



**Apimondia**

International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations

**Minutes of the Executive Council meeting  
Bucharest, Romania, 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> May 2006**

APIMONDIA

International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations

Corso Vittorio Emanuele II, 101

00186 Rome, Italy

Tel +39-066852286

Fax +39-066852287

E-mail [apimondia@mclink.it](mailto:apimondia@mclink.it)

Internet [www.apimondia.org](http://www.apimondia.org)

Present to the meeting:

Mr. A.S. Jørgensen, President  
Mr. L. Martinez, Vice-President  
Mr. R. Jannoni-Sebastianini, Secretary-General  
Dr. T. Cherbuliez, President of Standing Commission  
Prof. Dr. K. Crailsheim, President of Standing Commission  
Dr. N. Bradbear, President of Standing Commission  
Dr. M.J. Sommeijer, President of Standing Commission  
Dr. W. Ritter, President of Standing Commission  
Mr. G. Ratia, President of Standing Commission  
Prof. Dr. O. Van Laere, former President of Standing Commission

Absent (with apologies):

Mr. D.Q. Tam, President of Standing Commission  
Mr. K. McIlvrde, President of Apimondia 2007 congress Scientific Committee

Invited:

Mr. C. Constantinescu, Director of FIITEA  
Ms. M. Gogia, Chief Accountant, FIITEA  
Mr. P. McCabe, President of 39<sup>th</sup> Apimondia Congress  
Mr. D. Selianakis, President of GSAC  
Ms. U. Nöhler, Apimondia Secretariat Rome

## **Friday 12 May 2006, 9.00 hrs – FIITEA meeting room**

Mr. Jørgensen as the Chairman of the meeting and Mr. Constantinescu as the host open the meeting and convey their welcome to Mr. Martinez, newly appointed Vice-President of Apimondia, Prof. Crailsheim, newly appointed President of the Apimondia Standing Commission on Bee Biology.

Apologies are presented for Mr. Tam, President of the Standing Commission on Beekeeping Economy, who could not attend due to other commitments with the Vietnamese Beekeepers' Association undergoing major re-structuring and for Mr. McIlvride, President of the Scientific Committee of the Apimondia 2007 congress due to visa and health problems.

### 1. Adoption of the agenda

Mr. Jørgensen then proposes to re-arrange the agenda due to the forced absence of Mr. McIlvride so to be able to arrange a teleconference with Australia later in the day or the following day to take into account the different time zone to discuss congress-related matters and the content of the draft of the second circular.

The agenda is then adopted in the order of the topics reported herebelow and together with the minutes of the previous meeting.

### 2. Report and follow-up on the organisation of the 40th Apimondia congress

Mr. McIlvride delivered a draft of the congress second circular and the Executive Council members discuss it to make comments and list all the proposals and amendments.

Dr. Sommeijer reports that he has already been in contact with the Australians concerning the organisation of a workshop on pollination.

Prof. Crailsheim instead raises the issue of discounts to students attending the congress and the need to facilitate the participation of young researchers. He also advocates that the scale of discounts be included in the second circular.

Mr. Jørgensen adds that according to the provisions of the Letter of Agreement signed last year with the Australians discounts should be foreseen also for Apimondia members (5%), students (25%) and students presenting a report (50%).

Dr. Bradbear highlights that it is important to ensure that reports submitted by these students are of good quality and Dr. Ritter adds that those falling below a high standard should then be allocated a poster presentation. Mr. Jannoni supports the idea that only good quality papers be selected for presentation and consequently be entitled to the discount on the fees.

The draft is then reviewed jointly by the Executive Council.

On the scientific programme Dr. Ritter enquires on whether there will be sponsored sessions as in Canada.

Dr. Bradbear notes that the programme is similar to the one covered in Ireland.

Mr. Jørgensen stresses the need to have proper titles for each session, symposium and workshop listed in the programme so that prospective participants can have a good idea on its contents.

