



# BULLETIN

## Union Internationale de Spéléologie

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Editor in Chief: Fadi Nader (UIS, Secretary General)

# One year after the 15<sup>th</sup> ICS Kerrville (Texas, USA), and the work continues...

## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

The 15<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Speleology (Kerrville – Texas) was a big success with about 1,500 registered participants from more than 50 different countries. Needless to say, this event marked the year 2009 and will leave many beautiful memories for a lot of people. As for the UIS, the success achieved in Kerrville extended well through the year 2010.

First, substantial funds fed into the UIS account thanks to the organizers of the 15<sup>th</sup> ICS and those who have supported all of the initiatives and donations for our organization. This encouraged the President of UIS, Andy Eavis, to propose a small committee meeting in Postojna (January 2010) in order to deal with financial issues. The year 2010 marked several centenaries of caving societies and organizations (e.g., the Hungarian Society and Dachstein karstic park).

The Annual Bureau meeting for 2010 was held in Postojna (Slovenia) in conjunction with the 18<sup>th</sup> Karst School organized by the Slovenian Karst Research Institute. Just before the meeting, a delegation of UIS Bureau members travelled to Dachstein (Austria) to be generously received by the Austrian Speleological Society and Prof. Hubert Trimmel.

These events indicate clearly to the UIS Bureau members that much work still lies ahead and that our international caving community deserves that we provide the best in order to secure the future of speleol-

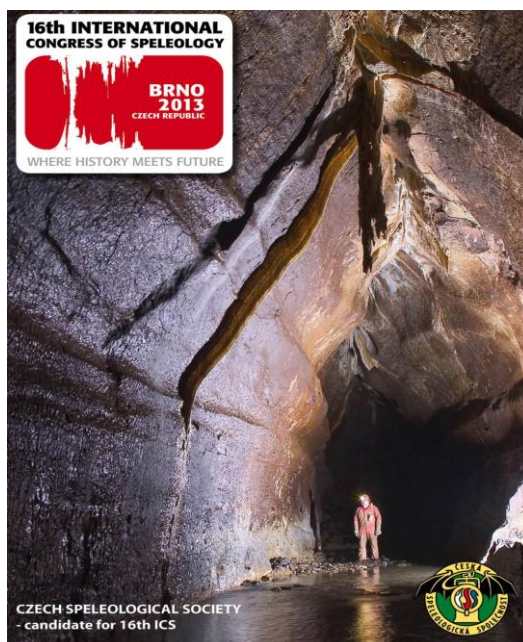


*Meeting in Postojna in January 2010.*

ogy and the success of our Union.

The year 2010 also witnessed the serious start of the procedure that would ultimately bring UIS towards formal recognition by UNESCO as an Associate Member of the International Council for Scientific Unions (ICSU).

2010 was also the first year of preparation for our next International Congress of Speleology (Brno, Czech Republic) by the Czech Speleological Society. So all I can still add in this foreword is to invite you all, cavers and cave scientists of the world, to start organizing and planning your trip to attend our next Congress in the heart of Europe in 2013.



# Minutes of UIS Bureau Annual Meeting June 12-13, 2010 Karst Research Institute of Slovenia – Postojna (SLOVENIA)

June 13, 2010

## 1) Opening speech of the UIS President / Approval of Agenda

Andy Eavis thanked all participants for coming to Postojna and praised the almost complete turnout for the 2010 annual bureau meeting. He informed the Bureau that Kyung Sik Woo has apologized for not being able to attend. Andy Eavis thanked Nadja Zupan Hajna and the SAZU Karst Research Institute for hosting the Bureau meeting. He welcomed as well Mr. Zdeněk Motyčka who represents the 16<sup>th</sup> ICS organizing committee and attended the meeting.

The Agenda of the meeting was then approved by the Bureau members present.

## 2) Approval of Minutes from Regular Sessions in 2009 (Kerrville, Texas - USA)

Andy Eavis proposed a motion to accept the minutes of the preceding meeting that was held in Kerrville (Texas, USA) in 2009. Fadi Nader seconded this motion and it was passed by the Bureau.

Together with the minutes, the list of decisions/actions was previously published on the UIS Bureau Forum and sent by emails to Bureau members. This list was reviewed and updated by the Bureau members.

## 3) Previous meetings and events

### *a. Interim UIS Bureau Executive meetings (Paris and Postojna, Slovenia – 3 to 6 December, 2008);*

Andy Eavis informed the Bureau about two executive meetings that were held in Postojna (Slovenia) and in Paris involving the President, VPs (George Veni via Skype), the General Secretary and Nadja Zupan Hajna (Adjunct Secretary/Acting Treasurer) between the congress in Kerrville and this Bureau meeting. These meetings had specific objectives related to the financial status of the UIS and needed the Bureau's presence in Postojna.

Andy Eavis asked the Bureau members if they agree on having such executive meetings in order to improve the reactivity of the Bureau so that it can deal efficiently with certain pending issues. Paul Williams said that these types of meetings are indeed a good idea and the remaining members agreed as well.

### *b. Hungary Meeting (+ FSE Bureau meeting);*

Christian Dodelin who was present at this meeting and represented the UIS Bureau at the FSE Bureau meeting had previously submitted a full report (in French) concerning these events. He verbally reported that during the FSE Bureau meeting two main points were discussed in relevance to UIS:

(1) Database for International Expeditions (proposed as a joint UIS/FSE project by Manuel Freire); and

(2) International Speleo Competition proposed by Juan-Carlos Lopez Casas – which did not get a successful reaction as it was said that in Europe only four countries would be interested in such activities.

Christian Dodelin also reported that 15 countries from the European Union were present at the General Assembly (with about 50 persons).

### *c. Dachstein Centenary and the 4<sup>th</sup> Ice Cave Workshop (8-11 June 2010; Obertaun - Austria);*

George Veni attended the 4<sup>th</sup> International Ice Cave Workshop and made a verbal report.

Andy Eavis, Christian Dodelin, Efrain Mercado, Fadi Nader, George Veni, Nadja Zupan Hajna, Stein-Erik Lauritzen, Arrigo Cigna, Hubert Trimmel and Jose-Ayrton Labegalini attended the Dachstein Centenary, which was very well organized. Hubert Trimmel had kindly undertaken all the organization to invite members of the UIS Bureau and past presidents.

### *d. Iran (14-15 February 2010; Tehran);*

Nadja Zupan Hajna represented the UIS at a conference in Tehran (Iran). She presented the UIS to the audience and invited the Iranian karst scientists and speleologists to become part of the UIS.

## 4) Organization updates concerning the 16th ICS – Brno 2013 (Zdeněk Motyčka)

Mr. Zdeněk Motyčka informed the UIS Bureau about the updates concerning the organization of the upcoming 16<sup>th</sup> ICS in Brno (Czech Republic) in 2013. His verbal report included seven important steps that summarize the work that has been done since the previous ICS in Kerrville (July, 2009) and projects the future perspectives.

