



MINUTES OF THE APIMONDIA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Rome, Italy
15th - 16th May 2010

Present to the meeting:

Mr. G. Ratia, President
Mr. L.D. Martínez, Vice-President
Mr. R. Jannoni-Sebastianini, Secretary-General
Dr. T. Cherbuliez, President of Standing Commission
Prof. K. Crailsheim, President of Standing Commission
Dr. N.J. Bradbear, President of Standing Commission
Dr. J. Biesmeijer, President of Standing Commission
Dr. W. Ritter, President of Standing Commission
Mr. E. Bruneau, President of Standing Commission
Mr. H. Clément, Vice-President of Standing Commission

Invited:

Prof. Dr. O. Van Laere, Honorary Member
Mr. C. Constantinescu, Director of FIITEA
Dr. A. Palacio, Member of the 42nd Apimondia Congress Organising Committee
Ms. C. Lozano, Member of the 42nd Apimondia Congress Organising Committee
Mr. G. Stacchini, President of the San Marino Beekeepers' Co-operative
Dr. L. Corelli, technical advisor to the San Marino Beekeepers' Co-operative
Ms. C. Manduchi, Convention and Visitors' Bureau of San Marino
Ms. M. Petermann, Palacongressi Rimini

Not present with apologies:

Mr. D.Q. Tam, President of Standing Commission

Agenda of the meeting

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Reports of the President, Vice-President and Secretary-General
3. Reports of the Presidents of the Standing Commissions
4. Report and follow-up on organisation of the 42nd Apimondia Congress
5. Report on the 41st Apimondia Congress
6. Calendar and follow-up on organisation of forthcoming international congresses and symposia
7. Designation of corporate PCO and review of congress organisation bidding procedures
8. Review and harmonisation of Apimondia statutes
9. Designation of the Apiacta Editor
10. Apimondia workplan for the 2010-2011 biennium
11. Report on the accounts and approval of the accounts and financial report for 2009 and review of budget for the current biennium
12. Apimondia srl
13. Review of internal/external survey
14. Report on the FIITEA Management Committee meeting
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) Memorandum of Network on Beekeeping for Development
 - d) Other issues

Mr. Ratia opens the meeting at 9:20 and gives his welcome to all the participants, in particular to the new members of the Apimondia Executive Council and those of the Argentinean Organising Committee of the 42nd Apimondia Congress. He also conveys the apologies of Mr. Tam, unable to attend the meeting, who is therefore replaced by Mr. Clément.

- 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.

- Reports of the President, Vice-President and Secretary-General (point 2)

Mr. Ratia, after illustrating the main figures of the 41st Apimondia Congress, reports on his trips made overseas and the contacts he had with various national beekeeping associations and institutions in respect of the organisation of future international events (3rd Apimedica & 2nd Apiquality Symposium - Slovenia, 42nd Apimondia Congress – Argentina and 3rd Apimondia Symposium on Queen Breeding, Selection and Bee Health and Artificial Insemination - Canada) and international partnerships (Apitherapy Centre in Indonesia and Caribbean Apicultural Association). He also paid visits to beekeepers' associations and individuals in Australia, Uruguay, Dominica and Martinique. Finally, Mr. Ratia relates on the proposed amendments to the Statutes, such as: five new regional Commissions and the related responsibilities of the new presidents, new set-up of membership and fund raising.

The next visits of Mr. Ratia would be as per provisional schedule herebelow:

Romania (for FIITEA audit), Ivory Coast (contacts with prospective new member AACI), Chile (XI National Congress and Workshop), Mexico (XXIV American Beekeeping Workshop), Colombia (XV Colombian Beekeeping Congress and 1st International Beekeeping Meeting), Bulgaria (1st Apimondia Symposium on Organic Beekeeping and 18th Apislavia Congress), Moldavia (official visit), Slovenia (Apimedica & Apiquality Forum), Turkey (2nd International Beekeeping and Pine Honey Congress), Brazil (X FILAPI - Ibero-Latin-American Beekeeping Congress), Syria (Mediterranean and Middle East Beekeepers' Congress), France (XVIII French National Congress), Vietnam (Apimondia Symposium on Beekeeping Development and Honey Marketing), South Korea (10th AAA Conference), Australia (visit of the Apimondia member in Tasmania), New Zealand (courtesy visit), USA (American Beekeeping Federation's Conference, American Honey Producers' Association and Mexican National Beekeepers' Organisation), Cuba (National Beekeeping Congress) and Ivory Coast (1st Beekeeping Workshop).