Prof. Van Laere notes that the biographies of some designated keynote speakers are missing or too short and proposes to integrate this section appropriately.

Prof. Crailsheim enquires on whether keynote speakers are required to pay their own registration fees and Dr. Sommeijer confirms that normally they do.

Mr. Jørgensen notes that the programme requires extensive integration before being published to ensure that it contains all the necessary elements.

Dr. Ritter asks in which language the presentations are going to be made since this is important both for the authors and audience as well as the translation team.

Ms. Giogia reports that to date only some E-mail contacts with the Australians have been made, but no final decision has been made yet.

**Saturday 13 May 2006, 9.00 hrs – FIITEA meeting room**

Mr. Jørgensen stresses the need to ensure that all presentations are delivered according to the programme announced.

Dr. Bradbear proposes to compile guidelines on how to run congress sessions to enable the Presidents of the Standing Commissions to handle the schedule consistently and ensure a high standard of delivery. These guidelines would also prove very useful for newly elected presidents.

Dr. Ritter adds that what is requested is experienced chairpersons who are able to run the sessions professionally.

Dr. Sommeijer asks if every President will have a secretary, as it was the case in Slovenia and Ireland.

Mr. Jørgensen raises the issue of offering the possibility to participants to choose which parts of the congress they want to attend and pay for since in some cases the social and artistic events are not requested or they are not of interest to the attendees and may provide an option for reducing costs.

More in general, it is noted that in any case the fees are substantially high and that the option of choosing which events to pay for should be reflected in the second circular. Furthermore, it would be advisable to show the fees in US dollars to assist the readers in assessing costs.

Mr. Jørgensen notes that clear guidelines should be laid out on the procedure for visa application.

Mr. McCabe, President of the Apimondia congress held in Ireland in 2005, reported on the issues that emerged in the management of the visa applications where some people applied and never registered to the congress and some others actually immigrated illegally in Ireland. This led to him being also summoned at the Police to provide clarifications on this matter to the Irish immigration authorities as he had personally guaranteed for these applicants.

Mr. Jørgensen acknowledges the risks and problems linked to the visa applications and suggests that specific guidelines be issued by each Congress Organising Committee to assist participants in applying and obtaining a visa well in advance. Ideally also a specific team or office should be devoted to attending to this matter.

\* \* \*

The afternoon session is preceded by a visit to the Romanian Beekeeping Research Institute to meet the officials and the staff and for a short briefing on the Institute's activities.

**§ Apimondia workshop on the organisation, format and bid procedures of future congresses**

Mr. Martinez takes the floor to illustrate the criteria adopted for organising symposia in Argentina and identifies three main areas: scientific, technical and general issues.

Dr. Bradbear contends that a clear decision should be made on whether to address beekeepers or specialists and to avoid mixing up the areas.

Prof. Crailsheim points out the importance of achieving high quality of papers.

Dr. Bradbear suggests that participants should have the possibility to attend more than one session every day and the most important ones should not overlap one another. Workshops should also be included in the official congress programme.

Dr. Ritter says that Apimondia standards of high quality sessions are not regarded as such by scientist and a separate fee of for example € 150 should be set for specialist sessions and another fee for all the other sessions and events.

Prof. Crailsheim proposes to focus the specialist sessions only to accredited participants in order to ensure a good quality level and a comparable audience. Keynote speakers should deliver overview speeches of their specific sector and the Presidents of the relevant Standing commissions may either deliver themselves a general report or delegate this to the keynote speakers to increase the quality level for the benefit of the participants. He also adds that professors would not normally bring their students at the congress if they are not delivering a presentation.

A new pattern of the congress sessions is then proposed so to change the former plenary sessions into general sessions, shorter in time, concentrating them in the mornings in a straight sequence and assisted by simultaneous translation. The format of these general sessions would foresee an overview presentation by either the President of the Standing Commissions or a keynote speaker and one or two high level qualified reports. Workshops and symposia would instead be held in the afternoons.

