



APIMONDIA

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING OF APIMONDIA

Gwangju, South Korea
16th - 17th May 2015

Present to the meeting:

Mr. Gilles Ratia, President
Mr. Lucas Daniel Martínez, Vice-President
Mr. Riccardo Jannoni-Sebastianini, Secretary-General
Prof. Karl Crailsheim, President of Scientific Commission
Dr. Nicola J. Bradbear, President of Scientific Commission
Prof. Kun-Suk Woo, President of Scientific Commission
Dr. Jeff Pettis, Vice-President of Scientific Commission
Mr. Etienne Bruneau, President of Scientific Commission
Mr. Mulufird Ashagrie, President of Regional 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. Cho Kyoong-Hwan, President of 44th Apimondia Congress
Prof. Dr. Yoon Byoung-Su, President of the 44th Apimondia Congress Local Scientific Committee
Prof. Dr. Jung Chuleui, Member of the 44th Apimondia Congress Local Scientific Committee
Dr. Lee Myeong-lyeol, Member of the 44th Apimondia Congress Local Scientific Committee
Dr. Kang Seoung-Won, Member of the 44th Apimondia Congress Local Scientific Committee
Dr. Oh Hyun-Woo, Member of the 44th Apimondia Congress Local Scientific Committee
Dr. Han Sang-Mi, Member of the 44th Apimondia Congress Local Scientific Committee
Ms. Eva Yim, Coordinator of the 44th Apimondia Congress Local Organising Committee
Mr. Bahri Yilmaz, President of 45th Apimondia Congress
Mr. Unal Bilgin, Delegate of 45th Apimondia Congress Organising Committee
Mr. Dimitris Selianakis, Vice-President of Scientific Commission (via Skype)
Ms. Anna Albert Locsin, President of BeeNet Philippines

Absent with apologies:

Dr. Théodore Cherbuliez, President of Scientific Commission
Dr. Jacobus C. Biesmeijer, President of Scientific Commission
Dr. Wolfgang Ritter, President of Scientific Commission (represented by Dr. Pettis)

Agenda of the meeting

Saturday 16th May 2015

MORNING SESSION

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Overview of financial issues:
 - a) report on the accounts and approval of the accounts and financial report for 2014,
 - b) Apimondia srl,
 - c) fundraising and sponsorships
3. Designation of the Apimondia corporate PCO: congress organisation and proposed corporate structure assessment
4. Review and new proposals for amendments to the Apimondia Statutes
5. Evaluation of bids for the 46th Apimondia Congress
6. Apimondia workplan for the 2016-2017 biennium
7. Apimondia budget for the 2016-2017 biennium

AFTERNOON SESSION

8. Report and follow-up on the organisation of the 44th Apimondia Congress
9. Report and follow-up on the organisation of the 45th Apimondia Congress

Sunday 17th May 2015

MORNING SESSION

10. Apimondia policy:
 - a) review of content and implementation of terms of reference for Scientific and Regional Commissions and Volunteers,
 - b) process of definition of policies on global beekeeping topics (sustainability of agricultural systems, chemical companies, government policies, GMOs, adulteration of bee products),
 - c) compilation of Apimondia technical/corporate reports
11. Admission of new members and exclusion of non-paying members
12. Renewal of positions of the Executive Council
13. Collaboration with FAO: follow-up on definition of Memorandum of Understanding, TECA, *Codex Alimentarius* and co-participation in symposium organisation
14. Follow-up on Apimondia accreditation as international NGO and collaboration/integration with other institutions

AFTERNOON SESSION

15. Update of current projects: website, working groups, digital kits
16. Calendar and follow-up on organisation of forthcoming international congresses and symposia
17. Reports of the President, Vice-President and Secretary-General
18. Reports of the Presidents of the Scientific Commissions
19. Reports of the Presidents of the Regional Commissions
20. Any other business

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Saturday 16th May 2015

The President opens the meeting at 08:30, welcoming the participants present and informing that Dr. Cherbuliez, Dr. Biesmeijer and Dr. Ritter could not be present at the meeting. He also thanks the Local Organising Committee of the 44th Apimondia Congress for arranging the meeting in Gwangju.