During a first step and right after the 15<sup>th</sup> ICS, the organizers of the 16<sup>th</sup> ICS started by informing Czech cavers and building up motivation. The second step consisted of setting up the 16<sup>th</sup> ICS Organizing Committee, which is a legal independent association with Pavel Bosak as President and Zdeněk Motyčka as Vice-President (among other very well known Czech cavers on board). Thus, a corporate body (unattached to the Czech Speleological Society) with the name "Speleo2013" including about 20 persons (including some prominent business men) is established in order to enjoy flexibility and efficiency, especially with respect to financial matters. The first budget was subsequently proposed and work is still underway. In addition, the website has been finalized (after review of the English by George Veni) and will be published online by the end of June 2010.

Mr. Zdeněk Motyčka informed the UIS Bureau that the UIS-Bulletin vol. 53, Nr 1&2 (2010)

dates of the 16<sup>th</sup> ICS have been defined. The congress will take place in Brno from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of July 2013.

Finally, Mr. Motyčka shared with the UIS Bureau some of the next steps programmed for the upcoming period. These included:

- a. Completing the Organizing Committee (meeting every 3 or 4 months)
- b. Building up relationships with public establishments
- c. Website launch and first circular (mailing of hardcopy with option for receipt of further circulars exclusively in electronic form)
- d. Budget construction and negotiating further support (more precise budget)
- e. Important Dates:
  - i. January 2011: call for excursions
  - ii. April 2011 (see below): meeting of Organizing Committee with UIS Bureau
  - iii. July 2011: publication of the First Circular

#### **5) UIS Bureau 2011 meeting in the Czech Republic (Zdeněk Motyčka)**

Mr. Zdeněk Motyčka laid out three different options for the upcoming UIS Bureau meeting in 2011, which is supposed to be the Czech Republic (host of the 16<sup>th</sup> ICS in 2013) 2 years after the upcoming Bureau meeting. The fact that no important scientific symposia or meetings in the Czech Republic are scheduled for 2011 was also discussed and orients the proposed options.

Option 1: Meeting coinciding with the annual convention of the Czech Speleology Society. Arrival on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April in Brno, then attending the convention (April 16) and leaving on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April.

Option 2: (Extended Option 1) Meeting combined with the convention of the Czech Speleology Society. Arrival on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April (UIS Bureau meeting in Brno on 14<sup>th</sup> afternoon and the 15<sup>th</sup> of April), checking facilities in Brno and then joining the convention on the 16<sup>th</sup> followed by excursions to caves until the 18<sup>th</sup> of April. Departure on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April.

Option 3: Arrange the UIS Bureau meeting together with the 16<sup>th</sup> ICS Organization Committee on another date with no combined speleo-events.

Mr. Zdeněk Motyčka informed the UIS Bureau members that they will be invited (free of charge) to this upcoming meeting. The organizing committee will fund the airport pick up, hotel accommodation, dinners and fees for convention.

**DECISION 1: The upcoming annual UIS Bureau meeting will take place on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> (afternoon) and Friday 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2011, in Brno (Czech Republic). The Bureau will visit the facilities for the 16<sup>th</sup> ICS before the meeting (13<sup>th</sup> and morning of 14<sup>th</sup>, April 2011).**

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**The meeting will be combined with the Czech SpeleoForum (15-17 April, 2011). Visiting caves will be organized on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> of April, 2011.**

#### **6) ICS Guidelines – Updates (George Veni)**

Following the 15<sup>th</sup> ICS (Kerrville, TX – USA; 2009), George Veni updated the "Instructions and General Recommendations for Organizers of International Congresses of Speleology (ICS)", as agreed on during the previous Bureau meeting. The updated version of this document has been reviewed by some other members of the UIS Bureau.

**DECISION 2: The UIS Bureau approved the changes made on the "Instructions and General Recommendations for Organizers of International Congress of Speleology (ICS)".**

#### **7) Possible conflict with FSE meeting in 2013**

Andy Eavis introduced the subject of FSE meetings and possible conflict with the upcoming 16<sup>th</sup> ICS in 2013.

Mr. Zdeněk Motyčka expressed his concerns about the fact that the FSE is planning a European SpeleoForum in 2013. He reminded the UIS Bureau members that there are still problems between the Czech Speleological Society and the FSE related to the use of "SpeleoForum" for such events, as this title has been used in the Czech Republic for many years before the first European SpeleoForum. Besides, concerns remain for losing participants at the 16<sup>th</sup> ICS if another major speleo event is planned for the same year.

Andy Eavis advised everyone that there will be no European Congress in 2013; the upcoming congress is scheduled for 2016 (in the UK). However, the FSE organizes every year a relatively small-scale meeting (the European SpeleoForum), during which the FSE Bureau and General Assembly meet.

Fadi Nader asked whether the UIS and the organizers of the 16<sup>th</sup> ICS could invite the FSE Bureau and General Assembly to convene during the ICS in Brno, and therefore for the year 2013 – exceptionally because of the ICS being in Europe, no European SpeleoForum would be planned.

**DECISION 3: The Bureau offers facilities for the FSE to run its General Assembly and Bureau meeting at Brno in 2013 during the 16<sup>th</sup> ICS.**

**ACTION 1: Fadi Nader (upon the approval of Andy Eavis) will send a letter to FSE to invite them to plan their General Assembly and Bureau meeting for the year 2013 at the 16<sup>th</sup> ICS in Brno (Czech Republic).**

#### **8) UIS/UNESCO (Fadi Nader)**

Fadi Nader summarized the actual situation concerning the application for membership of the International Council for Scientific Unions (ICSU). One of the Geobodies of ICSU expressed some concerns about having the UIS as a new Associate Member. Paul Williams drafted a letter of reply

that was conveyed to ICSU by Fadi Nader and was well received. At this stage and before the next meeting of the Executive Bureau of ICSU (October 2010 – deadline for meeting agenda: end of August 2010), contact must be re-established in order to push again the application of the UIS.

**ACTION 2: Fadi Nader will contact ICSU (in July 2010) and ask about the status of the UIS application.**

### **9) UIS Code of Ethics (Stein-Erik Lauritzen)**

Stein-Erik Lauritzen informed the Bureau about the progress concerning the work on the new version of the UIS Code of Ethics. The document will be ready by September 2010, and published as a working document on the website while waiting to be voted on in the upcoming General Assembly (during the 16<sup>th</sup> ICS, Brno – 2013). Meanwhile, the delegates will be asked to send in their comments and suggestions on the working document.

The FSE has approved the applicability of the UIS Code of Ethics.

**ACTION 3: Stein-Erik Lauritzen will finalize the working document of the UIS Code of Ethics by September 2010.**



*Home of the UIS: The Slovenian Karst Institute SAZU*

### **10) Commission Reports (George Veni)**

George Veni, VP-Administration, reported on the activities of the commissions and working groups. He highlighted the fact that many commission presidents were delighted by the fact that they were contacted on the behalf of the Bureau. Still, some other commissions did not respond at all to the continuous emails and requests for information.