Mr. Jørgensen makes a recommendation to stage the General Assembly earlier in the afternoon in order to have more time to address the various points on the agenda and also to ensure the availability of simultaneous translation to enable all the delegates attending the meeting to understand the issues being discussed and intervene.

Mr. McCabe puts forward a proposal coming from the Irish Federation of Beekeepers to grant right of vote also to the members of the Executive Council with at least two votes each.

Mr. Jørgensen acknowledges the various points discussed so far and proposes to close the internal workshop on the issues just discussed and agreed upon. A further session will be held at the next Executive Council meeting.

#### 5. Report on the closure of the accounts of the 39<sup>th</sup> Apimondia congress

Mr. McCabe takes the floor to report on the 39<sup>th</sup> Apimondia congress and claims that it has been the largest beekeeping event ever organised in Ireland. The congress did not produce a surplus, but only a small deficit was recorded. Ovation, the professional congress organiser, was satisfied of the outcome of the event whereas the Irish Beekeepers' Federation regarded it as an important experience with some problems that had to be sorted out such as the visa applications and the instance of some 15 people claiming some privileged status to be granted free entry to the congress despite being unknown both to the local organisers and Apimondia. A total of 2,217 registered participants were recorded for the congress.

In general, it is to be regarded as an event that gave good international visibility to Irish beekeeping and an experience that enabled the exchange of knowledge and professional and personal contacts worldwide.

Mr. Jørgensen expresses his appreciation also on behalf of Apimondia to the Irish organisers and beekeepers for their efforts and the excellent work done as well as for the pleasant atmosphere experienced during the congress days by the participants. He also thanks Mr. McCabe for providing the congress background documentation and the final accounts.

Mr. Jannoni too praises Mr. McCabe and his staff for the efficient organisation of the event and requests feedback from them in order to enable Apimondia to take hind of possible oversights or misunderstanding that may have occurred in the four years of mutual collaboration leading to the congress in order to improve the performance for the future editions.

Dr. Bradbear adds that the practical workshops proved to be very useful and a real success among the participants.

Mr. Jørgensen notes that Mr. McCabe, as Dr. Schieferstein and other honorary members ran the risk of having an important position in Apimondia, but without clearly defined responsibilities and this a great waste of knowledge and resources for Apimondia that needs to be resolved.

Dr. Ritter proposes, as an example, to entrust Mr. McCabe with the task of keeping contacts with the beekeeping magazines and provide with regular information on Apimondia activities.

Mr. Jørgensen agrees and adds that some specific responsibilities may be assigned to Mr. McCabe especially in assisting future congress organisers on the basis of the direct experience made with the last congress in Ireland. Other areas could be those of fund raising and contacts with sponsors and the media.

Mr. McCabe declares his agreement and accepts the appointment.

### 3. Reports of the President, Vice-President and Secretary-General (the original reports are attached to these minutes)

Mr. Jørgensen refers to the report he has submitted prior to the meeting and that has been distributed to the members as an account of his activities over the last few months.

Mr. Martinez, being new to the Executive Council, takes the floor to present himself to the other members and give some brief information on his work as President of the Argentine Beekeepers' Association and his new responsibilities as Vice-President of Apimondia. He holds in great consideration this latter position as it enables him to represent Apimondia in Latin America and he adds that local beekeepers and their associations are extremely proud of his appointment to this position.

Dr. Cherbuliez points out the importance of the role that he is to play to bridge beekeepers in Latin America with those in Europe and also in support of the President of Apimondia on institutional matters.

Mr. Jørgensen notes that Mr. Martinez being a commercial beekeeper will add this new dimension to Apimondia and that he will also represent Apimondia in beekeeping events taking place in Latin America, in other Spanish-speaking countries and also in Spain during his business travels.

Mr. Jannoni requests Mr. Martinez to provide Apimondia with regular feedback and reports on Latin American beekeeping so that this information can then be relayed to the other members and the international beekeeping community at large.