- 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.

The President informs the participants on the tasks Apimondia has undertaken in the last period (work carried out by the Regional Commissions, activities carried out by the Working Groups, international awareness-raising campaign, etc.) and asks Mr. Bruneau to present his considerations on the path to be followed by Apimondia in the future. Mr. Bruneau takes the floor pointing out that in the future Apimondia, as the only global association for beekeepers, has many roles to play in the international arena (e.g. international laws will be more and more implemented) and therefore suggests to reinforce the organisation of international meetings, the structure of the Federation that should include 5-6 specialists and to strengthen the links with the United Nations agencies with the final aim to analyse the problems faced by beekeepers and try to find the most adequate solutions, pointing out that the key factor is to change the farming/agricultural systems.

- Overview of financial issues (point 2)

a) report on the accounts and approval of the accounts and financial report for 2014

The Secretary-General takes the floor to report on the accounts of the Federation for the year 2014, pointing out that for the past year, a non-congress year, there has been a profit of € 5,701.42. This performance is in line with the cyclical pattern of Apimondia activities that foresee the holding of the congress every other year and therefore one year is lean and the following one is more profitable as a result of the congress income.

The staff reduction and corresponding cost savings enabled to stabilise the cash-flow pattern while the rent contract for the property in Castel Porziano was being reviewed in order to re-establish an appropriate financial flow. This in turn led also to the above-mentioned profit at the end of the year.

The accounts and financial report for 2014 are discussed and approved.

b) Apimondia srl

The Secretary-General reports on the situation of the renting of the building in Castel Porziano, pointing out that at the end of 2014 a refund plan for the outstanding rents was agreed with the new tenant and that the latter is now regularly paying the current rent due as well as those still due following said refund plan. As a consequence, in 2014 it was possible to start to pay back to Apimondia Federation the advance made for the restoration works.

c) fundraising and sponsorships

On account of the ever growing impact of social media worldwide, Mr. Ratia reports on the recent launching of the awareness-raising campaign “Bee the Campaign”, elaborated by Civitas, that has been posted on the Apimondia website. This campaign, as first aim, intends to raise awareness on beekeeping issues among the general public then, as second aim, to raise funds for beekeeping

projects and activities at international level based on concrete initiatives and proposals that will be identified with the concurrence of the general public that followed and supported the campaign.

Some of the members present point out that some data have to be amended as well as some proofreading is to be made. It is therefore resolved that the Presidents of the Scientific Commissions have a fortnight to review the scientific content of the campaign website whereas the Presidents of the Regional Commissions can work for the proofreading and all have to forward their remarks to Civitas. It is also strongly recommended that the campaign be focused on specific topics and that the aim for raising the money (projects, etc.) should be clearly indicated in the campaign website.

Then Mr. Selianakis, Vice-President of the Scientific Commission on Beekeeping Economy, appointed for setting up the campaign with Civitas, is approached through Skype. The members expound to Mr. Selianakis their main comments on the campaign discussed earlier. Mr. Selianakis takes note of what expounded and informs that he will approach Civitas for the follow-up.

- Apimondia budget for the 2016-2017 biennium (point 7)

The Secretary-General presents the draft budget for the 2016-2017 biennium. Mr. Bruneau suggests having people from FIITEA to work for the Apimondia Federation rather than receiving the annual contribution from FIITEA to benefit from the more favourable labour rates applicable in Romania.

The budget for the 2016-2017 biennium is discussed and approved.

- Designation of the Apimondia corporate PCO: congress organisation and proposed corporate structure assessment (point 3)

The President reports that the selection panel that was set up for the identification of the core PCO for the organisation of the 2019 and 2021 editions of the Apimondia Congress as well as for improving the management of the Federation analysed the tenders of 6 companies. It then made a first screening and proceeded with the interview of 3 shortlisted companies. After such exercise, the panel identified and selected the company AIM Group International for such task. Mr. McCabe points out that he does not agree with this decision.