*In the following lines, those commissions that responded positively to George – or those that are active and with no major problems – will not be mentioned. During the meeting the updates from all commissions and working groups have been discussed, but, here, only those commissions that require attention and further actions will be presented.*

#### **a. Commission on Techniques**

Andy Eavis maintained his previous statement that he

knows somebody who could be an ideal leader for the Commission on Techniques (who is able to revive this important commission). However, due to many obligations and lack of time this person could not be approached until now.

Giovanni Badino proposed to change the title of the Commission to "Advances in Caving Techniques".

Fadi Nader suggested that Christian Dodelin asks Bernard Tourte (France) if the latter would be interested to lead this commission.

Alexander Klimchouk also proposed that George Veni invites Mark Passerby (USA) if he would be equally interested in that vacant position.

**DECISION 4: Both VPs (George Veni and Christian Dodelin) will try to find a solution for this commission which will be called ("Advances in Caving Techniques). Both potential candidates (Tourte and Passerby) will be approached in order to revive this commission.**

#### **b. Commissions whose leaders do not respond**

George Veni listed one department and four commissions which never replied to his emails and contacts. These are:

- Department of Education
- Commission on Great Caves
- Commission on Hydrothermal Karst
- Commission of Cave Diving
- Commission on History of Speleology

George Veni asked the Bureau members for suggestions on what he could do when the presidents of such commission do not reply to his emails. Fadi Nader expressed his surprise because he knows that the Department of Education and the Commission of Cave Diving were and still are active! Christian Dodelin suggested that problems in communications may be the reason for the behavior of some commission leaders (e.g. Marcel Meyssonier / Dept. of Education).

Alexander Klimchouk reminded everyone that this problem was always the case and that the rules stated – and should be respected – that if any commission does not report for two consecutive congresses, it has to be dissolved. Andy Eavis and George Veni expressed their concerns about the long time required for making such decisions (8 years /2 consecutive ICS) and stated that the UIS Bureau has responsibilities to keep the commissions active when needed.

There must be at least some information on the UIS Website featuring the status of the commissions ("active since...") and the invitation for interested cavers in reviving certain inactive commissions.

George Veni suggested to propose a rule or some sort of regulations that allow the UIS Bureau to appoint or ask for appointing other presidents/coordinators of commissions when necessary. Fadi Nader agreed on this proposal, but reminded that this should respect the Statutes and the Internal Regulations of the UIS.

**DECISION 5: Add a mention on the UIS website that informs about the status of the commission or working group. This could be "last updated XX/XX/XXXX" If the commission is not active, also add a statement inviting cavers interested in reviving it to contact the VP-Admin.**

**ACTION 4: George Veni will check the Statutes and the Internal Regulations of the UIS and propose the needed changes in order to make the commission leaders more responsive and the commissions active. The UIS Forum will be used to vote and apply changes on the Internal Regulations.**

#### *c. Comments from Adolfo Eraso*

The last email of Adolfo Eraso concerning the changes requested before the 15<sup>th</sup> ICS in Kerrville (2009) is simply due to the fact that Adolfo was not notified about the decisions taken during the previous UIS Bureau meeting. Fadi Nader apologized about not publishing the minutes due to some delays in finishing up the Bulletin (they were supposed to appear in the Bulletin 52-2 in December 2009).

Back in Kerrville (2009), the Bureau accepted the motion (proposed by Adolfo Eraso) to merge both groups and proposes the following name for the new commission: "GLACIER, FIRN AND ICE CAVES COMMISSION."

#### *d. Commission of Informatics (and website)*

Fadi Nader reported to the UIS Bureau the difficulties and problems encountered with respect to the website, forum and bulletin. He asked for help and decisions for actions that are efficient and pragmatic which once applied will make a difference. He noted that for these three items, Manuel Freire and Peter Matthews did all their best and were always constructive. Still, the website is the link of the UIS to all cavers of the world (including delegates and federations).

- We cannot afford to have an unattractive and un-updated website anymore;
- It is unacceptable to not have UIS Bulletin published on time; and
- We cannot function well as a Bureau, without investing in the Forum (this needs the help of each member of the Bureau)

Fadi Nader even proposed to pay some professionals to get the website going if needed.

Mr. Zdeněk Motyčka informed the Bureau that the Czech Speleological Society paid about 5,000 US Dollars to get a website functional and up-to-date. While Nadja Zupan Hajna informed the Bureau that the Geological Society of Slovenia hired a student to do the job for 500 Euros.

Alexander Klimchouk reminded everyone that we need a person who can deal with the technology, design and content. We do not need a webmaster all the time (it is a one-time request); however we should have two persons who can help at any time.

**DECISION 6: UIS Bureau members will use the FORUM for all intra-bureau correspondence between meetings and ICSs.**

**ACTION 5: The Secretary General (Fadi Nader) will write a letter to Peter Matthews and Manuel Freire thanking them for their enormous help concerning the website and informing them that the UIS Bureau (through the VP-Operation, Christian Dodelin) will seek help. They are invited to assist Christian Dodelin in having control over the website.**

**ACTION 6: The VP-Operation (Christian Dodelin) will take direct responsibility to sort out the website and getting its new version online and active as soon as possible (the Secretary General and President will assist him).**

**ACTION 7: George Veni will assist Fadi Nader in providing a template for the Bulletin.**

#### *e. Any other business related to commissions*

George Veni also informed the Bureau on several issues related to commissions and working groups:

The Commission on Microbiology provided a report and proposed protocols on the recent spread of the WNS half-way across the USA.

The Ice Cave Workshop meeting in Obertraun (Austria) was excellent and the next one will be in September 2012 in Milan (Italy).

The upcoming Pseudokarst Commission Symposium will also take place in September 2012; more information will be soon published in the upcoming UIS Bulletin. George is coordinating the symposium dates with the commissions so that they do not occur at the same time and allow people to attend both.

The upcoming Vulcanospeleology Commission Symposium will take place this year (2010) in Australia.

#### **11) Finance Update (Nadja Zupan Hajna)**

Nadja Zupan Hajna informed the Bureau members about the financial status of the UIS as of June 2010. This can be roughly summarized as follows:

About 6,297 Euros and 59,000 US Dollars (31/5/2010). About 33,243 US Dollars available, as 25000 US Dollars frozen in bank – to get interest (+9 euros/months after the bank charges paid)

Nadja informed the Bureau that several "member-countries" have no delegates and did not pay for many years. These should somehow be taken out of the list of actual member-countries.

A long discussion followed about the countries which still have debts unpaid. The Bureau considered forgiving such debts or not. The general feeling consisted of asking for debt payments while having the possibility to cancel them on a case-by-case, when judged appropriate.

**DECISION 7: Recommend for the upcoming General**

**Assembly (Brno, 2013) a list of active member countries (dropping those countries that did not pay their fees for the last three consecutive years).**

**ACTION 8: The Treasurer (Nadja Zupan Hajna) is asked to invoice all countries for yearly subscription – in July 2010 – and those who have still debts are to be invoiced separately for their debts.**

### **12) International Journal of Speleology (George Veni)**

First, George Veni informed the Bureau that the US National Cave and Karst Research Institute (NCKRI) Board did not want to publish the IJS because of the small number of subscriptions. Todd Chavez proposed that the IJS become entirely electronic. The University of South Florida (USF) Libraries could take charge of the expenses for electronic services (ca. 5,000 US Dollars) and the paper copy could be printed on demand by means of service companies (such as Amazon.com).