### **Saturday 13 May 2006, 9.00 hrs – FIITEA meeting room**

#### 3. Reports of the President, Vice-President and Secretary-General (continuation)

Mr. Jannoni takes the floor to report on his activities and those of the General Secretariat office in Rome. In October 2005 he attended with Mr. Jørgensen a meeting in Bucharest to discuss and review FIITEA's activities and future. In the same month he also attended an international meeting/exhibition in Lazise (Italy) to deliver a short speech on Apimondia activities and also promote the upcoming events in 2006 and 2007. In November he travelled to Thailand and Australia to meet the representatives of the local member association and the organisers of the Apimondia 2007 congress respectively. In March 2006 he attended in Piacenza (Italy) the Apimell meeting/exhibition to illustrate the Federation's activities and promote future Apimondia events.

For the office in Rome he announces that a new candidate has been interviewed to fill a part-time position to complement as from 1 July 2006 the current staffing structure and he circulates the CV of the new assistant, Ms. Viktoria Somogyi, a Hungarian national with an academic background in economics who will take care of maintaining regular communications with the member associations and assist in the organisation of future Apimondia events and support the other staff.

The Apimondia Ltd company is going well and the rents are being paid regularly for the house. Part of this steady income will be gradually transferred to Apimondia (the Federation) to provide financial resources for the institutional activities while another part is used to pay the taxes and yet another is set aside to increase the statutory financial reserves.

#### 4. Reports of the Presidents of the Standing Commissions (the original reports are attached to these minutes)

Dr. Ritter reports on the OIE activities, namely on the symposium held in Dublin to address the definition of a code for the diagnosis of animal diseases and the compilation of a chapter on the small hive beetle. He adds that several meetings were held in Brussels and that there is a good co-operation with laboratories worldwide.

Dr. Cherbuliez presents his reports on the activities of the Standing Commission on Apitherapy and the preparatory work being carried out for the Apimedica Forum in October 2006.

Prof. Van Laere reports on his activities at the congress where he had to replace the newly elected new President of the Bee Biology Standing Commission, Prof. Crailsheim, who could make only a short attendance due to previously held engagements with the IUSSI congress in Russia.

Prof. Crailsheim announced a symposium on transgenic plants to be held in Graz (Austria) in 2007 on the grounds that Austrian beekeepers would probably not make it to Australia for the Apimondia congress.

Dr. Bradbear presents the report on her Commission's activities at the congress and her involvement in several other projects and events, including those with *Bees for Development*.

Dr. Sommeijer reports that in Dublin he recorded few participants from developing countries at his practical workshop. He also refers to the workshop on pollen analysis held in the Netherlands on 21 January 2006.

Mr. Ratia announces that the preparatory work on the 2009 Apimondia congress is already underway and that in the meantime they are not going to interfere with the one next year in Australia. He adds that he is also looking forward to receiving and putting together some good paper for the symposium on bee breeding and selection taking place in Sofia (Bulgaria) next September. Following a specific query, it is then clarified that this event will not yield any contribution to Apimondia. He also raises the issue of the ownership of the [www.apimondia.com](http://www.apimondia.com) website as now it is available again and he and Mr. Jannoni are then urged to follow up on this matter and try to obtain the best price and freeze also other .com domains that would be required by Apimondia in the future.

Apiacta is going to be posted on the website and accessible free of charge also in the future and all the Presidents of the Standing Commissions are invited to feed good paper to the Editor, Mr. Wyatt Mangum.

#### § Presentation of Apimedica 2006 – 1<sup>st</sup> International Forum on Apitherapy by Mr. Dimitris Selianakis, President of the Greek Scientific Apitherapy Centre

Mr. Selianakis illustrates the event reporting on the work carried out in reserving the meeting rooms, accommodation and the abstract handling in which also Dr. Cherbuliez and the Apimondia office in Rome will be involved respectively for the selection and notifications to the authors. The promotion of the event will be handled in conjunction with the Apimondia office in Rome and seeks also the assistance of the members of the Executive council and their respective networks. Sponsors and other official institutions will also be contacted to support the event. The ideal break-even has been set at 700 participants, but with some adjustments also a lower number of participants will ensure a positive outcome.