After the ensuing discussion on several key aspects of the proposals (global reach, financial issues, cost of services provided, stability of tenure in office of support team proposed by the PCO, repartition of responsibilities among Apimondia, the Local Organising Committee and the core PCO), the Executive Council, with the abstention of Mr. Bruneau, endorses the appointment of AIM Group International as core PCO of Apimondia for the 2019 and 2021 editions of the Apimondia Congress.

It is agreed that Apimondia will avail itself with the support of its legal advisor and auditor to address the legal and administrative issues related with the contract to be entered with the core PCO. In the context of the discussion, it is also highlighted the need to create an entity under Apimondia name to operate the organisation of the future congress in collaboration with the core PCO in order to keep Apimondia exempted from the responsibilities ensuing from undertaking these tasks.

- Review and new proposals for amendments to the Apimondia Statutes (point 4)

Art. 26: a new design of the Apimondia flag, with a more proportioned outlay, is proposed and approved for being evaluated by the General Assembly.

Bylaw 2: It is agreed to include a set of Terms of Reference for the Presidents of the Scientific and Regional Commissions (see point 10 a).

These amendments will be sent out to the Apimondia members at least two months prior to the Apimondia General Assembly date.

- Evaluation of bids for the 46th Apimondia Congress (point 5)

The two bids for the organisation of the 46th Apimondia Congress in 2019 submitted by the following member associations: Canadian Honey Council, Canada and American Beekeeping Federation, USA are accepted for being officially presented at the forthcoming General Assembly in Daejeon.

The inspection visits to the proposed venues of the congress (Montreal, Canada and Minneapolis, USA) will be carried out by two members of the Executive Council in the following months.

- Report and follow-up on the organisation of the 44th Apimondia Congress (point 8)

Mr. Cho, President of the 44th Apimondia Congress, gives a welcome speech to those present assuring that the Local Organising Committee will make every effort to successfully organise the event and solve any shortcomings that may arise.

Ms. Yim, Coordinator of the Local Organising Committee, illustrates the progress report on the organisation of the 44th Apimondia Congress, highlighting the layout of the halls, exhibition space and other premises of the congress centre that will be used during the event. She also reports on the figures of the registrations and submission of scientific abstracts as well as on those pertaining to the selling of the booths at the ApiExpo and the sponsoring. Dr. Jung illustrates the selection system for the abstracts. The members discuss and agree the topics for the seven round tables that will be organised within the congress programme.

The members present then ask the delegates of the Local Organising Committee for clarifications on the on-line and on-site registration system, means used for the promotion of the event, timings of the opening and closing hours of the premises in order to give enough time to the participants to actually reach the halls in time, the process for the issuance of the visas to the prospective participants, the social programme and the pre- and post-congress tours.

They also point out that the number of abstracts received so far is relatively low. It is therefore agreed to disseminate further the information on the general and scientific programme and publicise - through the website, E-mails and social media - the details of the call of abstracts. It is also recommended to strengthen the call to possible sponsors and exhibitors, find a better location for the poster presentations so that they can be more easily seen by the participants and to finalise the list of judges for the World Beekeeping Awards.

- Report and follow-up on the organisation of the 45th Apimondia Congress (point 9)

Mr. Bilgin, Delegate of 45th Apimondia Congress Organising Committee, illustrates the congress venue facilities as well as the proposed programme of the event. He also mentions that the on-line registration and abstract system as well as the website of the event are almost ready.

He then reports on the agreement with the airline company that would be a partner of the congress as well as the institutions that have been contacted in relation to the organisation of the event.

- Apimondia workplan for the 2016-2017 biennium (point 6)

The Secretary-General illustrates the proposed list of the international symposia that are foreseen to take place under the *aegis* of Apimondia in 2016, some of which have still to be defined:

Apimondia Symposium and Workshop on Indigenous Bees, Manila, Philippines - February. Prof. Cervancia and Ms. Locsin report on the activities carried out so far and illustrate the proposed programme of the event.

