



APIMONDIA
International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations

Minutes of the sessions of the General Assembly of Apimondia
Montréal, Canada
9th and 12th September 2019

APIMONDIA
International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations
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**Minutes of the General Assembly of Apimondia
Montréal 2019**

**First Session
Monday 9th September 2019 - 15:30 hrs
Palais des Congrès - Montréal, Canada**

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 Istanbul, Turkey, on the occasion of the 45th International Apicultural Congress in 2017
5. Report of the Executive Council for the period 2018-2019. Report on the accounts and approval of the financial report for 2017 and 2018
6. Approval of the budget for the period 2020-2021
7. Discussion and approval of the working plan for the period 2020-2021
8. Election of one member of the Management Board:
President (vacant)
9. Election of four Presidents of the Scientific Commissions:
Apitherapy (incumbent: Dr. Cristina Mateescu, Romania)
Bee Biology (resigning: Prof. Karl Crailsheim, Austria)
Bee Health (resigning: Dr. Jeff Pettis, USA)
Beekeeping Technology and Quality (incumbent: Mr. Etienne Bruneau, Belgium)
10. Election of three Presidents of the Regional Commissions:
Americas (resigning: Mr. Misael Cuevas Bravo, Chile)
Europe (resigning: Mr. Diego Pagani, Italy)
Oceania (incumbent: Ms. Jodie Goldsworthy, Australia)
11. Proposals for the nomination of the Dean of the Honorary Members of Apimondia
12. Proposals for the nomination of new Honorary Members of Apimondia
13. Presentation of congress bids for the 48th edition of the Apimondia International Apicultural Congress in 2023
14. Proposal and discussions on new working groups and digital kits
15. Discussion with Members on selected topics (based on Members' suggestions)
16. Any other business

The appointed delegates and deputies of the following Apimondia Members are present: Sociedad Argentina de Apicultores (Argentina), Coopsol (Argentina), International Honey Exporters' Organisation (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), Hrvatski Pcelarski Savez (Croatia), Český Svaz Včelařů (Czechia), Dänmarks Biavlerförening (Denmark), Asociación Cadena de la Miel de los Apicultores del Occidente de El Salvador (El Salvador), Ethiopian Apiculture Board (Ethiopia), Fiji Beekeepers' Association (Fiji), 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), Federation of Irish Beekeepers' Associations (Ireland), Unione Nazionale Associazioni Apicoltori Italiani (Italy), Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale di Lazio e Toscana (Italy), Japan Beekeeping Association (Japan), National Union of Beekeepers of Kazakhstan - Bal-Ara (Kazakhstan), Korea Apiculture Agriculture Co-operative (South Korea), Korea Beekeeping Association (South Korea), Kuwait Beekeepers' Association (Kuwait), Kyrgyz Union of Beekeepers (Kyrgyzstan), Lietuvos Bitininkų Sąjunga (Lithuania), Asociación Ganadera Nacional de Criadores de Abejas Reinas y Núcleos (Mexico), Mongolian Beekeepers' Association (Mongolia), Savez Pcelarskih Organizacija Crne Gore (Montenegro), Apiculture New Zealand (New Zealand), Norges Birøkterlag (Norway), Beekeepers' Network Philippines Foundation (Philippines), Polski Związek Pszczelarski (Poland), Asociația Crescătorilor de Albine din România (Romania), Federația Asociațiilor Apicole din România (Romania), Societatea Romana de Apiterapie (Romania), Russian National Union of Beekeepers (Russia), Bashkir Scientific Research Centre on Beekeeping and Apitherapy (Russia), Slovenský Zväz Včelárov (Slovakia), Apislavia (Slovakia), Čebelarska Zveza Slovenije (Slovenia), South African Bee Industry Organisation (South Africa), Sveriges Biodlares Riksförbund (Sweden), Apisuisse (Switzerland), Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism - Forestry and Beekeeping Division (Tanzania), Türkiye Arı Yetiştiricileri Merkez Birliği (Turkey), Muğla İli Arı Yetiştiricileri Birliği (Turkey), The Uganda National Apiculture Development Organisation (Uganda), Brotherhood of Ukrainian Beekeepers (Ukraine), Ukrainian National Beekeepers' Union (Ukraine), Sociedad Apícola Uruguay (Uruguay), American Apitherapy Society (USA) and Vietnam Beekeepers' Association (Vietnam).

