



APIMONDIA
International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations

Minutes of the General Assembly of Apimondia
Daejeon, South Korea
16th - 19th September 2015

APIMONDIA
International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations
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Minutes of the General Assembly of Apimondia, Daejeon 2015

First Session

**Wednesday 16th September 2015 - 14:00 hrs
Daejeon Convention Centre - Daejeon, South Korea**

Agenda of the meeting

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Admission of new members
3. Proposal for the loss of membership for non-paying associations
4. Adoption of the minutes and report on the resolutions and overview of the General Assembly held in Kiev, Ukraine, on the occasion of the 43rd International Apicultural Congress in 2013
5. Report of the Executive Council for the period 2013-2015. Report on the accounts and approval of the financial report for 2013 and 2014
6. Approval of the budget for the period 2016-2017
7. Apimondia working plan for the period 2016-2017
8. Appointment of the Apimondia core PCO
9. Discussion and voting of the proposed amendments of the Apimondia Statutes
10. Election of one member of the Management Board:
President (incumbent: Mr. Gilles Ratia, France)
11. Election of four Presidents of the Scientific Commissions:
Apitherapy (incumbent: Dr. Théodore Cherbuliez, USA)
Bee Biology (incumbent: Prof. Karl Crailsheim, Austria)
Bee Health (incumbent: Dr. Wolfgang Ritter, Germany)
Beekeeping Technology and Quality (incumbent: Mr. Etienne Bruneau, Belgium)
12. Election of three Presidents of the Regional Commissions:
Americas (incumbent: Mr. José Gomercindo Corrêa da Cunha, Brazil)
Europe (incumbent: Mr. Philip McCabe, Ireland)
Oceania (incumbent: Ms. Maureen Conquer, New Zealand)
13. Proposals for the nomination of the new Honorary Members of Apimondia
14. Presentation of congress bids for the 46th edition of the Apimondia International Apicultural Congress in 2019
15. Proposal and discussions on new working groups and digital kits
16. Proposal and discussion on the establishment of the World Bee Day on 20 May
17. Discussion with members on selected topics (based on members' suggestions)
18. Any other business

The appointed delegates and deputies of the following Apimondia members are present: Fédération Algérienne des Associations d'Apiculteurs (Algeria), Sociedad Argentina de Apicultores (Argentina), Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (Australia), Österreichischer Imkerbund (Austria), Fédération Apicole Belge/Koninklijke Vlaamse Imkersbond (Belgium), Confederação Brasileira de Apicultura (Brazil), Balkan Federation of Apicultural Associations (Bulgaria), Canadian Honey Council (Canada), Federación Gremial Red Nacional Apícola (Chile), Apicultural Science Association of China (China), Asia Pacific Apitherapy Association (Taiwan-China), Estación Experimental Apícola - CUBAPI/ACPA (Cuba), Český Svaz Včelařů (Czechia), Dänmarks Biavlerforening (Denmark), Suomen Mehiläishoitajain Liitto (Finland), Syndicat National d'Apiculture (France), Union Nationale de