Christian Dodelin had asked the Editors of Karstologia whether they could help in this regard. The answer was positive, yet they did not submit a quotation.

Fadi Nader asked if turning into digital publications only would affect the impact factor. George Veni reported that the impact factor would not be affected if handled correctly.

Paul Williams believes that we need to make a decision and cannot afford to lose time. However the proposed ideas are still not at the point to make a decision (permanent) – we still need a year or so.

Arrigo Cigna stated that Jo de Waele did excellent work as editor and the IJS is now a serious scientific publication. However the distribution was non-existent. The electronic form cost nothing and still OK. In the meantime we should find solutions.

George Veni informed the Bureau that Todd Chavez said USF is willing to print the Journal for the coming two years, after which it has to become electronic.

**ACTION 10: George Veni will discuss with USF (Todd Chavez) a contract with the UIS concerning the IJS – the Journal should remain the owned by the UIS.**

**ACTION 11: Fritz Oedl (and the UIS Advisory Committee) will check the contract with USF, once ready and will send comments and suggestions to the UIS Bureau.**

### **13) UIS Bureau Workflow**

Fadi Nader reported about the general workflow of the Bureau and highlighted a few issues that needed to be taken into account for more efficient functioning and correspondence.

#### **a. UIS Letter-heads and business cards**

Due to an increase in official letters sent by members of the

UIS Bureau, Fadi Nader proposed that all Bureau members use similar letterheads yet they keep their own referencing. The same would be for UIS business cards (same design, but printed individually by Bureau members).

All letters are to be cc-ed to the General Secretary and the President.

**ACTION 12: Fadi Nader will provide the format of letterheads to UIS Bureau members downloadable from the UIS Forum.**

#### **b. UIS Leaflet**

With respect to the UIS Leaflet (introduction to the UIS), the Bureau members unanimously decided not to print it anymore, simply because the last printed leaflets did not make any significant impact.

#### **c. Jobs for Adjunct Secretaries**

Fadi Nader reminded everyone that during the first meeting of the current Bureau (in Kerrville 2010, after the second General Assembly of the 15<sup>th</sup> ICS), there was an agreement that the Adjunct Secretaries would help with the regional cover and links with national delegates and organizations. Thus, Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns would take care of the European countries and region; Efrain Mercado Latin America; Kyung Sik Woo, the Asian countries; Paul Williams, Australasia; Fadi Nader, Middle-East and Africa; and George Veni, North America.

George Veni also reminded everyone that Nadja Zupan Hajna is taking care of the Finance and acting Treasurer; that Stein-Erik Lauritzen is in charge of the Code of Ethics; and Paul Williams makes the liaison with IUCN.

George Veni also suggested some other tasks for Adjunct Secretaries. These are:

- **Fund Raising:** Somebody has to search for means of increasing the financial assets of the UIS.
- **Books and other Prizes:** to keep track of publications and be ready to recommend prizes to the UIS Bureau prior to the ICSs.
- **Awards for Service to Speleology and the UIS:** (see below; item #14).
- **Recruit new Member Countries:** help new candidates countries to join the UIS.
- **Recruiting proposals for future ICSs (17<sup>th</sup> ICS).**
- **Develop special UIS Expeditions or projects:** to organize international UIS expeditions and projects to promote speleology and the UIS on the international level.
- **Assist and help VPs:** Vice-Presidents may also need helping hands; adjunct secretaries are invited to help and assist them.

**DECISION 8: Efrain Mercado proposes himself to help in recruiting new candidate member-countries of the UIS.**

**DECISION 9: Giovanni Badino will take in charge the task to develop special UIS expeditions and/or projects.**

**DECISION 10: Alexander Klimchouk proposes to help George Veni (VP-Administration with the commissions.**

**14) UIS Honorary Members**

While Article 14 of the Internal Regulations states that the Bureau can propose persons to be Honorary members voted by the General Assembly, Paul Williams suggested that the Bureau could grant fellowships in recognition of outstanding speleological achievements (both sport/exploration and scientific). He proposed to implement in the Internal Regulations a statement enabling the Bureau to give an award called "fellowships" and consisting for example of a lifetime registration to ICSs.

The way the fellowship is granted was discussed. The idea is to receive, at least one year before the ICS, CVs and suggested referees. The Bureau will select its own referee. Then the selection of no more than four fellows will be made at the Bureau meeting just before ICS. At the opening meeting of the following ICS the President gives the awards (certificates).

Paul Williams stressed the fact that this is a very special humbling award that has to be done with great deal of confidentiality.

**ACTION 13: Paul Williams will draft the text concerning the proposal of fellowship for the next UIS Bureau meeting.**

**15) UIS Internal Regulations/ Statutes/ Legislations**

Fadi Nader went over the current status of the Internal Regulations (IR), Statutes and Legislations, pointing out that he was very happy to have met Fritz Oedl in Austria just a few days before the meeting. He also pointed out that during the last Bureau meeting and as the representatives of the FSE were present, a motion was proposed to look into the Statutes and IR and to find a way to better represent the regional bodies (FEALC, FSE, etc.). He asked the Bureau to discuss this issue and to find solutions.

Thus, a long discussion took place about the representation of regional bodies (such as FEALC, FSE, BSU) at the UIS Bureau meetings.

**DECISION 11: Representatives of the Regional bodies are considered as non-voting invited guests at the UIS Bureau meetings.**

**ACTION 14: George Veni will review items 14, 17 and 20 of the current Internal Regulations and post them for discussion and voting on the Forum.**

**16) Running Projects**

**a. UIS Book (J.-A. Labegalini)**

Just a week ago, as Jose-Ayrton Labegalini and other members of the Bureau attended the centenary of Dachstein, Trimmel had given Jose-Ayrton the remaining information needed for the UIS Book. The planned schedule is as follows:

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- 2011: Text finished before the next Bureau meeting
- 2012: Editing, Review and Design
- 2013: Printing (before the upcoming 16<sup>th</sup> ICS, Brno – Czech Republic)

**ACTION 15: J.-A. Labegalini will prepare the draft text of the UIS Book for the next UIS Bureau meeting in 2011.**

**b. International Speleological Expedition to Iran (ISEI)**

Fadi Nader informed the Bureau members about the post-expedition impacts and results in Iran (more than six national meetings; several expeditions; mapping of several caves; etc.). He also highlighted the fact that the Iranian cavers attended also cave-rescue and advanced training in Lebanon by the Speleo-Club du Liban in 2009. In addition, they are about to finalize the legislation of a national Iranian Speleological Federation. Fadi Nader expressed his satisfaction and pride that the ISEI has contributed to all this achievements.

