



MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING OF APIMONDIA

Montpellier, France
9th - 10th May 2009

Present to the meeting:

Mr. A.S. Jørgensen, President
Mr. L.D. Martínez, Vice-President
Mr. R. Jannoni-Sebastianini, Secretary-General
Dr. R. Domerego, Vice-President of Standing Commission
Prof. K. Crailsheim, President of Standing Commission
Dr. N.J. Bradbear, President of Standing Commission
Prof. M.J. Sommeijer, President of Standing Commission
Mr. G. Ratia, President of Standing Commission

Invited:

Prof. Dr. O. Van Laere, Honorary Member
Dr. K. Biesmeijer, researcher
Mr. P. McCabe, appointed consultant for congress organisation
Mr. C. Constantinescu, Director of FIITEA
Ms. M. Giogia, Chief Accountant of FIITEA
Mr. H. Clément, Delegate of 41st Apimondia Congress Organising Committee
Mr. G. Arnold, Delegate of 41st Apimondia Congress Organising Committee
Ms. J. Rocheblave, Delegate of 41st Apimondia Congress Organising Committee
Ms. G. Morales, Delegate of 41st Apimondia Congress Organising Committee
Ms. M. Laurent, Delegate of 41st Apimondia Congress Organising Committee
Mr. S. Layre, Delegate of 41st Apimondia Congress Organising Committee

Not present with apologies:

Dr. T. Cherbuliez, President of Standing Commission
Mr. D.Q. Tam, President of Standing Commission
Dr. W. Ritter, President of Standing Commission

Agenda of the meeting

- Saturday 9th May 2009

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Report and follow-up on the organisation of the 41st Apimondia Congress
3. Renewal of Apimondia management positions
4. Proposals of new Honorary Members
5. Designation of corporate PCO and review of congress organisation bidding procedures
6. Apimondia workplan for the 2009-2010 biennium
7. Calendar of future international congresses and symposia and review of bids for the 43rd Apimondia Congress

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- Sunday 10th May 2009

8. Reports of the President, Vice-President and Secretary-General
9. Reports of the Presidents of the Standing Commissions
10. Report on the accounts and approval of the accounts and financial report for 2008 and review of budget for the current biennium
11. Review and definition of internal/external survey
12. Review and harmonisation of Apimondia statutes
13. Summary of the FIITEA Management Committee meeting
14. Apimondia srl
15. Any other business:
 - a) Follow-up on openings for collaboration/integration with other institutions
 - b) Collaboration with FAO: designation of representative for *Codex Alimentarius* activities
 - c) Other issues

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Saturday 9th May 2009

After a brief presentation of the staff of the 41st Apimondia Congress Local Organising Committee by Mr. Ratia, and the conveying of apologies of Dr. Cherbuliez, Mr. Tam and Dr. Ritter, unable to attend the meeting, the President opens the meeting at 11:10.

- Adoption of the agenda (point 1)

The agenda is approved with minor changes concerning the order of discussion of the various points as reflected in the sequence of the items addressed and reported in these minutes.

- Report and follow-up on the organisation of the 41st Apimondia Congress (point 2)

Mr. Ratia, President of the 41st Apimondia Congress, makes a short presentation of the most recent developments of the organisation of the Congress. A layout of the areas and the signposting samples that will be used in the venue are illustrated. Out of the 123 stands of the ApiExpo that have been reserved, 108 have already been paid for. As for the scientific programme, 713 abstracts have been submitted, of which 375 have been selected for oral presentation in the plenary sessions, 210 in the symposia, 93 as posters and 5 rejected.

To date, 660 people have registered to the event: 371 as full participants (342 belonging to member associations and 29 to non-member associations) and 289 as daily participants.

For the smooth running of the Congress, the Organising Committee foresees the collaboration of 130 volunteers, of whom 115 have already been enrolled.

Prof. Crailsheim requests a close reconciliation of selected authors and their registration so to ensure that they are present and the programme maintained as originally announced.

The discussion is then shifted to enquires on visa procedures and arrangements that should guarantee that participants are actually able to attend the congress with no bureaucratic constraints.

The badge issuance scheme is also discussed to assess the format and options available in connection with the set of information that each model should convey.

Also the monitoring of attendance records by session by means of bar code badges is considered to collect detailed information on the preferences of the events attended by each participant, but it implies a technology and costs beyond the available budget.

Other issues such as the use of the logo and the layout of the medals, the set-up of the press room, the communication plan, the content of the participants' folder, the programme book content and the arrangements and logistical layout of the outdoor spaces around the congress venue and the relevant cultural and educational activities and initiatives are discussed and examined.