l'Apiculture Française (France), Deutscher Imkerbund (Germany), Deutscher Berufs und Erwerbs Imker Bund (Germany), European Professional Beekeepers' Association (Germany), Federation of Greek Beekeepers' Associations (Greece), Országos Magyar Méhészeti Egyesület (Hungary), Lee Bee Foundation for the Advancement of Beekeeping and Agro Enterprises (India), National Bee Board (India), Iran National Union of Beekeepers (Iran), Federation of Irish Beekeepers' Associations (Ireland), Federazione Apicoltori Italiani (Italy), Unione Nazionale Associazioni Apicoltori Italiani (Italy), Japan Beekeeping Association (Japan), National Union of Beekeepers of Kazakhstan - Bal-Ara (Kazakhstan), Korea Beekeeping Association (South Korea), Korea Apiculture Agriculture Co-operative (South Korea), Kyrgyz Union of Beekeepers (Kyrgyzstan), Lietuvos Bitininkų Sąjunga (Lithuania), Asociația Națională a Apicultorilor din Republica Moldova (Moldova), National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (New Zealand), Norges Birekterlag (Norway), Beekeepers' Network Philippines Foundation (Philippines), Asociația Crescătorilor de Albine din România (Romania), Societatea Română de Apiterapie (Romania), Russian National Union of Beekeepers (Russia), Bureau d'Appui aux Initiatives Rurales (Rwanda), Albaha Beekeepers' Co-operative Association (Saudi Arabia), Boqshan Chair for Bee Research (Saudi Arabia), Savez Pcelarskih Organizacija Srbije (Serbia), Slovenský Zväz Včelárov (Slovakia), Apislavia (Slovakia), Sveriges Biodlares Riksförbund (Sweden), Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism - Forestry and Beekeeping Division (Tanzania), Türkiye Arı Yetiştiricileri Merkez Birliği (Turkey), Muğla İli Arı Yetiştiricileri Birliği (Turkey), Ordu İli Arı Yetiştiricileri Birliği (Turkey), Sivas İli Arı Yetiştiricileri Birliği (Turkey), Uludağ Arıcılık Derneği (Turkey), ApiTrade Africa (Uganda), Kamwenge Beekeepers' Co-operative Society (Uganda), Brotherhood of Ukrainian Beekeepers (Ukraine), Ukrainian National Beekeepers' Union (Ukraine), Sociedad Apícola Uruguay (Uruguay), American Beekeeping Federation (USA), American Apitherapy Society (USA), Hoi Nuoí Ong Viet Nam (Vietnam).

The President and Secretary-General check the credentials and ascertain the presence of 62 representatives out of 106 Member Associations (59 Associations with right to vote) for a total of 106 votes out of 166. The constitution of the Assembly being considered valid, the President of Apimondia takes the presidency of the Assembly, which is therefore declared officially open, while the Secretary-General acts as secretary of the meeting.

- Adoption of the agenda (point 1)

The agenda of the meeting is approved unanimously.

- Admission of new members (point 2)

This point of the agenda is addressed at the onset of the meeting in order to enable new members to be admitted and participate upfront to the ensuing debate and deliberations with full voting rights. The Secretary-General illustrates the new organisations and individuals that in the previous two years have applied respectively for the categories of Full and Associate Member as well as Individual Correspondents of Apimondia.

The Associations that have applied in the last biennium as Full Members are: Bangladesh Beekeepers' Association (Bangladesh), Asociación Cadena de la Miel de los Apicultores del Occidente (El Salvador), Ethiopian Apiculture Board (Ethiopia), Jordanian Beekeepers' Association (Jordan), Mongolian Beekeepers' Association (Mongolia), Organisation pour la Promotion des Arts Apicole et Sylvicole (Togo).

The following institutions have applied to become Associate Members: Nangarhar Beekeepers' Association (Afghanistan), Cooperativa de Trabajo Ltda. - Coopsol (Argentina), Al Owaid Honey Centre for Apitherapy (Kuwait), Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority (United Arab Emirates), Zambia Forestry College (Zambia).

The Assembly unanimously endorses the above-mentioned Associations and Institutions as Members of Apimondia.

The Assembly also unanimously endorses the following individuals and entities as Individual Correspondents of Apimondia: S. Blair, V.P. Usik, M. Wambach, J.F. Bobo, M. Barthelemy, C. Chiabrishvili, J.J. Ryan, Aboca SpA, OSOO Dary Tyan-Shanya, B.H. Ng, A. Guadalupe, S. Ganbold, M.A. Achouiti, A. Sajwani, V. Eremin, Asal Barri Co., HDI Co. and D. Eyad.

Also the above-mentioned Individual Correspondents are unanimously endorsed by the General Assembly.

- Proposal for the loss of membership for non-paying associations (point 3)

The members that have not paid their dues for the last four years are proposed for exclusion from membership in Apimondia. Upon ratification by the General Assembly, the General Secretariat will contact them individually to propose a six-month period to settle their dues in arrears in order to retain their membership status and, in case of failure to comply, they will be then excluded.

The Secretary-General mentions that, according to the Statutes, the following member Associations, due to their own decision to withdraw or to the non-payment of their membership fees, are bound to be excluded from the Federation's membership: Association Nationale Apicole d'Haïti (Haiti), PT Madu Pramuka (Indonesia), Fédération des Unions d'Apiculteurs du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg (Luxemburg), Organización Nacional de Apicultores (Mexico), Council of National Beekeeping Associations of Britain and Eire - CONBA (United Kingdom), Asociación Argentina de Apiterapia (Argentina), Association of Caribbean Beekeepers' Organisations (Trinidad & Tobago), Japan Health and Nutrition Food Association (Japan), The Agricultural Bank (Libya), Bee Research Unit (Saudi Arabia), King Saud University (Saudi Arabia), Fundación Amigos de las Abejas (Spain).

