



PROTOCOL
BALKAN FEDERATION OF APICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS
April 18, 2015
Bucharest, Romania

In the period of April 17-20, 2015 General Assembly of Balkan Federation of Apicultural Associations took place in Bucharest, Romania. Beekeeping member organizations from Albania, Bosnia & Hertegovina, Apimondia Foundation (FIITEA), Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey. Also present were newcomers that requested Balkan Federation membership: Pleven Beekeepers Association, Partner Expo Pleven and Board of United Bulgarian Beekeeping Association by mandate.

Participants agreed and discussed the following items of the Agenda:

1. Report of Balkan Apicultural Federation President Cristian Constantinescu;
2. Report of Balkan Apicultural Federation Vice-President Stefan Stefanov
3. Report of Mr. Bahri Ylmaz, President of Turkish Beekeeping Association on preparation for Apimondia Congress in Istanbul in 2017;
4. Participation at Apimondia Congress in Daejong, South Korea in September 2015 and submission of candidacies for vacant positions in Apimondia Executive Council on Presidents of Standing Commissions: (1) Apitherapy, (2) Bee Health, (3) Beekeeping Technology and Quality, (4) Bee Biology, (5) President for Apimondia Europe, (6) President of Apimondia.
5. Presentation and approval of World Bee Day – May 20 on initiative of Slovenian Beekeeping Association.
6. Suggestions and remarks of Federation members for further activities.
7. Setting up of working groups on issues of beekeeping interest.
8. Projects on regional cross border partnership including beekeeping tourism
9. Statute amendments.
10. Miscellaneous

Issues have been debated and the following decisions have been adopted:

1. President Cristian Constantinescu made a short historical presentation of Balkan Federation which was set up in 2006 and registered in Sofia Bulgaria. In the first period of its existence Balkan Federation managed to accomplish its purposes of closer acquaintance between members, beekeeping problems in the region, join efforts to determine assistance from own governments and invite beekeepers from member organizations to their national beekeeping events and Fairs. In only one year since its legal existence – in March/April 2007 Turkish Beekeeping Association organized the First Congress of Balkan Federation in Istanbul with the honorary participation of Apimondia President Asger Iorgensen and Secretary General Riccardo Janonni, Apart from beekeepers of member organizations the Congress also enjoyed the participation of beekeeping organizations from Middle East. The lack of financial resources (Balkan Federation members pay no dues) and the growing role of Apislavia in the area, the meetings of Balkan Federation were organized simultaneously with National Fairs in Bulgaria, Serbia, Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) Edirne in Turkey and Romania. An important moment was in 2010 in Varna at Apislavia jubilee (100 years) Congress where the present management of Balkan Federation was elected. However we continued to meet at Apimondia Congreseees in 2011 (Argentina), 2012 in Poland at Apislavia Congress, 2013 at Congress in Kiev, 2014 at Apislavia Congress at Oludeniz, Turkey. This time at present General Assembly in Bucharest we have to decide if we continue to be active in the Balkan organization or if we decide to terminate its existence. After a brief debate all participants agreed that we should continue in this format as we have the advantage of territorial neighbourhood and similar beekeeping situations.
2. Vice President Stefan Stefanov pointed out the progress registered by Balkan Federation in its short history so far and underlined the necessity of going on in this format which is adequate for joint projects. In his opinion the Federation should pass towards a new structure allowing producers' Associations to become members. Further more such Associations may enter into partnerships with similar Associations from member countries. All this may be done under E.U. policy of funding regional producers' organizations and 10% of the profit may go to the Beekeeping Federation for other programs implementations. Stefan Stefanov's proposal was long debated and the participants decided that Stefan Stefanov should present his proposal in writing for a better understanding before taking a decision.
3. President of Turkish Beekeeping Association, Bahri Ylmaz, made a power point preliminary presentation of Apimondia Congress in Istanbul in 2017. He also appreciated the existence and activity of Balkan Federation, Turkey being the seat of the First Balkan Beekeeping Federation Congress in 2007. He also expressed his satisfaction with the present management and the way the General Assembly was organized at Apimodia Foundation.

4. Participants were duly informed on necessity of submitting their candidacies to the vacant positions in Apimondia Executive Council that will be on vote at Apimondia General Assembly during its Congress in Daejong, South Korea in September 2015. Apimondia Statute art. 15/3 “Candidatures for vacant positions, duly supported with a presentation letter and a detailed curriculum vitae, can be submitted and must reach the General Secretariat office at least three months prior to the date of the first session of the General Assembly, where elections for vacant positions will take place”. And Art.30 Changes to the Statutes of Apimondia: “Petitions for changing the Statutes can be submitted to Apimondia President and/or Secretary General by voting members at least six months prior to the General Assembly”. In Daejong, South Korea the vacant positions for Apimondia Executive Council are the following: Presidents of Scientific Standing Commissions: (1) Apitherapy, (2) Bee Health, (3) Beekeeping Technology and Quality, (4) Bee Biology, and also President of Apimondia and Apimondia Europe.
5. A large debate was on the issue of World Bee Day. Some participants underlined that there are already national and international Days dedicated to beekeeping in most member countries and others said that World Bee Day should not be linked to a certain beekeeper. In the end and due to Federation president’s arguments all agree to sign in favour of Slovenian initiative.
6. A lot of other suggestions have been discussed as feasible for collaboration among members, such as: exchanges for educational training and beekeeping on subjects of immediate interest in the area; setting up an internet information and data system available for members; a better use of www.apibalcanica.org internet site and using it for any articles or reports in English and or Russian that members would consider adequate. Of particular interest would be the annual beekeeping reports.
7. Working groups have been considered also a good form of collaboration but no concrete themes have been established this time. This subject was postponed for next Federation’s General Assembly.
8. Ionel Togan President of Apis Tomitana Dacica presented a very interesting cross border partnership on beekeeping tourism with Mr. I Stanchev, President of Pleven Beekeepers Association with a E.U. funding of 900,000 Euros. The project is based on a tour of beekeeping special “stations” in the neighbourhood of historical or environmental attractions. At these “stations” there will be beekeepers available with beekeeping local products and information literature. The project is dedicated to tourists both from the two countries and everywhere else. It is also intended to be available for interested tourists on cruise ships coming into ports of Constanta (Romania) and Varna (Bulgaria). A number of other similar partnerships may follow up among Federation members.
9. All participants agreed to renounce to the Statute provision that was limiting so far the quality of member only to one organization per country. Also the quality of President and Vice President are available to all members at the next management elections. Participants agree to continue

not to charge dues and to have annual meetings by rotation organized by member Associations on a free hostage for two days.

10. Beside the present members a new member was adopted, Mr. Mihailovic, President of Board of United Bulgarian Beekeeping Union.

11. Mr. Radivoje Maksimovic, President of Beekeepers Association Republika Srpska said that his Association intends to organize the next Balkan Beekeeping Federation General Assembly.

The program schedule also provided for a tour to historical places in Sinaia (Pelesh Castle) and Bran (Dracula Fortress) in the last day of the meeting.

Mr. Cristian Constantinescu

President of Balkan Federation of Apicultural Associations