Mr. Jannoni reports on the possibility of organising the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Forum on Apitherapy in 2008 in Italy following contacts with a local PCO (Professional Congress Organiser) who is already dealing with medicine-related events and could provide assistance in the organisation of Apimedica 2008 possibly in conjunction with some other medical symposium or environment-related convention.

Mr. Jørgensen warns that a two-year frequency of an apitherapy event may prove too short to deliver some consistent and significant breakthroughs in the sector and the related risk of lowering quality standards of the papers presented.

#### 6. Follow-up on the organisation of Apimondia events scheduled in 2006

The symposium in Sofia is well underway and a good number of participants also from other Eastern Europe countries is expected.

Also the forum is being organised with the assistance of the local counterparts and will be staged in conjunction with this year's edition of the Pan-Hellenic congress on apitherapy.

#### 7. Calendar of future international congresses and symposia

The next edition of the Ibero-Latin American congress in Chile is foreseen in 2008 as well as a conference on bee biology in Graz.

Other events like the second edition of Apimedica and possibly a number of selected symposia are also in the pipeline for 2008 and the various Standing Commissions will be working on them in due course.

#### 8. Review of Apimondia statutes

As mentioned earlier there is a proposal from the Irish Beekeepers' Federation to grant voting rights (two votes each) to the members of the Apimondia Executive Council at the General Assembly taking place at the congress.

Dr. Ritter points out that in his opinion what is more important is the service dimension of the members of the Executive Council rather than that of holding voting rights.

Dr. Bradbear agrees with him and adds that their role as Presidents of the Standing Commissions is more that of providing qualified expertise on beekeeping-related issues.

Mr. Jannoni raises the question of whether there could be a potential conflict of interests and despite not being against the idea he reckons that members of the Executive Council should not have voting rights unless there are clearly defined procedures and circumstances.

It is then agreed that Mr. Martinez go through the statutes to assess the scope and feasibility of introducing this change even though it may not be necessary as the Executive Council may replace it with qualified recommendations on specific important issues.

Concerning the voting procedures and the verification of the votes cast at the General Assembly sessions, it is agreed to appoint in advance a co-ordinator and a panel to run these activities to avoid misunderstandings and improper handling of these delicate operations also on account of the fact that the Apimondia President, the Secretary-General and his staff are already fully engaged with running the General Assembly. The names of Mr. McCabe and of members of the Australian Organising Committee are put forward for this assignment.

It is also agreed to reject any last-minute proposals for candidatures to Executive Council positions coming from the floor at the General Assembly as all member associations are duly requested of submitting their proposals well in advance by the Apimondia office and should do so up to one week prior to the opening of the congress. This timed procedure is also meant to provide sufficient time for screening the proposals received and to guarantee transparency to the entire process.

#### 9. Apimondia work plan for the 2006/2007 biennium (a copy of this document is attached to these minutes)

Mr. Jørgensen goes through the resolutions adopted in Dublin to assess the state of execution and progress.

The agenda for the next biennium foresees the renewal of the contacts with FAO following the change of the Director of the AGS division dealing with beekeeping to find new joint activities to implement.

The staff of the Apimondia office in Rome is being integrated with a new part-time assistant.

It is advocated that Apimondia gain more influence within the European Union especially with its ongoing eastbound extension to incorporate more countries that have long-standing traditions in beekeeping.

In connection with the discussion on the proposed symposium in Russia on black bees, to be staged in co-operation with SICAMM, it is mentioned that Apimondia should also pay more attention to other species of honeybees.

The Standing Commission on Rural Development is taking care of providing assistance to African beekeepers on honey trade.