The expedition and post-expedition reports are going to be published in a book and this is still in progress.

Besides, the Iranian cavers have asked Fadi Nader and George Veni whether the UIS Bureau can visit Iran and have its annual meeting there in 2012. Fadi Nader explained that only if the Iranian Cavers succeed in officially establishing a national speleological federation and security conditions permitting, a UIS Bureau meeting in Iran could be discussed.

**17) New/Prospective Member-Countries**

**a. Philippines**

The contact-person is Denise Matias. No further news since the last ICS (Kerrville, 2009). Most probably, Fadi Nader will meet Denise in the fall 2010. The general agreement of the UIS Bureau is to wait and see if any progress will be made on this front.

**b. Malaysia**

The fees of Malaysia were paid for the years 1986 to 1988 and 1996 to 1998. Malaysia is already a member country of the UIS. We received a letter from Hymer requesting to become a Member-Country!

**ACTION 16: Fadi Nader will write a letter to Hymer to ask if they can consider themselves representatives of Malaysia. Fadi Nader will also highlight the job description of national delegates, who should be habilitated to represent all cavers of his/her country (Statutes).**

**c. Iran**

First the Iranian cavers have to succeed in establishing an official federation (see above).

**d. Honduras**

**ACTION 17: Fadi Nader will write a letter to ask if they can consider themselves representatives of Honduras and assume the job description of national dele-**



**gates, who should be habilitated to represent all cavers of his/her country (Statutes).**

## **18) Proposed Projects/Ideas**

### **a. International Expeditions Database – UIS/FSE**

The project proposed by Manuel Freire (since Kerrville 2009), has been discussed again during this meeting. Back in Kerrville, the Bureau welcomed the initiative of Manuel and this FSE/UIS joint project and encouraged Manuel to start preparing the project.

While Manuel was supposed to be present at this UIS Bureau meeting in order to discuss this project among others, due to health problems he could not make it and the Bureau did not have any document presenting the discussed project.

**ACTION 18: Fadi Nader will write a letter to ask the FSE Bureau to send documents (Agreement) on Item 18 on the minutes of the last FSE General Assembly (Budapest, 2010).**

### **b. International Speleo-Competitions – Juan-Carlos Lopez Casas**

Fadi Nader met with Juan Carlos Lopez in October 2009 in Madrid, explained the ideas behind this project. Unfortunately, Juan Carlos also could not make it to the UIS Bureau meeting in order to present his project.

The idea is to organize international speleo-competitions (outside; not in caves) under the auspices of the UIS. Having in mind that many cavers are more keen for the sport activities rather than scientific or cultural, and when we realize that many national federations are under Sport and Youth Ministries (they are expected to organize sport competitions to earn their yearly budget), this proposal becomes rational as long as it is well organized and certainly outdoor (never in caves).

The UIS Bureau's discussion took a long time, and below are some of the ideas:

**Stein-Erik Lauritzen:** *As long as it is not in cave, following the Code of Ethics, and not focused on speed, it is OK for me. Caves are like museum and the attitude outside and inside caves should be well maintained in the spirit of the Code of Ethics.*

**Alexander Klimchouk:** *We should not support (on the international level) such activities /we had bad experience. We can create a whole new line of speleology not associated to explorations. On the contrary, at club level competitions are justified (training purposes). Some specific cases cannot be over generalized; this will open possibilities for precedents.*

**Fadi Nader:** *We should look at this issue with a different angle. The majority of cavers are sport-cavers and we are responsible for them too. We should guide Speleo-Competitions to safe-guard the ethics and conservation issues. Let us not enlarge the gap between the UIS and the mass of sport-cavers.*

**George Veni:** *In our ICS guidelines we include competitions so why should we do it and not others?*

**Christian Dodelin:** *Juan-Carlos told me about the proposed "well-organized" competitions by the Spanish Federation. Such activities take a lot of work and are very well done.*

**Arrigo Cigna:** *I agree personally with Alexander, nevertheless since the world is changing we should keep an eye on this development.*

**Andy Eavis:** *Provided that cavers do not damage the caves there are no problems. We should not oppose but keep some time for decision. I propose to write a paper about this issue.*

Paul Williams asked Andy to include in his paper serious/clear proposals that we can vote on and lead us step by step...

**ACTION 19: Andy Eavis will write a paper with the cons and pros of Speleological Competitions (by the end of 2010), that will serve as a serious/clear proposal to be voted on by the UIS Bureau.**

### **c. Others**

Fadi Nader informed the Bureau that the working Group on Ice Caves is preparing a book and may need soon advice and support of the UIS.

Fadi Nader and George Veni will contact Aurel Persiou (president of the group) and keep the UIS Bureau informed of the progress of this project.

## **19) Future Meetings and Events**

### **a. FEALC Congress (Cuba) – 4 to 8 August 2010**

Efrain Mercado, George Veni, and maybe Andy Eavis will attend this event and represent the UIS.

### **b. ISCA Congress (Slovakia) – 20 to 24 October 2010**

David Summers, who could not attend this UIS Bureau meeting, conveyed his greetings to the Bureau through Arrigo Cigna.

Andy Eavis, Giovanni Badino, and Arrigo Cigna will be present at this event. Pavel Bosak and Stein-Erik Lauritzen may as well join.

### **c. 1<sup>st</sup> Croatian Speleo Congress (Croatia) – 24 to 27 November 2010**

Christian Dodelin, Fadi Nader, and Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns (and probably Stein-Erik Lauritzen) will join this meeting.

### **d. VMR Symposium (Belgium) – Sept/Oct 2011**

Fadi Nader introduced this upcoming event to the Bureau and the official request for support from UIS.

### **e. Others**

- Biospeleology Conference (Slovenia 29 Aug. 3 September; Postojna)
- Vulcanospeleology Symposium (Australia, 2010)
- 12th Multidisciplinary Conference on Sinkholes (January 10-14, 2011 USA)
- MESS III (Lebanon/Syria; Sept/Oct 2011) Middle East Speleology Symposium
- 12th Cave Rescue Conference Bulgaria (8 to 15 May 2011)
- Granit caves (Sweden) – 1 to 8 June 2011?
- 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Karst Hydrogeology and Ecosystems (Kentucky, 8-10 June 2011) 4 days fieldtrip pre-conference
- 19th Karst School (Slovenia) /Karst underground Protection 20-25 June 2011
- Climate Change: the Karst Record 6 (27-29 June 2011?) speleothems /Birmingham, UK – pre- and post-conference fieldtrips
- 31<sup>st</sup> Brazilian congress (July 2011)
- Iran meeting 2012

## 20) Conservation Issues

### *a. China/Philippines*

Paul Williams has drafted a letter to be sent to the authorities in China and another one to be sent to the Philippines. Fadi Nader will send the letters.

#### Complications:

In China, this issue has to be dealt with at the level of provinces. Better to send the letter to the Karst Institute of China and request to be sent to the Ministry.

Sales of speleothems do not mean that they are vandalizing caves. The speleothems could be collected during construction of highways, leveling, and/or major constructions work.