The General Assembly unanimously approves to terminate the membership to Apimondia of the aforementioned entities according to the procedure.

- Adoption of the minutes and report on the resolutions and overview of the General Assembly held in Kiev, Ukraine, on the occasion of the 43rd International Apicultural Congress in 2013 (point 4)

The report of the Apimondia General Assembly sessions held in Kiev, Ukraine, on 30th September and 3rd October 2013 is cleared.

- Report of the Executive Council for the period 2013-2015. Report on the accounts and approval of the financial report for 2013 and 2014 (point 5)

The General Secretariat distributed to each member the minutes of the last Executive Council meeting held in Gwangju in May 2015 in which the latest activities of the Federation, which focused mainly on the organisation the 44th Apimondia Congress, are highlighted. The following international events under the *aegis* of Apimondia were organised in the period under review: "3rd ApiBio-ApiOrganica

Symposium” (Castel San Pietro Terme, Italy - March 2014), “5th Apimedica & 4rd Apiquality Forum” (Erzurum, Turkey - September 2014), “2nd Apimondia ApiEcoFlora Symposium” (Rome, Italy - November 2014), “1st Apimondia ApiAfrica Regional Symposium” (Arusha, Tanzania - November 2014).

The Secretary-General reports on the content of the financial report for the period 2013-2014.

The accounts and financial report, certified by the appointed external auditor, are unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

- Approval of the budget for the period 2016-2017 (point 6)

The Secretary-General presents the proposed budgets for the biennium 2016-2017, highlighting that the estimates for income are rather conservative.

The General Assembly reviews and approves unanimously the budgets for the next biennium.

- Apimondia working plan for the period 2016-2017 (point 7)

The Secretary-General illustrates the working plan for the next biennium that focuses on the consolidation of the collaboration with FAO, the increase of the activity of the Working Groups, long term fund raising / sponsorship initiatives, the organisation of the 45th Apimondia Congress (Istanbul, Turkey - September 2017) and other international meetings.

The international symposia foreseen to be organised under the *aegis* of Apimondia in the coming biennium are: “Indigenous Bees Symposium & Workshop” (Manila, Philippines - February 2016), “4th ApiBio-ApiOrganica Symposium” (Santiago del Estero, Argentina - September 2016), “3rd ApiEcoFlora Symposium” (pending confirmation), “Bee health issues Symposium” (Malta - pending confirmation), “Symposium on Bee Welfare” (Switzerland - pending confirmation), “6th Apimedica & 5th Apiquality Forum” (pending confirmation).

- Appointment of the Apimondia core PCO (point 8)

The Secretary-General reports on the appointment of the core Professional Congress Organiser (PCO).

AIM Group International will therefore operate as the corporate PCO for the 2019 and 2021 editions of the Apimondia congress. This company has been selected after the issuance of a tender to which a total of six companies applied. An accurate screening of the candidates has been carried out and interviews made with the three shortlisted candidates before selecting the one to appoint.

A company profile can be retrieved on: <http://www.aimgroupinternational.com>

The Secretary-General explains that the choice of a core PCO was determined by the need to ensure more efficiency and better management of the congresses. He adds that the PCO would in fact ensure more continuity of operations and transmission of data and accumulated knowledge and contacts between one edition and the next.

The PCO will also be responsible for attracting new sponsors to the Apimondia congresses and devise activities and tools to ensure better management of the relationships with the member associations of

Apimondia and improve communications.

- Discussion and voting of the proposed amendments of the Apimondia Statutes (point 9)

In compliance with the provisions of the Federation's Statutes, the proposed amendments to the Statutes and Bylaws were circulated to the Member Associations two months prior to the Congress.

The Secretary-General briefly illustrates the proposed changes to the Apimondia Statutes, namely: Art. 26: new design of the Apimondia flag and Bylaws 2: set of terms of reference for the Presidents of the Scientific and Regional Commissions.

Following a brief debate, the amendments to the Statutes are unanimously approved.