#### 11. Report on the accounts and approval of the accounts and financial report for 2005 and review of the budget for the next biennium

Mr. Jannoni illustrates the accounts and financial reports and explains to the members of the Executive Council the various entries and their historical background and rationale for the benefit of the new colleagues joining Apimondia management positions.

In the process of presenting the accounts, following a clarification received in Bucharest, it emerges that an entry that was initially posted as congress income linked to the OIE symposium would be better reflected as a separate entry under payables awaiting its foreseen allocation next year. A correction is therefore to be made in this respect.

An updated version of the accounts statement with the required amendment, compiled according to the European Union standard, is attached to these minutes.

The membership fee payments' situation is also reviewed and it is agreed to follow up with all those member associations who have payments in arrears to try and work out a feasible solution to the outstanding fees.

It is also agreed to increase the diffusion of Apimondia promotional material and in this connection the website could be used for this purpose. In addition, now also Apimondia flags have been produced and two samples will be distributed to each member association and vertical banners will instead be given to each member of the Apimondia Executive Council so that they can use them when attending official meetings representing the Federation. Another stock of flags will be assigned to the congress organisers so that they can be displayed at the congress venue.

#### 10. Assessment of travel allocation for Executive Council members

Following specific provisions contained in the Apimondia statutes and in connection with the current availability of funds, a request has been made to reimburse travel costs to the members attending the meeting if they do not benefit from other sources of financial support.

In general the proposal is approved and the discussion focuses then on the criteria for refund. One proposal is for a fixed amount of around € 500 allocated on yearly basis. The majority of the members expresses the preference for the reimbursement of the entire ticket as in most cases it would be within the set ceiling.

Prof. Van Laere and Mr. Jannoni propose the submission of the original invoices and to reimburse according to supporting documentation.

Mr. Jannoni adds that this option be extended also to invited participants in the meetings and in any case that tickets should be purchased on the basis of the cheapest fare available and well in advance.

Dr. Ritter suggests to explore the possibility of putting these expenses on the congress budgets also on account of the fact that they can be included in group free ticket allocations linked to the event by the designated official carrier(s).

#### 12. Planning on the future activities and areas of development of Apimondia

Mr. Jørgensen proposes to organise an internal workshop on the future activities and areas of development of Apimondia next year in connection with the Apimondia Executive Council meeting in Rome.

Mr. Constantinescu emphasises the importance of strengthening the ties with Eastern European countries, but also with the German-speaking and Ibero-Latin American beekeeping groups.

Dr. Ritter warns that in his opinion most Apimondia member associations do not explicitly want an enormous structure, but simply want to collaborate with Apimondia and receive qualified support on key apicultural issues.

Dr. Bradbear suggests to allocate meetings rooms or spaces to other organisations and that this be also reflected in the programme so to give visibility to their activities as well and to this end a list could be provided to the Australian Congress Organising Committee of all the associations and organisations that would be interested in such initiative.

#### 13. Report on the activities of FIITEA (a copy of the report is attached to these minutes)

Mr. Constantinescu, Director of FIITEA, takes the floor to briefly illustrate the content of the FIITEA Managing Committee meeting held on 11 May 2006 for which a report will be signed that same day and circulated to all those present.

He announces that from 29 March to 1 April 2007 the 1<sup>st</sup> Congress of the Balkan Federation of Apiculture will take place in Edirne (Turkey).

Dr. Ritter expresses the intention to retire from the FIITEA Managing Committee on account of his numerous other work engagements. Given that no other candidate is available to replace him for the time being he remains in office until 2007 when a new member will be appointed.

#### 14 d). Other issues

In connection with the collaboration with FAO, it emerges that there being important budget cuts the activities have been reduced in several areas including beekeeping. There are also reductions in staff and the plan to create new departments will most probably re-design the structure of FAO and eventually also produce changes in the activities pursued.

