will be organised under the Scientific Commission on Pollination and Bee Flora.
- 4th ApiBio-ApiOrganica Symposium: as agreed during the symposium held in Castel San Pietro Terme in March 2014, it will take place in Argentina in 2016.

- Follow-up on Apimondia accreditation as international NGO and collaboration/integration with other institutions (point 13)

In line with the current exercise in progress with FAO towards finalising a memorandum of understanding for a technical partnership, the Secretary-General appeals especially to the Presidents of the Scientific and Regional Commissions to identify suitable organisations with which to explore the likelihood of engaging for technical collaboration.

- Update of current projects: website, working groups, digital kits (point 14)

The President briefly summarises the state of progress of the various groups and initiatives, praising in particular the achievements of the Working Group on world beekeeping awards.

- Reports of the President, Vice-President and Secretary-General (point 15)

The members of the Management Board briefly deliver their reports, the copies of which are attached to these minutes.

- Reports of the Presidents of the Scientific Commissions (point 16)

The Presidents of the Scientific Commissions briefly deliver their own reports, the copies of which are attached to these minutes.

- Reports of the Presidents of the Regional Commissions (point 17)

The Presidents of the Regional Commissions briefly deliver their own reports, the copies of which are attached to these minutes.

- Any other business (point 18)

No item raised for discussion.

As indicated in point 9, the next Apimondia Executive Council meeting will be held in Korea in the second half of May 2015.

With no other item on the agenda to discuss, the President calls the meeting to a close.

Rome, 17 June 2014

Gilles Ratia
President

Lucas Daniel Martínez
Vice-President

Riccardo Jannoni-Sebastianini
Secretary-General