Fadi Nader suggested that the UIS should keep pressure on countries to make laws banning the import (as well as export) of speleothems; this could be the responsibility of Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns (head of the Cave Protection and Management Department).

**ACTION 20: Paul Williams in consultation with Kyung Sik Woo will refine the letters to China and Philippines and then send them to Fadi Nader who will officially send them to the authorities.**

### *b. Thailand*

Christian Dodelin had distributed documents prepared by Dr. Anderson who is trying to stop a project that is destroying karst and archeological sites in Thailand. Paul Williams warned that IUCN cannot do anything if such sites are not IUCN sites.

**ACTION 21: VP-Operation Christian Dodelin will send a letter stating that the UIS recognizes the archeological value and conservation of the karst sites in Thailand.**

### *c. Turkey*

Baerbel Vogel (President of the German Speleological UIS-Bulletin vol. 53, Nr 1 & 3 (2010)

Federation) had sent papers about the Iisu dam project and its impact on karst. The documents were discussed at length.

Fadi Nader stated that he knew about this issue for a few years and he warns that he did not receive a clear demand by Turkish cavers to react! He finds difficulties in interfering in a national issue, especially when no clear demands from the national bodies have been made.

**ACTION 22: Alexander Klimchouk will look into the Iisu Project and discuss it with the Turkish cavers.**

### *d. Mexico*

Some also disturbing news came in about the Yucatan in Mexico. The UIS Bureau did not receive clear data on this matter.

**ACTION 23: Efrain Mercado will look into the case of Yucatan (Mexico) and reports to the UIS Bureau.**



## 21) Any Other Business

### *a. Letter from A. Graña (President of FEALC)*

Fadi Nader read the letter received from A. Graña (President of FEALC) to the UIS Bureau members.

### *b. FEALC-related Issues (e.g. Costa Rica, Argentina)*

#### **Costa Rica:**

Efrain Mercado informed the UIS Bureau that the problems (FEALC / Costa Rica) were sorted out and that there will be a conference in Guatemala.

There was a general consensus that as soon as the conference date and title are decided, the UIS will support such a meeting.

#### **Argentina:**

The case of Argentina and its internal problems was exposed and discussed.

Fadi Nader informed the Bureau that he had received a letter from the president of FADE appointing the Delegate and Deputy Delegate to the UIS as usual. There is no concrete information about legal unions or federations other than FADE. Besides, no official letters were sent to the UIS General Secretary from any other organization in Argentina contesting the present situation.

The general consensus concerning the case of Argentina was to "wait and see."

## **22) Closing Meeting (A. Eavis) + Setting the Action List of 2011**

Around mid-day, Andy Eavis closed the UIS Bureau meeting for the year 2010 and thanked everybody for their presence and contribution. He highlighted the "wonderful turnout" to the meeting a sign of continuous progress of the Bureau.

Andy Eavis noted that for the next meeting, measures will be taken to prepare the agenda in a better and more efficient way (e.g. through executive meetings).

*After the closure of the meeting, members of the Bureau worked out the distribution of jobs/tasks among adjunct secretaries, discussed the changes of some items of the Internal Regulations (George Veni, see above), and held a practical session on the use of the Forum.*

**ACTION 24: Fadi Nader will prepare the minutes of the meetings and the Action List for 2011.**

*Fadi NADER  
UIS, Secretary General*

# 11<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Pseudokarst (Saupsdorf, Saxon Switzerland, Germany) 12 – 16 May, 2010

By Jan Urban and L'udovit Gaál,

UIS Commission of Pseudokarst

The 11th International Symposium on Pseudokarst was held in the region known for the occurrence of non-karst rock landforms and caves, in the Elbe Sandstone Mountains, called also Czech-Saxon Switzerland, situated within the Czech-German boundary zone, around the Elbe river valley. In this region the 3rd International Symposium on Pseudokarst was organized, in Königstein, in 1988, however only a few participants of the current Symposium attended this previous meeting. The current Symposium gathered 50 scientific participants from 10 countries: Austria, Czech Rep., Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden (Figs 1, 2). The formal organizer of the Symposium was the Commission for Pseudokarst UIS, but practically it was prepared and organized by speleoclub Höhlen und Karstforschung Dresden, personally by Hartmut Simmert, his colleagues and even family.



*Fig. 1. Participants of the Symposium in a front of mountain hut in which the Symposium was held (photo H. Simmert).*



*Fig. 2. Group of Symposium participants with H. Simmert (in black jacket), our guide and President of the Organizational Committee in the end chamber of the Zwergenlöcher (Dwarf Cave), Quirl (photo J. Urban).*

As usually, the Symposium was an opportunity for a meeting of cavers (hobbyists, but often having deep knowledge about matter of their interest) and scientists (which co-operate with cavers so as to get materials for their studies). Consequently, the lectures represented different scientific levels (from quite new scientific concepts to descriptions of cave explorations) and wide spectrum of speleological studies: from geology and geomorphology, through climatology and biology.

**During the three half-day sessions (13-15th May) 21 lectures were held and several posters were presented. The main subjects of these presentations were:**

- Presentation of geological, geomorphological and bio-speleological features, phenomena and processes of the host region – Saxon Switzerland (three lectures: M. Arnold, H. Simmert, J. Templin; Germany).
- Results of two expeditions to the caves in quartzites of the table mountains in Venezuela, comprising genetic observations as well as complex studies of very diversified (partly biogenic) secondary formations in these caves (several lectures and poster: T. Lanczos, R. Aubrecht, J. Schlögl, L. Vlček, B. Šmida, C. Brewer-Carias, F. Mayoral, L. Kováčik, M. Audy; Slovakia, Venezuela, Czech Rep.).
- New concept of sandstone weathering (relief) morphofacies which are conditioned by rock lithology, especially by rock cementation, permeability, graining and chemical composition of cement (J. Adamovič, R. Mikulaš, J. Schweigstillová; Czech Rep.).
- Original hypothesis connecting the genesis of spherical cavities in sandstones (caves) in the Bohemian Paradise, Czech Rep., with air circulation (convection) during the late Glacial period, which is confirmed by radiocarbon and U/Th datings of the secondary minerals (speleothems) in these cavities (J. Bruthans, P. Jenč, Z. Churáčková, J. Schweigstillová, P. Mikuš, Czech Rep.).
- Complex concept of speleogenesis of caves in granites of the Galizia, North-Western Spain and mineralogical description of the secondary formations occurring in these caves (two lectures: M. Vaqueiro-Rodriguez, R. Costas-Vazquez, R.M. Suarez-Perez, J.M. Lopez -Mosquera, J.R. Vidal-Romani; J. Sanjurjo-Sanchez, D. Fernandez-Mosquera; Spain).
- Description of genetic types of caves in granites of Sweden (R. Sjöberg; Sweden). The confrontation of these, Swedish and presented earlier Spanish caves indicated crucial impact of climatic conditions on the morphogenesis and speleogenesis of granites (magmatic rocks).
- Discussion on the genesis of oblique notches and ledges on the porous rock (sandstone) natural surfaces in Europe and north-eastern Africa (R. Mikulaš, J. Adamovič; Czech Rep.)
- Presentation of peculiar secondary formations in caves

and anthropogenic undergrounds in Austria, as e.g. root stalagmites, organic stalactites, calcite stalactites in non-carbonate rocks, iron-oxide stalactites (R. Pavuza; Austria).

