

Minutes of the general IHC-Meeting, 27 September 2014 16-19:00, Opatija Croatia

Summary of proposed topics for IHC-general meeting

Next meeting, invitation of Asli Sunay, Turkey for 2016 meeting in Antalya

American IHC-branch activities (Gudrun Beckh/Ligia Muradian)

Apimondia benefits, obligations (Miguel Vilas Boas, Portugal)

Internal organization IHC (Miguel Vilas Boas, Portugal)

Future of IHC, distribution of IHC research work, influence on authorities of EU (Sofia Gounari, Greece)

Honey Adulteration (EU new actions) (Wim Reybroeck, Belgium) authenticity group?

Zero-Tolerance antibiotics changes in EU (Wim Reybroeck, Belgium)

Changes in EU legislation for honey (Wim Reybroeck, Belgium)

Quality parameters for other beeproducts and standardization (different emails) already existing

Short report of Head of working groups

Results

➤ IHC internal organization

- When organising an IHC-meeting and the corresponding bee products conference, such contributions as oral and poster presentations should be addressed to the head of each working groups instead of to the general meeting.
- IHC was established by Dr. Stefan Bogdanov. Over time members think that some rules/guidelines for application as a member should be established. Members are asked to send concrete ideas to Gudrun Beckh in order to prepare a proposal to be circulated before the next meeting.
- Antonio Bentabol was invited for a sensory workshop beginning of September in Argentina and he reported that South American scientists are trying to establish a network called RED LAC. They also work in sensory description of honey from Southamerica. Antonio presented there the IHC work of the sensory working group. Of course it would be useful to harmonize their work with IHC in order to use the same vocabulary and honey wheel world-wide applicable and harmonized.
Ligia Muradian asked Antonio to send the contact of them in order to promote their participation in the IHC.

➤ Partnership with Apimondia

The discussion about the possibility of being included to Apimondia Scientific Commission, Beekeeping Technology and Quality, headed by Dr. Etienne Bruneau took much of the time of the IHC assembly. (A remark: IHC is registered on Apimondia website under Apimondia Working Groups)

Dr. Bruneau was invited to give some explanation about the subject, and he talked about the “rights and duties” of the International Honey Commission as an Apimondia group. In summary, he said that:

- Apimondia is an International no profit Federation and his Commission is very broad. Therefore, if IHC agrees to join his extensive Commission, he would delegate all IHC activities to the current president of IHC, who would become the Vice-president of the Apimondia working group (Gudrun Beckh). Rooms for IHC meetings within Apimondia would be for free.
- If IHC agrees to be part of Apimondia, everything would be subject to the rules of Apimondia, that is to say:
 - All IHC meetings should be organized with Apimondia knowledge.
 - All presentations should be submitted to the President of Apimondia Commission. The scientific committee would decide which presentations are accepted.
 - Logo of Apimondia should be shown in all IHC meetings.
 - Hosts of IHC meetings should cover all expenses for five people (delegates) of Apimondia.
 - When organising a meeting, IHC should pay 6% fees to Apimondia.
- Apimondia would make efforts to reduce conferences' fees after negotiating with the organizers of the conferences.

After a time for discussion, IHC members decided to deeply think about all advantages and disadvantages of becoming a branch of Apimondia Scientific Commission. Gudrun Beckh asked Etienne Bruneau to send a summary of the points officially. This summary will be circulated/put on the website. Afterwards members will be asked to give a vote. Etienne Bruneau asked to make a decision before next May because Apimondia needs to know before their next meeting.

➤ Next meeting, invitation of Asli Sunay for 2016 to Antalya

- Due to the fact that the International Honey Commission had previously agreed to hold their meetings each two years during Apimondia conference, South Korea was chosen for the IHC meeting in 2015.

- Asli was not able to attend the general IHC meeting in Opatija due to problems with her visa. So instead of her, a staff member of a Turkish travel agency presented a candidature for 2015 IHC meeting in Antalya (Turkey). After a short discussion about the potential suitability of two consecutive meetings in Turkey (26.-30.October 2016 in Antalya and 2017 Apimondia in Istanbul), there was show of hands and the candidature of Antalya was finally approved, although many of the attendants claimed that for the IHC meeting September was more convenient than April, being the latter the month initially proposed by the Turkish organizers.
- Asli invited members to join a Congress in Istanbul 21. /22. May 2015 and asked if some of the working groups might organize a workshop there e.g. sensory or authenticity group. Dr. Lutz Elflein as the Head of the Authenticity group commented that time is too short and his members there was no positive response. Gian Luigi Marcazzan, Head of Sensory working group, will think about a workshop and inform Asli about his final decision.

➤ Report of Wim Reybroek

- Changes in EU Honey Directive “pollen as a natural constituent of honey” due to decision of EU court in 2011 about GMO-pollen in honey
- Changes in EU legislation concerning Antibiotics of List I, Regulation 37/2010. EU requires a risk assessment for residues of substances in honey and does not apply anymore a general Zero-Tolerance. Belgium is strictly following this rule since September 2012 whereas e. g. Germany does not.
- Fraud programme of the EU with focus also on honey. First meeting in September 2014 in Brussels with labs from the Member States in order to discuss technical options to detect adulteration in honey.

Info from Andreas Thrasyvoulou:

From now on the Head of the working group geographical and botanical origin will not be Andreas any longer. He passed this responsibility to Maria Dimou and Panagiota Gotsiou.

Other suggested topics were not discussed due to the fact, that the initiators could not take part at the meeting in Opatija.