4th ApiBio-ApiOrganica Symposium, Santiago del Estero, Argentina - date to be defined

3rd ApiEcoFlora Symposium - date and place to be defined

6th Apimedica & 5th Apiquality Forum - date and place to be defined

International Bee Health Symposium, Malta - pending confirmation

International Symposium, Switzerland - pending confirmation

International Symposium on Natural Beekeeping, Sansepolcro, Italy - pending confirmation

The Executive Council members agree to the proposed above-mentioned events.

- Admission of new members and exclusion of non-paying members (point 11)

The Secretary-General reports on the beekeeping associations that have submitted the application to join Apimondia either as Full or Associate Member as well as on those members that will be excluded from the Federation due to the non-payment of the membership fees. Said associations will undergo the official endorsement of acceptance/exclusion by the General Assembly, due to convene in Daejeon next September. The list of the new Individual Correspondents is also distributed to the members of the Executive Council.

Sunday 17th May 2015

The President opens the meeting at 08:30.

- Renewal of positions of the Executive Council (point 12)

The Secretary-General mentions the positions that will undergo election at the 44th Apimondia Congress in September 2015: President (resigning: Mr. Gilles Ratia), President of the Scientific Commission on Apitherapy (resigning: Dr. Théodore Cherbuliez), President of the Scientific Commission for Bee Biology (incumbent: Prof. Karl Crailsheim), President of the Scientific Commission on Bee Health (resigning: Dr. Wolfgang Ritter), President of the Scientific Commission on Beekeeping Technology and Quality (incumbent: Mr. Etienne Bruneau), President of the Regional Commission for Americas (incumbent: Mr. José Gomercindo Corrêa da Cunha), President of the Regional Commission for Europe (incumbent: Mr. Philip McCabe), President of the Regional Commission for Oceania (resigning: Ms. Maureen Conquer).

Upon receipt of the candidatures for the afore-mentioned positions by the deadline, as per the Apimondia Statutes, the General Secretariat will send them out to all the members for their due evaluation.

- Apimondia policy (point 10)

- a) Review of content and implementation of terms of reference for Scientific and Regional Commissions and Volunteers

The Secretary-General illustrates the proposed Terms of Reference for the Presidents of the Scientific and Regional Commissions that had been distributed to all the members before the meeting.

In the ensuing discussion, the following main tasks are proposed: providing contents for the Apimondia newsletter and website, collaborating in raising funds for the Federation, possibility to remove an Executive Council member if he/she does not comply with the duties requested, a clarification is made that the Vice-President of any Commission is not reimbursed of the travel and lodging expenses sustained unless he/she attends the meetings on behalf of the respective President, representing Apimondia and all its member beekeeping associations, supporting for lobbying at governmental and administrative level in the interest of the beekeeping associations, providing data for each continent (Regional Commissions); furthermore each President is to appoint a Vice-President and other experts covering different topics (Scientific Commissions) or geographical regions (Regional Commissions).

All the above-mentioned amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Presidents of the Scientific and Regional Commissions will be sent to the Apimondia Members for being discussed at the General Assembly in Daejeon and eventually inserted in Bylaw 2 of the Statutes of Apimondia.

Thereinafter, the members discuss on the Terms of Reference for the Volunteers that will be later defined and posted on the Federation's website.

The new profile of the Apimondia volunteers has been proposed in order to integrate the technical and administrative capacity of the Federation while it builds up sufficient resources to hire on a more regular basis specialists in selected areas of its institutional activities. Voluntary assignments will also provide the candidates undertaking them with an opportunity of professional growth and enrichment of their expertise that they can include in their personal *curricula*.

- b) Process of definition of policies on global beekeeping topics (sustainability of agricultural systems, chemical companies, government policies, GMOs, adulteration of bee products)

Mr. McCabe reports on the draft of the document on GMOs he has worked on. Mr. Bruneau and Mr. Martínez underline that in writing policies on beekeeping/bee products we must be aware of avoiding claims that are not allowed as well as we need to know the real situation in other geographical areas regarding legislation and claims, pointing out that for certain topics (as GMOs) it would be very hard to find a common agreement whereas for other issues (pesticides, adulteration, etc.) it would be much easier to reach a common agreement.