- Relation concerning progress in exploration and studies of tree mold type caves in Slovakia (L. Gaál; Slovakia).
- Analysis of interesting examples of non-karst, mainly gravitational caves formed in easily karstified rocks, as gypsum and limestone of the north-eastern Apennine (S. Galdenzi; Italy).
- Results of studies of the crevice type caves development in Polish Flysch Carpathians and their relation to mass movements (W. Margielewski, J. Urban; Poland).
- Relation on results of abrasion caves exploration and mapping on the sea-shore near Auckland, New Zealand (G. Szentes; Germany/Hungary).
- Description of pseudokarst phenomena observed in the Malta island (M. Tavagnutti; Italy)
- Discussion on application of ERT (electro-resistivity tomography) method for detection of non-karst caves in Polish Flysch Carpathians (J. Urban, T. Panek, P. Taborik, J. Hradecky, W. Margielewski, C. Szura; Poland, Czech Rep.).
- Results of microclimatological survey of the specific, deep gulch (called Ice Gulch), in the Appalachian Mountains, New Hampshire, USA (D. Holmgren, A. Pfitsch; Germany).
- Description of butterflies living in the pseudokarst caves of Hungary (I. Eszterhás; Hungary).
- Analysis of interrelations between variability of environmental conditions and aquatic fauna composition in the Jaskinia Miecharska cave, Polish Flysch Carpathians (E. Dumnicka, C. Szura; Poland).

During three days of Symposium, after scientific sessions (and lunches) the field sessions were organized (as usually, the field session guidebook was published and given to participants). Six different excursions were proposed – from easy walks to climbing in the deep vertical caves – thus everybody was able to choose his favorite kind of “sight-seeing” (and even had to do it). Therefore – despite the cloudy and sometimes rainy weather – nobody could complain of lack of attractive and interesting sites.



**Fig. 3. Sandstone cliff in the slope of the Polenztal valley near Hohenstein (photo. J. Urban).**

Czech-Saxon Switzerland is, in geological terms, north-

eastern fragment of the Bohemian Cretaceous basin, and therefore its relief is closely connected with morphological pattern of the central part of this basin. It is characterized by the occurrence of rock table mountains standing above the upland level, which is cut, in turn, by river valleys with rocky slopes (Fig. 3). The rock cliffs of valley and mountain slopes are formed of horizontally lying series of Upper Cretaceous sandstones (Cenomanian-Coniacian). Neogene volcanic intrusions (of basalt type) crossing the sandstone beds are additional elements affecting the rock epigenesis and morphogenesis of the region. Its relief is strictly connected with the lithological diversity of the sandstone series within which 12 lithostratigraphical units – several meters to several tens of meters thick – have been distinguished. The specific types of landforms and caves are related to particular units and, especially, to their boundary zones. The caves represent various genetic types (which are defined and classified by German speleologists), from gravitational forms, generally of crevice and talus (collapse, block) types (Figs. 4, 5, 6), to cavities and tunnels formed by interaction of subsurface water erosion (fluvial erosion), corrosion (porokarst, clastokarst), salt weathering, mechanic weathering etc. – fissure and bedding cave types, cave niches. Most of them are connected with joint system or bedding planes, whereas part of the erosional-weathering caves are also controlled by specific (densely jointed or porous) lithological horizons (Figs. 7, 8, 9). Microrelief of the rock surfaces is also very diversified and impressive (Fig. 10).

Three field sessions were conducted in the table mountains with rock cliffs (Quirl, Hohenstein and Affensteingebiet), partly also in the valley slope (Polenztal), however, during these excursions we visited many deep and even narrow caves. Three other excursions comprised visits in three long and deep caves of gravitational genesis (Tiefe Höhle, Wohlrabhöhle and Johannes Ruscher Höhle). The additional excursion was conducted to the mine gallery reaching the volcanic intrusion.

As usually, the assembly of the Pseudokarst Commission UIS, have been held during the Symposium (13.05.2010). The main items of this meeting were, as following:

- Recapitulation of the last two years of the Commission activity: the 10<sup>th</sup> Symposium on the Pseudokarst was held in May 2008 in Gorizia, Italy (the main organizer: Centro Ricerche Carsiche “C. Seppenhofer”); just after this Symposium the Commission homepage was re-activated (<http://www.pseudokarst.de.vu/>); two issues of “Pseudokarst Newsletter” (no. 19 and 20) were published and distributed mainly by internet; during the 15<sup>th</sup> UIS Congress in Kerrville, USA, pseudokarst scientific session and meeting were organized.

- Discussion on current event – the 11 Symposium on Pseudokarst, Saupsdorf, Germany. As the participants of this event we express our gratitude for the organizers – Hartmut Simmert, his colleagues and dotters.

- Discussion on structure of the Commission and its members. The members of the commission should represent every countries and sciences active in pseudokarst exploration. UIS-Bulletin vol. 53, Nr 1&2 (2010)

tion and researches, so accession of several new members to the Commission was proposed and accepted.

■ Plans of the future activeness of the Commission: its contribution to the organization of the 16. UIS Congress in Brno (2013); organization of the 12<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Pseudokarst in Spain – the term (2012, 2013 or 2014) will be determined by local organizers; organization of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Granite Caves, Sweden, June 2011.

■ Election of the executive committee of the Commission. The assembly confirmed the previous members of executive committee: Jiří Kopecký (honorary president), István Eszterhás (honorary president), Jan Urban (president), Rudolf Pavuza (vice-president) and Ludovít Gaál (secretary).



*Fig. 4. The crevice-type entrance of the Tiefe Höhle (Deep Cave), in the slope of the Bielatal valley, indicates gravitational genesis of this cave (photo J. Urban).*

Last, but not least, must be emphasize the warm, familiar atmosphere of the days in Saupsdorf. The Symposium was perfectly organized, but we will keep in our mind not only the organization of scientific and field sessions, but the “climate” of mountain (climbers’) hut, the garret session-hall and dining room with simple meals prepared by organizers, as well. We enjoyed the formal discussions and informal, spontaneous meetings sometimes with guitars and drums during these days. It means that hotels and restaurants, expensive catering and service are quite not necessary to create good, unforgettable memories.