Mr. Martínez takes the floor to report on his activities, which focussed mainly on the promotion in Southern America of the forthcoming 42nd Apimondia Congress. A more detailed report on the organisation of said event will be given later on by the other members of the Local Organising Committee.

Mr. Jannoni-Sebastianini relates on his latest activities that comprised the participation to the following international meetings: the American Beekeeping Federation conference in Orlando, FL (USA), the Propolis International Congress in Boao (China) during which discussions were held with the representatives of ASAC, the Chinese member association, for the organisation of one of the next edition of the Apimedica Forum in China, the meeting in Celje (Slovenia) on the occasion of the National Beekeepers' Congress and the meeting in Brussels (Belgium) for the establishment of an international Network on Beekeeping for Development. He finally reports on the meeting of a delegation of Apimondia (Ratia, Bradbear, Cherbuliez, Ritter, Biesmeijer and Jannoni-Sebastianini,) with FAO officers of the Animal Production and Health Division on 14th May to

mutually illustrate the activities carried out by the respective organisations and the scope for future technical collaboration.

The Secretary-General also submits to the participants the membership applications of 6 Beekeepers' Associations, namely Pan-Cyprian Beekeepers' Association (Cyprus), Kyrgyz Beekeepers' Association (Kyrgyzstan), Silesian Beekeepers' Association (Poland), Apis Tomitana Dacica (Romania), Cooperativa Apicoltori Sammarinesi (San Marino), Japan Royal Jelly Fair Trade Council (Japan), who intend to join Apimondia. The Council members unanimously accept the afore-mentioned applications that will be submitted to the General Assembly in 2011 for the formal ratification.

- Reports of the Presidents of the Standing Commissions (point 3)

The Presidents of the Standing Commissions, namely Dr. Bradbear, Dr. Biesmeijer, Dr. Ritter, Prof. Crailsheim, Dr. Cherbuliez, Mr. Bruneau and Mr. Clément (in lieu of Mr. Tam) take the floor in turn to present their reports, which are attached to these minutes.

Among the items raised are of particular mention: the participation of Apimondia in various prominent networks such as CoLoss and OIE, the increased visibility acquired by the Federation (participation in TV programmes), the issue of organic beekeeping, the follow-up and analysis of the questionnaire that was delivered during the 41st Apimondia Congress, the importance of beekeeping and bee products in the aftermath of disasters such as the one that occurred in Haiti, the need to have a proper definition of the bee products and adequate data and standards on the quality of such products, the need to develop fundraising initiatives and further publicise Apimondia and its activities more in depth through a new website and a newsletter. There is a general agreement to discuss some of the above-mentioned topics in dedicated round tables during the next Apimondia Congress inviting the major international actors and stakeholders.

The delegation of the San Marino Beekeepers' Co-operative, a new member of Apimondia, illustrates the main features of the proposed international symposium on bee flora, scheduled to take place in San Marino in 2012. The members of the Council ask the Secretary-General and Dr. Biesmeijer to follow up on this event and define in detail the relevant programme.

- Report on the 41st Apimondia Congress (point 5)

Mr. Clément presents the most important results and achievements of the 41st Apimondia Congress and asks the members to express their comments on the organisational aspects of the event in order to improve the quality for the future editions.

In the discussion that follows, the members praise the excellent work done by the Press Officer as well as the initiative of staging the Open Apimondia space in the esplanade in front of the congress centre for the general public. It is also stressed the need to try and find new incentives to increase the number of entries to the contests. The members also underline that there should have been a larger co-ordination group for the scientific programme and that the Commission Presidents should always be informed in due time on the programme and chairs of the sessions and that all reports should always be screened and cleared preliminarily by the Commission Presidents only on the grounds of their scientific relevance. It is also suggested to have a tighter control on the access to the congress premises and include the translation in Spanish also in the parallel symposia and workshops.