- Election of one member of the Management Board (point 10)

President (incumbent: Mr. Gilles Ratia, France)

The position of the Management Board due to expire is assigned as follows:

- Mr. Philip McCabe (Ireland) is appointed President of Apimondia by acclamation.

- Election of four Presidents of the Apimondia Scientific Commissions (point 11)

Apitherapy (incumbent: Dr. Théodore Cherbuliez, USA),

Bee Biology (incumbent: Prof. Karl Crailsheim, Austria),

Bee Health (incumbent: Dr. Wolfgang Ritter, Germany),

Beekeeping Technology and Quality (incumbent: Mr. Etienne Bruneau, Belgium).

The positions of the Presidents of the Apimondia Scientific Commissions due to expire are assigned as follows:

- following the voting concerning the two candidates Dr. Cristina Mateescu (Romania) and Prof. Mehmet Tanyüksel (Turkey) for the position of President of the Scientific Commission on Apitherapy, Dr. Cristina Mateescu is appointed with 74 votes, while 38 votes are assigned to Prof. Mehmet Tanyüksel, 6 abstentions;

- Prof. Karl Crailsheim (Austria) is re-appointed President of the Scientific Commission on Bee Biology by acclamation;

- following the voting concerning the two candidates Dr. Aslı Özkırım (Turkey) and Dr. Jeff Pettis (USA) for the position of President of the Scientific Commission on Bee Health, Dr. Jeff Pettis is appointed with 72 votes, while 40 votes are assigned to Dr. Aslı Özkırım, 6 abstentions;

- Mr. Etienne Bruneau (Belgium) is re-appointed President of the Scientific Commission on Beekeeping Technology and Quality by acclamation.

- Election of three Presidents of the Regional Commissions (point 12)

Only the members from each continent vote for the respective candidate for the following positions:

Americas: (incumbent: Mr. José Gomercindo Corrêa da Cunha, Brazil),

Europe: (incumbent: Mr. Philip McCabe, Ireland),

Oceania: (incumbent: Ms. Maureen Conquer, New Zealand).

The positions of the Presidents of the Apimondia Regional Commissions are assigned as follows:

- following the voting concerning the two candidates Mr. Misael Cuevas Bravo (Chile) and Ms. Virginia S. Webb (USA) for the position of President of the Regional Commission for Americas, Mr. Misael Cuevas Bravo is appointed with 15 votes, while 6 votes are assigned to Ms. Virginia S. Webb;
- Mr. Diego Pagani (Italy) is appointed President of the Regional Commission for Europe by acclamation;
- Ms. Jodie Goldsworthy (Australia) is appointed President of the Regional Commission for Oceania by acclamation.

As a result of these elections, the Apimondia Executive Council composition for the next biennium is as follows:

Management Board:

- President: Mr. Philip McCabe (Ireland),
- Vice-President: Mr. Lucas Daniel Martínez (Argentina),
- Secretary-General: Mr. Riccardo Jannoni-Sebastianini (Italy);

Presidents of the Scientific Commissions:

- Apitherapy: Dr. Cristina Mateescu (Romania),
- Bee Biology: Prof. Karl Crailsheim (Austria),
- Beekeeping for Rural Development: Dr. Nicola J. Bradbear (United Kingdom),
- Beekeeping Economy: Prof. Woo Kun-Suk (South Korea),
- Pollination and Bee Flora: Prof. Jacobus C. Biesmeijer (Netherlands),
- Bee Health: Dr. Jeff Pettis (USA),
- Beekeeping Technology and Quality: Mr. Etienne Bruneau (Belgium);

Presidents of the Regional Commissions:

- Africa: Mr. Mulufird Ashagrie (Ethiopia),
- Americas: Mr. Misael Cuevas Bravo (Chile),
- Asia: Prof. Cleofas Rodriguez Cervancia (Philippines),
- Europe: Mr. Diego Pagani (Italy),
- Oceania: Ms. Jodie Goldsworthy (Australia).

• Proposals for the nomination of the new Honorary Members of Apimondia (point 13)

On consideration of the support given to Apimondia in their activities, the Secretary-General proposes the following for being elected Honorary Members of Apimondia:

- Dr. Dinh Quyet Tam, Vietnam (former President of the Apimondia Scientific Commission on Beekeeping Economy),
- Dr. Théodore Cherbuliez, USA (former President of the Apimondia Scientific Commission on Apitherapy),
- Ms. Tetyana Vasylykivska, Ukraine (President of the 43rd Apimondia Congress).