As for the scientific programme, the schedule of each Standing Commission is assessed and Dr. Arnold proposes to arrange individual informal meetings with each President present in order to discuss the details and any outstanding aspects and consolidate the entire programme by the end of the Executive Council meeting weekend.

The data on the submissions and the time slots are addressed to ensure a balanced scientific programme as well as the actual presence at the Congress of the relevant authors.

The guidelines for the handling of commercial products are instead going to be established on a case by case assessment.

The Presidents of the Standing Commissions then discuss the issue on whether to hold 3- or 4-hour scientific sessions and the final deliberations is for the latter option as it gives more time for the presentation and ensuing discussions. To this end, the deadline for the submission of the various session programmes is postponed to take into consideration the above-mentioned decision.

In addition to the standard seven plenary sessions, some 16 symposia are foreseen in the programme and also closing session on bee losses to be co-ordinated by the Standing Commission on Bee Health.

The discussion on the roundtables highlights the fact that neither the Presidents of the Standing Commissions nor Apimondia were involved in the choice of the topics, speakers and specific inputs and some concerns were expressed on the actual foreseeable outcome of such events in the proposed layout.

Dr. Bradbear raises the issue that there are a number of key issues such as for example use and impact of pesticides, OGMs, primacy of *mellifera* over other *Apis* species and organic beekeeping that are usually not directly addressed by the Congress and for which papers should be elicited and therefore she advocates that, starting with this forthcoming Congress, a close monitoring of this aspect be implemented and followed up regularly for continuity from one congress to the next. It is then agreed to fix an ad hoc meeting at the Congress to discuss this issue with concerned parties.

Saturday 10th May 2009

- Renewal of Apimondia management positions (point 3)

The Secretary-General reads the list of the positions expiring this year and reports that the following incumbents, Mr. L. Martínez, Mr. R. Jannoni-Sebastianini, Dr. N. Bradbear and Mr. D.Q. Tam intend to serve for another term of office, Prof. M.J. Sommeijer instead has notified his intention to resign. The General Secretariat, in the General Assembly convening letter due to be sent out in mid-July, will ask all members to put forward proposals for said vacant positions that will be discussed during the assembly. It is decided that said candidatures are to be submitted by mid-August. Moreover, the President announces that, due to personal reasons, he wishes to resign as from this year; therefore this position will become vacant and subject to election in the next General Assembly. The President proposes Mr. Philip McCabe as new President of Apimondia.

- Proposals of new Honorary Members (point 4)

According to the Apimondia Statutes, Mr. Gilles Ratia, as President of the 41st International Apicultural Congress, will be elected Honorary Member of Apimondia.

In this context, the issue of granting free registration at the Apimondia Congresses to the Honorary Members of Apimondia is discussed and it is resolved that this aspect will be addressed specifically for each congress depending on contingent circumstances.

- Calendar of future international congresses and symposia and review of bids for the 43rd Apimondia Congress (point 7)

The members of the Executive Council review the bids for the organisation of the 43rd Apimondia Congress, due to be held in 2013 that have been submitted by the following member Associations:

Natsionalnyen Branshovi Pcelarski Soyuz (Bulgaria), Országos Magyar Méhészeti Egyesület (Hungary), Federazione Apicoltori Italiani (Italy), Asociación Provincial de Apicultores de Granada (Spain), Türkiye Ari Yetistiricileri Merkez Birliđi (Turkey) and Brotherhood of Ukrainian Beekeepers together with the Ukrainian National Beekeepers' Union (Ukraine).

The bids are all accepted. The General Secretariat will inform all bidders on the outcome of this review and notify them on the further steps to take for the final presentation at the Apimondia Congress in Montpellier as well as sending them the final version of the Letter of Agreement that will have to be reviewed and signed by each bidder before the official presentation to the General Assembly.

- Apimondia workplan for the 2009-2010 biennium (point 6)

As for the calendar of other future international events planned under the *aegis* of or in collaboration with Apimondia, Dr. Bradbear mentions the 6th Caribbean Beekeepers' Congress to be held in Grenada in November 2010 whereas Mr. Ratia is considering proposing the inclusion within the AAA Conference in South Korea in 2010 of an Apimondia Symposium on "Selection, Queen Rearing and Instrumental Insemination" and "Production of Royal Jelly", the possibility of a Symposium on Honeyhouse Equipment in Turkey in 2010 or 2012. Finally Mr. Martínez mentions the 10th Ibero-Latin-American Beekeeping Congress, due to take place in Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil, in September 2010.