The Acting President and Secretary-General check the credentials and ascertain the presence of 62 representatives out of 105 Member Associations for a total of 106 votes out of 161. As the statutory quorum is reached, the constitution of the Assembly being considered valid, the Acting 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: Beekeeping Union of Georgia (Georgia), Malta Beekeepers' Association (Malta), Federación Mexicana de Apicultores (Mexico), United Arab Emirates Beekeepers' Association (United Arab Emirates) and Association of Uzbekistan Beekeepers (Uzbekistan).

The following institutions have applied to become Associate Members: Groupement des Producteurs de Gelée Royale (France), Associazione Italiana Apiterapia (Italy), Comité Nacional Sistema Producto Apícola (Mexico), Union of Beekeepers and Beekeeping Organisations "Beekeeping" (Russia), Asociación de Veterinarios Especialistas en Sanidad y Producción Apícola (Spain) and Association of Industrialists for Beekeeping Equipment and Bee Products (Turkey).

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: Amana Import, B. Ateyah, J. Binder, Dd. Chichinadze, Dt. Chichinadze, G. Chichinadze, Global Honey Exchange, S. Hinarejos, J. Humphreys, A. Jorrín Roldán, J. Keller, J.H. Lee, S. Marnasidis, H. Neely-Smith, D. Seib, M. Seib and Miel Ecologica Urzapa.

- 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 as a result of the non-payment of their membership fees, are bound to be excluded from the Federation's membership: Federazione Apicoltori Italiani (Italy), Jordanian Beekeepers' Association (Jordan), Asociația Națională a Apicultorilor din Republica Moldova (Moldova), Cooperativa Apicoltori Sammarinesi (San Marino), Erzurum İli Arı Yetiştiricileri Birliği (Turkey) and Sivas İli Arı Yetiştiricileri Birliği (Turkey).

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 Istanbul, Turkey, on the occasion of the 45th International Apicultural Congress in 2017 (point 4)

The report of the Apimondia General Assembly sessions held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 30th September and 3rd October 2017 is cleared.

- Report of the Executive Council for the period 2018-2019. Report on the accounts and approval of the financial report for 2017 and 2018 (point 5)

The General Secretariat distributed to each Member the minutes of the last Executive Council meeting held in Montréal in May 2019 in which the latest activities of the Federation, which focused mainly on the organisation the 46th Apimondia Congress, are highlighted. The following international events under the *aegis* of Apimondia were organised in the period under review: “7th Apimedica & 6th Apiquality Symposium” (Sibiu, Romania - October 2018), “Role of Bees in Food Production Symposium” (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - December 2018) and “New Approaches to Honey Bee Health Symposium” (Rome, Italy - February 2019).

The Secretary-General reports on the content of the financial report for the period 2017-2018 showing tables and graphs summarising the performance in each of the two years and enabling also a comparison between them. In general, the financial situation is stable and there is a reasonable liquidity allowance to invest in future initiatives and new supporting staff to boost information and communication activities.

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 2020-2021 (point 6)

The Secretary-General presents the proposed budgets for the biennium 2020-2021, highlighting that the estimates for income are rather conservative. Should the performance exceed the forecasts made, the additional resources will be invested in supporting the delivery of services for the Members and further improvements in the congress content.

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

- Discussion and approval of the working plan for the period 2020-2021 (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 47th Apimondia Congress (Ufa, Russia - September 2021) and other international meetings.

The international symposia foreseen to be organised under the *aegis* of Apimondia in the coming biennium are: “Symposium on Sustainable Beekeeping” (United Arab Emirates - pending confirmation), “Symposium on cryo-conservation” (Oman - pending confirmation), “Symposium on Bee Health issues” (Spain - Autumn 2020).

- Election of one member of the Management Board (point 8)

President (vacant)

The position of the Management Board, which is vacant due to the premature passing away of the previous incumbent, Mr. Philip McCabe, is assigned as follows:

- Dr. Jeff Pettis (USA) is appointed President of Apimondia by acclamation.