- Report on the FIITEA Management Committee meeting (point 14)

Mr. Constantinescu delivers the report on FIITEA's activities for 2009-2010 and an audited report of the Institute's balance sheet for 2009, which is attached to these minutes. He then briefly reports on the critical economic situation in Romania and in turn its implications on the Foundation and a discussion is opened to find new ways to develop the potential of the institution. Mr. Constantinescu also mentions that 3 positions in the Management Committee are to be elected since, according to the FIITEA Statutes, Mr. Jørgensen, after his retirement from the position of President of Apimondia, has to be replaced by the new President, Mr. Ratia, and Dr. Ritter reiterated the intention to be replaced whereas Prof. Van Laere falls in the same situation as that of Mr. Jørgensen. While for Mr. Ratia the appointment is automatic as per FIITEA Statutes provisions, it is therefore asked to Prof. Crailsheim and Dr. Biesmeijer if they are available to take the vacant positions. Both of them declare their general interest and state that they would consider accepting the position of member of the Management Committee on condition to have the necessary time to go through the documentation to be fully abreast of the duties and responsibilities involved.

- Report and follow-up on organisation of the 42nd Apimondia Congress (point 4)

Mr. Martínez, Dr. Palacio and Ms. Lozano start their presentation by illustrating the premises of the congress venue and the plan of action.

As for the scientific programme, the deadlines for the presentation of reports as well as the screening process of the scientific abstracts are discussed in detail. The following topics are also stressed: cross-checking of the authors that have to register to the congress as well, possibility to fill the gaps in the session programme in case of non-show of authors, strict consistency of the topic of the papers to that of the session, setting-up of the programme for the sessions and symposia, that could eventually be jointly managed by more than one Standing Commission. It is also debated the possibility to host round tables, preferably in English and Spanish, which would be a good showcase for the public at large on what the beekeeping world and Apimondia do.

The members discuss also on the possibility to contact other beekeeping institutions to organise other international symposia in Buenos Aires, either before, during or after the Congress (OIE, Bees for Development, CoLoss, Asian Apicultural Association, Apitrade Africa, Network on Beekeeping for Development, Apislavia and FILAPI) in order to maximise the opportunity of the beekeepers to participate in different apicultural events.

The members of the Argentinean Organising Committee report on the ApiExpo 2011, giving the list of the sponsors and firms that have registered to the exhibition, as well as on the contests and the 8 technical tours, which will be offered on a 1- or 2-day option.

Finally, the participants discuss on the fees that will be set for the various categories of participants as well as on the deadline of the early bird registration. The President stresses that the website of the congress as well as the second circular should be given top priority and be disseminated as soon as possible.

- Calendar and follow-up on organisation of forthcoming international congresses and symposia (point 6)

The Secretary-General reports on the follow-up of the organisation of the international apicultural events that will be held in the period 2010-2012 under the aegis of Apimondia: 1st Apimondia International Conference on Organic Beekeeping (Sunny Beach, Bulgaria - August 2010), 3rd

Apimedica & 2nd Apiquality International Forum (Ljubljana, Slovenia - September 2010), International Symposium on Beekeeping Development and Honey Marketing (Hanoi, Vietnam - October 2010).

For 2011, the focus is on the organisation of the 42nd Apimondia International Apicultural congress.

For the year 2012, proposals have been submitted for the following events: International Symposium on Bee Flora (San Marino), 3rd International Symposium on Selection, Queen Bee Breeding and Artificial Insemination (Canada). The Secretariat is also in contact with some Member Associations who have expressed their interest in organising the 4th Apimedica & 3rd Apiquality International Forum.

- Report on the accounts and approval of the accounts and financial report for 2009 and review of budget for the current biennium (point 11)

The Secretary-General illustrates the financial report for the period 2009, audited by the external auditor. The financial report and the certification of the external auditor are attached to the minutes. The Executive Council approves the financial report.

The draft budget that has been compiled and presented in due time, in consideration of the change of presidency occurred in Apimondia and the new activity programmes being proposed may require to be defined in greater detail on the occasion of the next meeting with the President scheduled later this year. However, it is highlighted that no major changes are foreseen in the income and expenditure pattern for the current biennium until the proposed changes to the Apimondia Statutes are eventually approved in 2011.

- Apimondia srl (point 12)

The Secretary-General announces that the financial report is in the process of being finalised by the auditor and that will be presented as soon as it is received.

He then updates the participants on the restoration works of the house in Castelporziano, which will be rented to a company for 6 + 6 (optional) years.

- Review and harmonisation of Apimondia statutes (point 8)

The participants discuss on the proposal to add 5 new regional Commissions, one for each continent, that would help Apimondia in strengthening the ties with the territorially relevant members and stakeholders as well as identifying the regional realities and problems in order to provide better services to the grass-root beekeepers as well as to the scientific sector. The proposal to limit the mandate of the Apimondia President to two terms is also discussed.