The General Assembly unanimously endorses said nominations, that will be formally announced during the second session of the General Assembly.

• Presentation of congress bids for the 46th edition of the Apimondia International Apicultural Congress in 2019 (point 14)

Upon the invitation by the President and following a draw for the order of presentation, the representatives of the Canadian Honey Council (Canada) and the American Beekeeping Federation (USA) present their respective bids for hosting the 46th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress, respectively in Montréal and Minneapolis.

- Proposal and discussions on new working groups and digital kits (point 15)

A presentation by Ms. Tanja Arih Korošec is delivered to illustrate the activities of the Apimondia Working Group on Apitourism. This initiative originates from an organisation operating in Slovenia to promote the development of tourism in connection with beekeeping. In particular, tours are organised worldwide for individuals and groups who are interested in learning about the territory and beekeeping practice and history of the areas they visit and also understand the connection between the environment and the contribution of the bees.

- Proposal and discussion on the establishment of the World Bee Day on 20 May (point 16)

Mr. Boštjan Noč, President of the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association, and Dr. Peter Kozmus make a detailed presentation of the new initiative launched to establish a World Bee Day to be observed internationally. The proposal has been brought to the attention of the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organisation for official endorsement. Several governmental and ministerial entities have praised and supported the idea and also a number of influential and important international organisations have provided their support to it. The goal is to have this initiative recognised at the widest possible level to raise awareness on the bees and the sector and ensure political support and future sustainability.

The roadmap that has been drawn foresees the ratification of the initiative by the United Nations possibly by 2016 so to be able to celebrate it officially on 20th May.

The General Assembly of Apimondia endorses the initiative and the member associations pledge to support it at national level.

- Discussion with members on selected topics (based on members' suggestions) (point 17)

No discussion is raised on this point.

- Any other business (point 18)

The President makes a presentation of an important campaign launched by Apimondia in 2015 in collaboration with a specialised advertising agency to create greater awareness worldwide on beekeeping issues.

The initiative goes by the name of "Bee the Campaign" and is posted on the Internet. It is conceived on a two-stage pattern. The first one is of a broad nature aimed at attracting attention on the complex set of challenges and threats affecting bees and their survival. This stage is therefore meant to elicit a number of followers to buy in some critical issues of the sector and foster specific areas of suggested intervention. Once this group has formed, the second phase comes in to define specific projects and initiatives to attract funding for their actual implementation.

The campaign is a multi-media initiative and has also some information kits for the Apimondia member associations to use and disseminate. The campaign is open to anyone holding a genuine interest and concern in beekeeping and willing to help the cause. The entire international beekeeping community is therefore invited to join in and support the campaign to enable Apimondia reach a wider audience and make a more significant impact on beekeeping worldwide.

Having cleared all the issues of the meeting, the President declares the first session of the General Assembly officially closed at 18:30 hours.

Second Session
Saturday 19th September 2015 - 15:00 hrs
Daejeon Convention Centre - Daejeon, Korea

Agenda of the meeting

1. Report on the first session of the General Assembly
2. Report on the resolutions and overview of the 44th International Apicultural Congress
3. Nomination of the new Honorary Members of Apimondia
4. Appointment of the venue for the 46th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress in 2019