- Election of four Presidents of the Apimondia Scientific Commissions (point 9)

Apitherapy (incumbent: Dr. Cristina Mateescu, Romania),
 Bee Biology (resigning: Prof. Karl Crailsheim, Austria),
 Bee Health (resigning: Dr. Jeff Pettis, USA),
 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:

- Dr. Cristina Mateescu (Romania) is re-appointed President of the Scientific Commission on Apitherapy by acclamation;

- Dr. Geraldine Wright (USA) is appointed President of the Scientific Commission on Bee Biology by acclamation;

- following the voting concerning the two candidates Dr. Fani Hatjina (Greece) and Dr. Aslı Özkırım (Turkey) for the position of President of the Scientific Commission on Bee Health, Dr. Fani Hatjina is appointed with 78 votes, while 34 votes are assigned to Dr. Aslı Özkırım and 1 void;

- 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 10)

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

Americas: (resigning: Mr. Misael Cuevas Bravo, Chile),
Europe: (resigning: Mr. Diego Pagani, Italy),
Oceania: (incumbent: Ms. Jodie Goldsworthy, Australia).

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

- Mr. Lucas Daniel Martínez (Argentina) is appointed President of the Regional Commission for the Americas by acclamation;
- following the voting concerning the two candidates Dr. Robert Chlebo (Slovakia) and Dr. Giovanni Formato (Italy) for the position of President of the Regional Commission for Europe, Dr. Robert Chlebo is appointed with 45 votes, while 19 votes are assigned to Dr. Giovanni Formato;
- Ms. Jodie Goldsworthy (Australia) is re-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: Dr. Jeff Pettis (USA),
- Vice-President: Dr. Peter Kozmus (Slovenia),
- Secretary-General: Mr. Riccardo Jannoni-Sebastianini (Italy);

Presidents of the Scientific Commissions:

- Apitherapy: Dr. Cristina Mateescu (Romania),
- Bee Biology: Dr. Geraldine Wright (USA),
- Beekeeping for Rural Development: Dr. Nicola J. Bradbear (United Kingdom),
- Beekeeping Economy: Dr. Norberto García (Argentina),
- Pollination and Bee Flora: Dr. Lucas Alejandro Garibaldi (Argentina),
- Bee Health: Dr. Fani Hatjina (Greece),
- Beekeeping Technology and Quality: Mr. Etienne Bruneau (Belgium);

Presidents of the Regional Commissions:

- Africa: Mr. David Mukomana (Zimbabwe),
- Americas: Mr. Lucas Daniel Martínez (Argentina),
- Asia: Prof. Cleofas Rodriguez Cervancia (Philippines),
- Europe: Dr. Robert Chlebo (Slovakia),
- Oceania: Ms. Jodie Goldsworthy (Australia).

- Proposals for the nomination of the Dean of the Honorary Members of Apimondia (point 11)

As a result of the passing away in January 2019 of the previous incumbent, Mr. Raymond Borneck, and in consideration of the support given to Apimondia as former President of the Federation as well as currently as advisor on the most important issues to be tackled, the Executive Council proposes Mr. Gilles Ratia for being elected Dean of the Honorary Members of Apimondia.

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

- Proposals for the nomination of new Honorary Members of Apimondia (point 12)

In consideration of the support given to the activities of Apimondia in their respective areas of expertise, the Executive Council proposes the following for being elected Honorary Members of Apimondia:

- Prof. Karl Crailsheim, Austria (former President of the Apimondia Scientific Commission on Bee Biology),
- Mr. Misael Cuevas Bravo, Chile (former President of the Apimondia Regional Commission for the Americas),
- Mr. Diego Pagani, Italy (former President of the Apimondia Regional Commission for Europe).

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 48th edition of the Apimondia International Apicultural Congress in 2023 (point 13)

Upon the invitation by the Acting President and following a draw for the order of presentation, the representatives of the Federación Gremial Red Nacional Apícola (Chile) and the Ethiopian Apiculture Board (Ethiopia) present their respective bids for hosting the 48th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress, respectively in Santiago and Addis Ababa.

The General Assembly will vote for the venue of the above-mentioned edition of the Apimondia Congress on the occasion of the second session on 12 September 2019.

- Proposal and discussions on new working groups and digital kits (point 14)

Mr. Gilles Ratia, Honorary Member of Apimondia, asks the Members to give inputs for the Digital Kits as well as more collaboration for running the Apimondia Working Groups. New groups are encouraged to be set up to engage in specific and particularly important topics of general interest or concern to the international beekeeping community.

- Discussion with Members on selected topics (based on Members' suggestions) (point 15)

The Acting President addresses the Members mentioning that, in order to protect the beekeepers, Apimondia published on the Federation's website and also distributed by E-mail the "Statement on Honey Fraud", adding that, for the first time in the Apimondia Congresses, laboratory tests had been carried out on the honey samples that had been submitted to the World Beekeeping Awards (WBA). As a number of samples failed to pass said tests, he mentions that Apimondia would make a communication on this outcome. In this context, Dr. Norberto García specifies that the honeys had been tested for physical-chemical characteristics, purity, residues and other standard parameters. The unexpected results will be reported in the statement on the WBA 2019 that will be posted on the Federation's website.