- Reports of the President, Vice-President and Secretary-General (point 8)

The President reports on the institutional activities carried out over the last 12 months that are included in the attached report, mentioning in particular the increase of the recognition of Apimondia worldwide and the increased number of events organised in collaboration with the member Associations.

The Vice-President reports on the initiatives undertaken with the involvement of Apimondia in the Latin-American region, as mentioned in the attached report.

The Secretary-General illustrates the report he had prepared on the work carried out at the General Secretariat in Rome that is attached to these minutes, referring in particular to the forthcoming events to be organised in the next year. The Secretary-General also mentions the situation and activities of Apimondia srl (point 14 below).

- Reports of the Presidents of the Standing Commissions and the other members (point 9)

The Presidents of the Standing Commissions, namely Prof. Crailsheim, Prof. Domerego (in lieu of Dr. Cherbuliez), Mr. Ratia, Dr. Bradbear and Prof. Sommeijer are invited to take the floor in turn to present their reports which are attached to these minutes.

Among the other colleagues invited, Prof. Dr. Van Laere delivers a short report on the state of the activities concerning the Apimondia International Museum of Beekeeping and the arrangements being made for preparing the new site.

- Report on the activities of FIITEA (point 13)

Mr. Constantinescu reports on FIITEA's activities for 2008-2009 and distributes an audited report of the Institute's balance sheet for 2008, which is attached to these minutes. He then briefly reports on the activities of FIITEA as spelled out in the attached report.

- Review and definition of internal/external survey (point 11)

In connection with Dr. Bradbear's proposal made under point 2, Prof. Crailsheim proposes to elaborate a questionnaire to be distributed at the Congress in order to obtain from the participants some direct feedback on the topics they would like to see addressed in the scientific programme and also elicit some additional information on other specific requests they may have. The data will then be processed by his working group and taken into consideration for the next Congress in 2011 and a contribution of Euro 0.70 apiece will be allocated to meet the costs of this exercise and the processing of the questionnaires.

- Review of Apimondia Statutes (point 12)

The Secretary-General reports on the need for a thorough review and harmonisation of the content of the Statutes since the various amendments made to same over the years have in fact altered a number of articles and omitted some paragraphs from previous versions that instead are essential. In this context the Management Board has elaborated a complete review of the text and will present a consolidated set of proposals and amendments to the member Associations by mid-July.

- Report of the external auditor and approval of the accounts and financial report for the period 2005-2006 and draft budget for the next biennium (point 10)

The Secretary-General illustrates the financial report for the period 2007-2008 audited by the external auditor explaining in detail the various entries of the report. The financial report and the certification of the external auditor are attached to the minutes. The draft budget will be defined in greater detail on the occasion of a meeting with the President scheduled to take place in Rome in July in order to take into account further elements of relevance.

The Executive Council approves the financial report.

- Apimondia srl (point 14)

The Secretary-General delivers a short account on the state of the activities of the company as reflected in the attached report. The financial report of the Apimondia Ltd. Company is attached to these minutes.

- Designation of corporate PCO and review of congress organisation bidding procedures (point 5)

The Secretary-General reports on the contacts held with an external consultant who has been briefed on the general terms of reference for this specific assignment and he has submitted an offer for providing the relevant professional assistance. As this issue is deemed of strategic importance for the future of Apimondia, the General Secretariat is entrusted with following up on the matter and finalise the terms of collaboration.

- Any other business (point 15)

a) Follow-up on openings for collaboration/integration with other institutions

On this point, it is announced that a meeting will be arranged in July with the Office of the Director-General of FAO to establish effective co-operation arrangements between the two organisations as a result of the recent appointment of a new officer responsible for FAO activities in apiculture and

following a manifestation of interest in this sense also by some senior officers working in technical divisions in FAO.

Further contacts will also be made with the organisers of the Ibero-Latin-American Beekeeping Congress to improve the integration of activities and ensure more visibility to Apimondia in Latin America also in view of the Apimondia Congress due to take place in Argentina in 2011.

b) Collaboration with FAO: designation of representative for *Codex Alimentarius* activities

The names of Dr. Bradbear, Dr. Von der Ohe and Dr. Bodganov have been provided to FAO as the reference contact persons for any honey-related activities foreseen in the *Codex Alimentarius* agenda.

c) Other issues

No other issue is discussed.

The Executive Council deliberates on convening the next preparatory meeting just before the Congress opening in Montpellier, France, on 15th September 2009.

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

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