



The Council of the Ministers for Agriculture of the European Union

September 3-5, 2010 in Varna, the Republic of Bulgaria, the 18th Congress of the Federation of the European Beekeeping Organizations "Apislatvia" was held. The members of "Apislatvia" include the national beekeeping organizations of Bulgaria, Belarus, Hungary, Greece, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Turkey, Ukraine, and the Apimondia Institute in Bucharest.

Within the framework of the Congress the scientific practical conference was organized where two main issues were discussed: **Beekeeping Issues in Europe and Proposals on its Stimulation and Development and Ways of Improving Control and Increasing Quality of Bee Products on the European Market.**

The debates included the President of "Apimondia" Gilles Ratia, the Secretary General of "Apimondia" Ricardo Sebastianini, the President of COPA-COGECA on honey Etienne Bruneau and delegates from all member countries of "Apislatvia".

As a result of these debates, the management of "Apislatvia" made a decision to send the main issues of beekeeping development in Europe to the Council of the Ministers for Agriculture of the European Union.

Dear agricultural leaders of the European Union,

1. Bees provide for natural biodiversity. The natural ecological balance would be disturbed without bees.

2. Bee pollination of cultural plants increases the productivity of these cultures and their quality on the ground of which the countries gain and can gain additional billions of euro in the future.

3. Bees provide people with the most valuable foods that are used for preventative means and medicine for people of any age.

In taking all this into account, the beekeepers hereby ask for your support and help for a solution to these main problems:

1. Limit the death and extinction of bees to the largest extent possible and provide compensation to beekeepers in case the bees' deaths are not the beekeepers' fault.

2. Comprehensive analysis and prohibition of the application of plant protection means that lead to bees dying.

3. Support and finance the development of programs for the research of bee death and their decreasing numbers.

4. Stimulate the development of programs for the provision of the necessary amount of bee families for the normal pollination of wild and cultural plants in each country.

5. Stimulate the development of bee medicines that do not decrease the quality of bee products. The medicine legalized in one EU country shall be applied in the rest of countries without testing.

6. Introduce a proposal on changing the EU agricultural policy in order to stimulate the beekeeper's profession by means of a payment up to 30 euro per year for each bee family.

7. Provide for the profitability of European beekeeping by means of increasing the quality of bee products on the European market. Take measures against the falsification of honey and other bee products. In connection with this, to support the realization of the "Apislavia" decision to create a coordinated system of reference laboratories to assist in the standardization and improvement of control over bee products' quality on the European market.

8. Stimulate and finance programs for the education of the population regarding the preventative and medical features of bee products.

9. Create the new procedure "SCHOOL-HONEY" to provide pupils with the best nutrition.

10. Create conditions for beekeeping integration within the framework of the new EU agricultural policy.

The delegates of the 18th Congress of "Apislavia" and the participants of the discussion on the beekeeping issues of Europe hope that the Council of the Ministers for Agriculture of the EU will consider these proposals and take measures to stimulate and develop beekeeping throughout Europe.



Juraj Toporcak
Secretary General



Tadeusz Sabat
President

Handled by Secretary General J. Toporcak



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**XVIII Congress of "Apislatvia"
Varna, September 3-5, 2010**

RESOLUTION

1. The Congress has approved the report on the "Apislatvia" activities for the past period between the 17th and 18th Congresses.
2. The Revision Committee report has been approved.
3. The Secretariat has been assigned to introduce the agreed proposals on the beekeeping issues in Europe and the improvement of the bee products quality at the European markets in the Council of Agriculture Ministers of the European Union and in the Ministries of Agriculture of the other countries that are members of "Apislatvia". At the discretion of Apislatvia management, the materials can be sent to other levels.
4. Member organizations of Apislatvia are assigned to send the information about the events to be held in the country in 2011 to the Secretariat by 11/30/2010.
5. It has been agreed to hold the meeting of the General Assembly 2011 in Turkey.
6. Belarus, Greece, and Turkey have expressed the desire to organize the 20th Congress of "Apislatvia". It has been decided to create a workgroup that is to consider the conditions and possibilities of holding the Congress in these three countries and introduce the proposal to be considered at the meeting of the General Assembly in 2011.
7. The Secretariat has been assigned to develop the "Apislatvia" Action Plan 2011 by December 20, 2010.

About the election of the President, Vice-Presidents, the Secretary General, and Revision Committee

After discussions were held, the following people were elected:

1. The President of Apislatvia - Tadeusz Sabat - Poland
2. The First Vice President - Ludek Soyka – The Czech Republic
3. The Vice President – Kristian Konstantinesku - Romania
4. The Secretary General – Juraj Toporcak – Slovakia
5. The Revision Committee – The Head – Vladimir Kamenkov - Belarus

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Juraj Toporcak'.

**Juraj Toporcak
Secretary General**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tadeusz Sabat'.

**Tadeusz Sabat
President**

Handled by Secretary General J. Toporcak