Dr. Kozmus then asks those present their comments on these results. The general reaction is of serious concern. Dr. García underlines that, since the results were received only two weeks prior to the congress, the Apimondia Working Group on Adulteration is in the process of analysing the problem and invites all Members to voice their concerns on this issue, stressing that caution has to be followed and hoping that in the next congress the quality threshold would be raised, following the principle that Apimondia must constantly engage in improving the quality of the honey worldwide.

He also mentions that some samples were sent by beekeepers, others by companies. The presence of foreign sugars was detected and a careful analysis must be carried out to distinguish between occasional sugar addition and intentional adulteration. Therefore, Apimondia must work on good practices in artificial feeding. A group from different continents has already been established and due attention will be given to protect consumers as well as beekeepers and to work also on honey collected from forests.

The Slovenian delegate mentions that consumers must be aware of honey adulteration and, to this end, invites the colleagues to sign the initiative proposed to the EU to amend the legislation especially on the indication of the origin of honey.

Mr. Etienne Bruneau intervenes mentioning that the protection of bee products quality is paramount and that there is a lot of work which is already underway in the Scientific Commission on Beekeeping Technology and Quality.

The Members thank the Apimondia Commissions for the work done so far and the Acting President, in turn, thanks the Members for their useful inputs on this discussion.

- Any other business (point 16)

No discussion is raised on this point.

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

Second Session
Thursday 12th September 2019 - 17:00 hrs
Palais des Congrès - Montréal, Canada

Agenda of the meeting

1. Report on the first meeting of the General Assembly
2. Report on the resolutions and overview of the 46th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress
3. Nomination of the Dean of the Honorary Members of Apimondia
4. Nomination of the new Honorary Members of Apimondia
5. Appointment of the venue of the 48th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress in 2023

The appointed delegates and deputies of the following Apimondia Members are present: Sociedad Argentina de Apicultores (Argentina), Coopsol (Argentina), International Honey Exporters' Organisation (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), Hrvatski Pcelarski Savez (Croatia), Český Svaz Včelařů (Czechia), Dänmarks Biavlerförening (Denmark), Asociación Cadena de la Miel de los Apicultores del Occidente (El Salvador), Ethiopian Apiculture Board (Ethiopia), Fiji Beekeepers' Association (Fiji), 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), Iran National Union of Beekeepers (Iran), Federation of Irish Beekeepers' Associations (Ireland), Unione Nazionale Associazioni Apicoltori Italiani (Italy), Japan Beekeeping Association (Japan), National Union of Beekeepers of Kazakhstan - Bal-Ara (Kazakhstan), Korea Apiculture Agriculture Co-operative (South Korea), Korea Beekeeping Association (South Korea), Kuwait Beekeepers' Association (Kuwait), Kyrgyz Union of Beekeepers (Kyrgyzstan), Latvijas Bīskopības Biedrība (Latvia), Lietuvos Bitininkų Sąjunga (Lithuania), Federación Mexicana de Apicultores (Mexico), Asociación Ganadera Nacional de Criadores de Abejas Reinas y Núcleos (Mexico), Mongolian Beekeepers' Association (Mongolia), Savez Pcelarskih Organizacija Crne Gore (Montenegro), Nederlandse Bijenhoudersvereniging (Netherlands), Apiculture New Zealand (New Zealand), Norges Birøkterlag (Norway), Polski Związek Pszczelarski (Poland), Federația Asociațiilor Apicole din România (Romania), Societatea Romana de Apiterapie (Romania), Russian National Union of Beekeepers (Russia), Bashkir Scientific Research Centre on Beekeeping and Apitherapy (Russia), Slovenský Zväz Včelárov (Slovakia), Apislavia (Slovakia), Čebelarska Zveza Slovenije (Slovenia), South African Bee Industry Organisation (South Africa), Asociación Provincial de Apicultores de Granada (Spain), 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), Association of Industrialists for Beekeeping Equipment and Bee Products (Turkey), Muğla İli Arı Yetiştiricileri Birliği (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), United Arab Emirates Beekeepers' Association (United Arab Emirates), Sociedad Apícola Uruguay (Uruguay), American Beekeeping Federation (USA), American Apitherapy Society (USA) and Zambia Forestry College (Zambia).