It is therefore agreed to proceed to review all the articles to assure the consistency of the same, also in consideration of the inclusion of the new proposals to be reflected in the Statutes and of provisions to set the appropriate level of administrative liabilities. The amended version, reviewed by a solicitor specialised in association law, will then be submitted to the General Assembly in Buenos Aires in 2011 for the formal approval.

- Designation of corporate PCO and review of congress organisation bidding procedures (point 7)

Further to the initial contacts had with firms operating in the professional congress organisation (PCO) and in view of identifying one that would act as a corporate agency for the Apimondia

events, the participants agree to devise and send out the specific technical and operational requirements to the firms interested in co-operating with Apimondia and then review the bids received in the next meeting.

- Designation of the Apiacta Editor (point 9)

The discussion opens with a debate on the future of Apiacta. The participants agree that the magazine should be tailored to accommodate reports that have a strong practical impact more than a merely scientific one. Apiacta should therefore shift to be more a digital platform where beekeepers can find information that is not present in more scientific magazines.

As for the position of the Editor, the participants agree to draft a tender to be placed in the website and disseminated to the member associations as well.

- Apimondia workplan for the 2010-2011 biennium (point 10)

It is agreed that the top priority for the current biennium is to develop a new and more professional website. It will be designed by a professional firm, in three languages (English, French and Spanish), include a newsletter and a forum for beekeepers. Messrs. Ratia and Jannoni-Sebastianini as well as Dr. Bradbear will draft the terms of reference for tenders as well as the contents of the website. Mr. Bruneau offers to look for possible web designers to undertake the restructuring of the corporate website.

- Any other business (point 15):

- a) Follow-up on openings for collaboration/integration with other institutions
- b) Collaboration with FAO: designation of representative for Codex Alimentarius activities
- c) Memorandum of Network on Beekeeping for Development
- d) Other issues

- a) Mr. Jannoni-Sebastianini illustrates to the Executive Council the latest arrangements underway to re-instate the technical partnership originally signed in 1966 with FAO. Apimondia is in fact in the process of defining the specific areas of competence on which the partnership could be established for mutual benefits of both counterparts. In due course, FAO will carry out an internal assessment of the specific terms of the proposed partnership with the technical divisions that may be involved and that may benefit from such collaboration and then submit a draft agreement to the Legal Office for advice and comments. Upon official clearance of this document, Apimondia and its representatives will be convened for the finalisation of the agreement and endorsement of the technical partnership.

Once the agreement becomes operational FAO and Apimondia will be able to enter specific activities related to beekeeping and in this context the role of the Apimondia Member Associations will be crucial both for local inputs as well as international coverage and territorial distribution.

The ultimate goal is that of placing apiculture back on the technical agenda of FAO as a priority activity that can effectively assist in addressing hunger alleviation and development issues.

- b) Following the withdrawal of Dr. von der Ohe and Dr. Bogdanov, the Executive Council resolves to appoint Dr. Beckh as one of the Apimondia delegates for *Codex Alimentarius* activities.
- c) The attached Memorandum document is the outcome of the meeting in Brussels (Belgium) attended in March by the Secretary-General and other representatives of international organisations and NGOs and will serve as a benchmark for further discussion and action at the next meeting of the Network scheduled in October and leading to the proposed official presentation of this initiatives at the next Apimondia Congress in Buenos Aires (Argentina) next year.
- d) Following the earthquakes that hit Haiti and Chile, the participants discuss on the best ways on how Apimondia could help the local beekeeping communities. Dr. Bradbear, Dr. Cherbuliez and Mr. Martínez report on programmes that have already been activated for such populations by providing either money or equipment and the underlying logistics problems encountered. It is then proposed to initiate a fundraising campaign that would be co-ordinated either by Apimondia or Bees for Development.

Dr. Cherbuliez then raises the question on whether it is possible to place commercial advertisements on the Apinews pages of the Apitherapy Commission. The members agree to it, provided that the Executive Council and the Commission review the advertisements before placing them on the website.

Finally, Prof. Van Laere reports on the latest developments of the Apimondia Museum in Eeklo, which has an average of 40,000 visitors per year. However, he also mentions that there are still some problems to be solved regarding the premises where the Museum is hosted.

The Executive Council deliberates on convening the next meeting in Rome, Italy, on 21st - 22nd May 2011.

Having covered all the agenda, the President calls the meeting to a close at 20:00.