The appointed delegates and deputies of the following Apimondia members are present: Shoqata e Bletarëve të Shqipërisë (Albania), Fédération Algérienne des Associations d'Apiculteurs (Algeria), Sociedad Argentina de Apicultores (Argentina), Cooperativa de Trabajo Ltda. - Coopsol (Argentina), IHEO (Argentina), Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (Australia), Österreichischer Imkerbund (Austria), Bangladesh Beekeepers' Association (Bangladesh), Fédération Apicole Belge / Koninklijke Vlaamse Imkersbond (Belgium), Union of Beekeepers' Associations of the Republic of Srpska (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Confederação Brasileira de Apicultura (Brazil), Balkan Federation of Apicultural Associations (Bulgaria), Canadian Honey Council (Canada), Federación Gremial Red Nacional Apícola (Chile), Apicultural Science Association of China (China), Asia Pacific Apitherapy Association (Taiwan-China), Estación Experimental Apícola - CUBAPI/ACPA (Cuba), Pan-Cyprian Beekeepers' Association (Cyprus), Český Svaz Včelařů (Czechia), Dänmarks Biavlerforening (Denmark), Asociación Cadena de la Miel de los Apicultores del Occidente (El Salvador), Suomen Mehiläishoitajain Liitto (Finland), Syndicat National d'Apiculture (France), Union Nationale de l'Apiculture Française (France), Deutscher Imkerbund (Germany), Deutscher Berufs und Erwerbs Imker Bund (Germany), European Professional Beekeepers' Association (Germany), Federation of Greek Beekeepers' Associations (Greece), Országos Magyar Méhészeti Egyesület (Hungary), Lee Bee Foundation for the Advancement of Beekeeping and Agro Enterprises (India), National Bee Board (India), Iran National Union of Beekeepers (Iran), Federation of Irish Beekeepers' Associations (Ireland), Unione Nazionale Associazioni Apicoltori Italiani (Italy), Japan Beekeeping Association (Japan), Jordanian Beekeepers' Association (Jordan), National Union of Beekeepers of Kazakhstan - Bal-Ara (Kazakhstan), Korea Beekeeping Association (South Korea), Korea Apiculture Agriculture Co-operative (South Korea), Kyrgyz Union of Beekeepers (Kyrgyzstan), Lietuvos Bitininkų Sąjunga

(Lithuania), Asociația Națională a Apicultorilor din Republica Moldova (Moldova), Mongolian Beekeepers' Association (Mongolia), National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (New Zealand), Norges Birøkterlag (Norway), Beekeepers' Network Philippines Foundation (Philippines), Asociația Crescătorilor de Albine din România (Romania), Societatea Romană de Apiterapie (Romania), Russian National Union of Beekeepers (Russia), Albaha Beekeepers' Co-operative Association (Saudi Arabia), Boqshan Chair for Bee Research (Saudi Arabia), Savez Pcelarskih Organizacija Srbije (Serbia), Slovenský Zväz Včelárov (Slovakia), Apislavia (Slovakia), Čebelarska Zveza Slovenije (Slovenia), Sveriges Biodlares Riksförbund (Sweden), Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism - Forestry and Beekeeping Division (Tanzania), Organisation pour la Promotion des Arts Apicole et Sylvicole (Togo), Türkiye Arı Yetiştiricileri Merkez Birliği (Turkey), Muğla İli Arı Yetiştiricileri Birliği (Turkey), Ordu İli Arı Yetiştiricileri Birliği (Turkey), Sivas İli Arı Yetiştiricileri Birliği (Turkey), Uludağ Arıcılık Derneği (Turkey), The Uganda National Apiculture Development Organisation (Uganda), ApiTrade Africa (Uganda), Kamwenge Beekeepers' Co-operative Society (Uganda), Brotherhood of Ukrainian Beekeepers (Ukraine), Ukrainian National Beekeepers' Union (Ukraine), Sociedad Apícola Uruguay (Uruguay), American Beekeeping Federation (USA), American Apitherapy Society (USA), Zambia Forestry College (Zambia).

Having the Secretary-General of Apimondia checked the credentials and ascertained the presence of 72 representatives out of 112 Member Associations (70 Associations with right to vote) for a total of 116 votes out of 174, the President of Apimondia verifies the required minimum quorum for the validity of the Assembly and declares the second session of the General Assembly officially open.

Report on the first session of the General Assembly (point 1)

The Secretary-General reports on the first session of the General Assembly, illustrating the new 11 Full and Associate Members that have been endorsed by the General Assembly as well as the Members that are bound to be excluded, due to the non-payment of their respective membership fees.

He also reports on the activities carried out and the international symposia held under the *aegis* of Apimondia in the biennium 2013-2014, the Federation's accounts of the 2013-2014 biennium cleared by the General Assembly, the approved budget for the biennium 2016-2017 and the outcome of the renewal of the Executive Council positions.

Finally he illustrates the workplan for the next biennium, the adopted amendments to the Apimondia Statutes and Bylaws concerning the new flag of Apimondia and the terms of reference for the Presidents of the Scientific and Regional Commissions, the appointment of the Apimondia core Professional Congress Organiser, the proposal for establishing the World Bee Day and the launch of the international campaign "Bee the Campaign".