Having the Secretary-General of Apimondia checked the credentials and ascertained the presence of 70 representatives out of 116 Member Associations for a total of 120 votes out of 175, the Acting 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 meeting of the General Assembly (point 1)

The Secretary-General reports on the first session of the General Assembly that took place on 9th September 2019, illustrating the new 11 Full and Associate Members that have been endorsed by the General Assembly as well as the 6 Members that are bound to be excluded, due to their own decision to withdraw or to the non-payment of their respective membership fees.

He then reports on the Federation's accounts of the 2017-2018 biennium that were cleared by the General Assembly, the approved budget for the biennium 2020-2021 and the outcome of the renewal of the Executive Council positions.

Finally, he mentions the two bids that were submitted for hosting the 48th Apimondia Congress in

2023, and the proposals forwarded by the Apimondia Executive Council and accepted by the General Assembly for the election of the Dean of the Apimondia Honorary Members as well as of the new Apimondia Honorary Members.

- Report on the resolutions and overview of the 46th 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 main outcomes of the congress and subsequently disclosed as key demands by the international beekeeping sector for urgent intervention.

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

Following the proposal by the Apimondia Executive Council for the support given to Apimondia as former President of the Federation, Mr. Gilles Ratia is unanimously appointed Dean of the Honorary Members of Apimondia by the General Assembly.

- Nomination of the new Honorary Members of Apimondia (point 4)

On account of their dedicated work done for the development of Apimondia and following the proposal of the Apimondia Executive Council, Prof. Karl Crailsheim (former President of Apimondia Scientific Commission on Bee Biology), Mr. Misael Cuevas Bravo (former President of Apimondia Regional Commission for the Americas) and Mr. Diego Pagani (former President of Apimondia Regional Commission for Europe) are unanimously appointed Honorary Members of Apimondia by the General Assembly.

- Appointment of the venue of the 48th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress in 2023 (point 5)

Following a short presentation of the two candidatures and as a result of the first round of the secret ballot, the venue of the 48th Apimondia Congress is assigned to the Federación Gremial Red Nacional Apícola (Chile) with 66 votes as opposed to 53 votes cast for the Ethiopian Apiculture Board (Ethiopia), 1 abstention. Therefore, the 48th edition of the Apimondia Congress will take place in Santiago (Chile) in September 2023.

Formal closing of the 46th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress

Dr. Kozmus in his farewell speech thanks the organisers of the 46th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress - the Canadian Honey Council, the PCO AIM, as well as all the volunteers - for the excellent organisation of the event. Words of appreciation are also conveyed to the numerous participants and exhibitors in the congress.

He mentions the great number of participants (over 5,500 from 134 countries) who attended the event as well as the high level of the scientific programme with more than 320 lectures and more than 360 posters and the huge number of exhibitors and visitors of the ApiExpo. A special thank also goes to Ms. Enid Brown, Director of the WBA 2019, Mr. John Hendrie and all the judges for the great work done for the organisation of the WBA that awarded 140 medals.

Dr. Kozmus welcomes the newly elected members of the Executive Council and warmly thanks those who terminated their mandate.

He then reiterates the undivided commitment of Apimondia to protect beekeepers and consumers by supporting high-quality bee-products in the international market through increased controls; he also stresses the importance of adopting, without disregarding though the latest developments of technology, a “natural beekeeping” approach for preserving bees, bee products and the environment.

Finally, the Acting President gives the floor to the newly elected President of Apimondia, Dr. Jeff Pettis.

Dr. Pettis, after thanking the Members and the audience, summarises the core of his mandate as President of the Federation in three pillars: communication, diversity and respect. He underlines the vital role of increased communication for the growth of Apimondia, the need to capture the diversity of beekeepers and the different bees that are managed globally and, finally, that we all work to respect the bees.

Finally, Prof. Pierre Giovenazzo, President of the 46th 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 Mr. Arnold Butov, President of the 47th Apimondia Congress. The latter briefly illustrates the main features of the 2021 Apimondia Congress and warmly invites all participants to meet in Russia in two years’ time. A short video on Russia is shown to illustrate the apicultural and tourist features of Ufa, the next Apimondia Congress venue.

With the transfer of the Congress Collar, the Acting President of Apimondia declares the 46th Apimondia Congress officially closed.

Montréal, 12th September 2019

Peter Kozmus
Acting President

Riccardo Jannoni-Sebastianini
Secretary-General