Given that the Director of AGS, the FAO division dealing with beekeeping has changed, Dr. Bradbear proposes to approach him and start re-build the working contacts established with his predecessor.

On the definition of honey, Dr. Sommeijer says that the one produced by stingless bees is somewhat different from the one of honeybees especially on the moisture content, but also the harvest period and the geographical locations play a role. Exporting this kind of product as honey may be difficult and create confusion also taking into account the exact definitions of honey provided in the *Codex Alimentarius*, other institutions and official legislative sources.

Mr. Ratia produces a presentation of the definition of honey according to the European Union and the *Codex Alimentarius* and proposes to involve HIPA, FEEDM and the Lower Saxony Institute for Apiculture to put together their inputs to be discussed in the next Apimondia Executive Council meeting.

The dates of the next Apimondia Executive Council meeting are set for 4 – 6 May 2007 in Rome.

\* \* \*

#### **Teleconference with the Australian Congress Organising Committee**

(Mr. T. Ryan, Mr. S. Ware, Mr. S. Fewster, Mr. K. McIlvrde, Mr. T. Weatherhead)

The teleconference was held due to the impossibility of Mr. McIlvrde to attend the Apimondia Executive Council in Bucharest and was aimed at reviewing the draft of the congress second circular.

Mr. Jørgensen raised the following points:

- need to indicate the titles of the Standing Commissions' sessions in the programme;
- general agreement on the keynote speakers;
- Executive Council's proposal to change the plenary sessions into shorter general sessions to comprise only an overview by the President of the relevant Standing Commission and one or two keynote or invited speakers' interventions;
- staging of the Apimondia General Assembly in the afternoon session of Monday 10 September 2007 with simultaneous translation in several languages and
- provision of reduced registration fees for delegates/participants from Apimondia member countries and for students and journalists and possibility to choose the events and sessions to attend to reduce costs.

Dr. Ritter requests that no further keynote speakers be invited unless agreed with the Presidents of the Standing Commissions.

The contact details of the Apimondia Executive Council's members need to be amended.

The technical tours should bring beekeepers to meet other beekeepers so the programme of each tour should be design to fulfil this requirement.

In the contests there should be added an entry for the Apimondia hymn

Ware enquires on the mailing costs of the congress circular and Mr. Constantinescu will check this.

A strong recommendation is made to the Australian Congress Organising Committee on the visa application issue with the need to provide comprehensive information on the procedural aspects and prompt early action by the prospective participants.

It is also requested that full details of the submitted papers be provided to the Presidents of the Standing Commissions and that keywords be added so to facilitate the search and retrieval of relevant abstracts.

Mr. Constantinescu enquires on the quotation made by FIITEA for simultaneous translation services to elicit a reply on same whether it has been accepted or not

Mr. Jannoni clarifies that normally the second congress circulars is mailed to some 4 to 5,000 recipients based on the replies and enquiries received as a result of the distribution of the first circular. He also adds that through Mr. Ratia, the Apimondia webmaster, 16,000 E-mail addresses had been reached and another 3,000 had been contacted by the Apimondia office in Rome.

It is also stressed the need to stage meetings of the authors and lecturers with the Presidents of the Standing Commissions the day before their session takes place in order to ensure attendance of the names enlisted for delivering a presentation according to the published programme.

Assistants to the Presidents of the Standing Commissions should therefore be appointed to ensure the smooth and efficient running of the sessions.

Mr. McCabe has been appointed by the Apimondia Executive Council to assist the organisers of the congress in Australia based on the experience he gained from the congress held in Ireland in 2005 and he will therefore contact them to agree a joint operational strategy.

Finally, there is a request to include in the programme slots for the internal meetings of other organisations and groups that usually hold their sessions on the occasion of Apimondia congresses.

Having addressed all the points on the agenda the meeting is called to an end and the President expresses his appreciation for the collaborative spirit of all the participants and thanks the hosts for organising the sessions and the warm hospitality offered.