- Report on the resolutions and overview of the 44th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress (point 2)

The Apimondia Scientific and Regional Commissions issued some *ad hoc* deliberations that will be duly elaborated to reflect the outcomes of the congress and subsequently disclosed as key demands by the international beekeeping sector for urgent intervention.

- Nomination of the new Honorary Members of Apimondia (point 3)

On account of their dedicated work done for the development of Apimondia and following the proposal

of the Apimondia Executive Council, Dr. Théodore Cherbuliez (former President of Apimondia Scientific Commission on Apitherapy), Dr. Dinh Quyet Tam (former President of Apimondia Scientific Commission on Beekeeping Economy) and Ms. Tetyana Vasylykivska (President of the 43rd Apimondia Congress) are unanimously appointed Honorary Members of Apimondia by the General Assembly.

- Appointment of the venue of the 46th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress in 2019 (point 4)

Following a short presentation of the two candidatures, as a result of the first round of secret ballot, the venue of the 46th Apimondia Congress is assigned to the Canadian Honey Council (Canada) with 77 votes as opposed to 38 votes cast for the American Beekeeping Federation (USA), 1 abstention. Therefore, the 46th edition of the Apimondia Congress will take place in Montréal (Canada) in September 2019.

Formal closing of the 44th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress

Mr. Ratia starts his farewell speech by thanking the organisers of the 44th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress for the excellent organisation of the event. He also thanks the five former Commission Presidents for their work done within the Federation.

Mr. Ratia then mentions that during his term as President, he devoted six years of his life to the noble and respectable Apimondia Federation with a real pleasure even if sometimes he had to face inevitable problems and stress, but always helped by the other fourteen members of the Executive Council. He also mentions that, during his travels giving conferences, he actively promoted the Federation, which resulted in an increase from 74 Apimondia members in 2009 to 124 members.

Mr. Ratia also mentions that Apimondia has the ideal tools to move forward, to continue its mission of scientific information but also to take an active role in addressing beekeepers' problems, thanks to the implementation of five new Regional Commissions, several round tables on hot topics in each congress, permanent working groups on urgent matters, with a special mention to the Working Groups on "Adulteration", "Pesticides" and "GMOs" for which he asks everybody's support and cooperation.

Finally he mentions the "Bee the Campaign" and asks the support of all the members to help in raising resources for the Federation by attracting long-term sponsors and motivating young beekeepers.

Mr. Ratia ends his speech by thanking the organisers, scientists, exhibitors, interpreters and volunteers who took part in the congress, as well as the Apimondia full and associate members and individual correspondents, the Apimondia Executive Council members and his family and reassures the audience that even in the future he will be gladly at hand in order to help the Federation. He then gives the floor to the new President of Apimondia, Mr. Philip McCabe.

Mr. McCabe thanks South Korea for the great congress staged in Daejeon and mentions that he looks forward to working with all the Apimondia members in order to strengthen the Federation, by examining the shortfalls and building stronger relationships among beekeepers, scientists and all persons working within the community of apiculture, with a special emphasis on the International Young Beekeepers' Association.

He then thanks the outgoing President, Mr. Ratia, for his very hard work for Apimondia and looks forward to working with the Executive Council.

Mr. McCabe ends his speech by inviting the audience to the 45th Apimondia Congress, scheduled in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2017.

Mr. Cho Kyoong-Hwan, President of the 44th Apimondia Congress, in closing the congress expresses his gratitude to the participants for having taken part in the event and hands over the Congress Collar to the President of Apimondia who, in turn, hands it over to Mr. Bahri Yılmaz, President of the 45th Apimondia Congress. The latter briefly illustrates the main features of the 2017 Apimondia Congress and welcomes all participants to meet in Turkey in two years' time. A short video on Turkey is shown to illustrate the apicultural and tourist features of the next Apimondia Congress venue.

With the transfer of the Congress Collar, the President of Apimondia declares the 44th Apimondia Congress officially closed.

Daejeon, 19th September 2015

Gilles Ratia
President

Lucas Daniel Martínez
Vice-President

Riccardo Jannoni-Sebastianini
Secretary-General