Mr. Ratia then proposes to exclude for the time being the GMO issue from the Apimondia declaration and prepare the document for the other topics (pesticides and adulteration) ready for being submitted in Daejeon.

- c) Compilation of Apimondia technical/corporate reports

The Secretary-General proposes the production of technical/corporate reports, compilation and release of a flagship publication, prepared by the various Commissions, that would be used as

reference documents for the members, the website, as well as used when approaching third parties to illustrate the scope and activities of Apimondia.

The members present resolve to have a template prepared and forwarded for revision to the Presidents of the Commissions.

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

The Secretary-General reports on the process started with FAO for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between FAO and Apimondia to establish a technical partnership in a sector where FAO does not have a specific technical capacity. At this stage it is necessary to identify a strategic objective to be pursued with the agreement. The members present agree to fill out a template to be used as a benchmark for this exercise to submit to FAO.

As for the collaboration currently held with FAO on TECA (Technologies for Agriculture), the platform gained a great success among the users thanks to the moderated discussions, headed by some Presidents of the Scientific Commissions as well as some technical cards provided. Under the renewed agreement with FAO, other topics for the moderated discussions are in the pipeline for the current year.

It is also underlined the need to identify a representative of Apimondia for the *Codex Alimentarius*.

- Follow-up on Apimondia accreditation as international NGO and collaboration/integration with other institutions (point 14)

Mr. Bruneau suggests that Apimondia should be incorporated as a new entity with an international recognition of NGO, since at present Apimondia is a *de facto* entity. On this specific issue, the Secretary-General clarifies that Apimondia already holds international recognition with the United Nations. The legal advisor is at present investigating the best options for Apimondia positioning and partnering at international level.

Apimondia started a collaboration with Conservation Global and the Italian Institute for Animal Diseases; another collaboration with ApiTrade Africa is being evaluated.

- Update of current projects: website, working groups, digital kits (point 15)

The President reports that the website should be revitalised in order to increase the interest of the visitors. As for the Working Groups he states that some are working very well while others are trailing behind.

- Calendar and follow-up on organisation of forthcoming international congresses and symposia (point 16)

This item has been dealt with at point 6.

- Reports of the President, Vice-President and Secretary-General (point 17)
- Reports of the Presidents of the Scientific Commissions (point 18)
- Reports of the Presidents of the Regional Commissions (point 19)

The above-mentioned reports are attached to these minutes.

Among the main issues discussed are: establishing a partnership with the African Union - IBAR, the need to assess adulteration of bee products through surveys on the market, the trend of agronomists to side the needs/requests of beekeepers, the participation of Apimondia in the Beexpo meeting within the programme of “Expo 2015” (dedicated to food and sustainability) in Milan on 16 June.

Moreover, it is stressed the need to: avoid interference of commercial companies in the scientific programme of the events, to increase the interaction among the Executive Council members through Skype sessions, to promote that beekeepers consume their own products, to involve more the beekeepers in the programme of the congresses (more round tables and workshops) in order to increase the exchange of information.

- Any other business (point 20)

- a) Certification of apitherapy products

A Skype session is held with Mr. Selianakis to discuss on the proposal of establishing a certification system for apitherapy products. The members present point out that we must be careful with the criteria to be adopted, the level of quality of the products, the team of experts concerned. It is resolved to have a later Skype session with Dr. Cherbuliez to address all these issues.

- b) World Bee Day

The members agree to support the initiative proposed by the Slovenian Beekeepers’ Association to establish the “World Bee Day” on 20 May to be submitted at United Nations level. This initiative will be presented at the 44th Apimondia Congress.

The next Executive Council meeting will be convened in Daejeon, South Korea, on 15th September 2015, before the 44th Apimondia Congress opening ceremony.

Having covered all the agenda, the President calls the meeting to a close at 17:45 hrs.

Rome, 13th July 2015

Gilles Ratia
President

Lucas Daniel Martínez
Vice-President

Riccardo Jannoni-Sebastianini
Secretary-General