*Fig. 5. Climbing down the crevice-type gallery of the Tiefe Höhle (Deep Cave) (photo J. Urban).*



*Fig. 6. Formed among blocks, the passage of the Höhle am Neuweg (Cave in New Road) with the underground stream (photo J. Urban).*



*Fig. 7. Gautsch Grotto in the slope of the Polenztal valley huge rock shelter developed due to the fluvial erosion combined with weathering processes and subsequently enlarged by rock falls (photo J. Urban).*



*Fig. 9. Erosional-weathering cavities within the Stall (Stable) rock shelter, Quirl (photo J. Urban).*



*Fig. 10. Characteristic honeycomb structures on the rock walls on the slope of the Polenztal valley (photo J. Urban).*



*Fig. 8. Nashorngipfel (Rhinceros Rock) above the Polenztal valley – the cross-section of the passage formed along the joint fissure indicates lithologic control of its morphogenesis.*

# 3ième Rencontre des pays des KARSTS ALPINS (SPELEO-SECOURS – Thème Médical) 14 – 16 Mai, 2010 / Saalfelden, Salzburg - Autriche

Compte rendu par Christian Dodelin

10 Pays : Angleterre, Croatie, Roumanie, Autriche, Grèce, France, Allemagne, Italie, Suisse, Hongrie.



**Pour l'Autriche** Salzburg c'est le Dr Wolfgang Farkas qui assure la présentation.

A noter que les secours officiels autrichiens ne sont pas une émanation des spéléos mais des structures d'Etat chargés des secours. La spéléo et la montagne sont traités avec des partenaires qui considèrent que les explorateurs n'ont pas de temps pour s'occuper des secours spéléos. Il en découle pour eux que le secours est assuré par des secouristes qui n'ont pas les compétences spéléos requises. Cette situation a conduit à la constitution de ce groupe avec leur demande de renfort auprès des pays voisins.



Présentation des particularités du milieu souterrain entraînant des complications pour les soins médicaux.

La liste des traumatismes possibles est faite.

Explication d'une différence de traitement selon la cavité et le lieu de l'accident.

Plusieurs cas sont évoqués : coupure et traitement...traitement des fractures, des hémorragies.

Principaux traitements en grotte : reconnaître les points vitaux, prévenir l'hypothermie, surveiller les luxations et fractures.

En cas de fractures ouvertes utiliser des bandages stériles. Luxation. Le principe général est : fixation and no setting without x-ray = ne pas réduire une luxation sans avoir fait une radio.

La présentation utilise des photos et documents de blessés à l'hôpital avec les radios qui illustrent les déformations.

Les applications souterraines manquent d'expérience ce qui fait réagir les médecins Suisse et anglais. Le docteur qui fait la présentation pense qu'il n'y a pas souvent la possibilité de traitement sous terre en comparaison des soins pratiqués en hôpital ou en situation extérieure.

Le principe est de toujours médicaliser avant le transport de la victime.

Sont abordés ensuite l'équipement standard et le conditionnement du matériel, (Poids, conditionnement, robustesse et fiabilité) drogues avec une efficacité longue dans le temps. Les cas de conditionnement avec ventilation, intubation, infusion....

**Roumanie** par le docteur Hadrian Borcea.

Les secours en Roumanie sont en cours depuis 15 ans. Le contexte en Roumanie du spéléo secours est récent et recherche les docteurs de deux façons. Il y a bien des médecins spéléos mais il faut toucher les spécialistes en médecine.

En secours il y a plusieurs niveaux de compétence. En Roumanie des formations existent pour la population et concerne les premiers secours. A un autre niveau il y a les praticiens médecins, infirmiers et paramédicaux. Les secours sont adaptés pour les accidents de la route... Il y a les connaissances pour ce type d'accident, ainsi que pour les accidents urbains.

En 2001 un projet pour les étudiants en médecine concerne



les secours en montagne et en grotte. Cela a touché 600 étudiants sur quelques WE par an.

Certains d'entre eux travaillent maintenant dans les services de secours après leur participation à des camps sur le terrain.



En 2008 les docteurs prennent conscience de la nécessité d'avoir des experts.

Pour des secours de plus de 40 heures quelles décisions sur le type de soin à apporter aux blessés ? Une réflexion s'est faite avec les spéléos hongrois. Le travail s'est fait avec des médecins de la médecine d'urgence.

Il y a une formation technique spéléo pour les docteurs. Après un certain niveau les docteurs pourront aller en grotte. La formation des docteurs se fait en cavité puis sur les techniques médicales adaptées en grotte et la participation à des exercices secours avec les spéléos.

Il n'y a pas de formation ni de référentiel sur les aspects médicaux spécifiques et les traitements. Les roumains demandent un soutien et de l'information sur les méthodes et expériences dans le domaine médical. Il y a une évolution en Roumanie sur les secours. Il y a des difficultés d'enseignement médical dans les stages qui s'adressent aux sauveteurs spéléos : seulement deux heures sont consacrés sur un stage d'une semaine. Ceci est aussi en lien avec le peu de docteurs disponibles.

Sur le groupe de docteurs formés il en reste trois. Les anglais demandent si les docteurs font de la "spéléo". A différents niveaux d'engagement.

La question est la capacité de prendre les décisions médicales. S'appuyer sur des médecins qui ne pratiquent pas ou des spéléos sauveteurs qui n'ont pas la connaissance médicale ?

Nous avons besoin de docteurs spéléos. Les médecins n'ont pas le temps de faire de la spéléo, mais c'est un choix. Il y a aussi un écart entre les principes et la réalité sur le terrain où il faut composer avec les moyens disponibles.



**Croatia** par Dinko Novosel.

Il est secrétaire de la commission. Présentation de l'organisation des secours sur le pays.



Il y a une formation de base concernant le transport et les connaissances de base pour le spéléo secours. Les formations spécialisées concernent aussi les docteurs. Un cours de premiers soins dure 80 heures et après les aspects généraux il y a une partie sur les accidents souterrains. Un certificat est donné aux participants.

L'organisation du secours comprend plusieurs aspects inspirés du SSF.



Présentation de l'ASV avec 5 personnes, le contenu des kits. Les photos sont prises sous terre en situation.

Différents types de point chaud. Le conditionnement de chaque bivouac. Statistiques sur les accidents en Croatie de 1959 à 2007. Le pays a connu 44 accidents de 2000 à 2007. La majeure partie des victimes ne sont pas spéléos. Seuls 22% des secourus sont spéléos. 59% des accidents arrivent dans des puits. Les grottes sont verticales et demandent de l'entraînement.

L'évacuation se fait selon les techniques françaises. La Croatie espère rejoindre l'Union Européenne.

L'utilisation d'attelle gonflable est faite pour le transfert dans le point chaud.

#### Suisse par Ueli Nägeli et Thierry Boillat

Présentation de la situation en Suisse avec plusieurs régions et 3 langues qui n'empêchent pas une coopération et un travail commun. Sur 9 régions 5 sont équipées en matériel médical.



Le concept médical :

- En premier le médecin doit être spéléo.
- Dans chaque région il y a une équipe et le matériel pour les premiers soins. Il y a une liste des professionnels de santé.
- Le matériel est conditionné dans des kits spéléos.

Il y a un principe de délégation en Suisse qui permet à des personnes d'administrer des drogues si besoin. Pour chaque boîte il y a une liste du contenu. Des codes de couleurs permettent de distinguer plus rapidement les produits. Tout est mis dans des bidons étanches et résistants aux chocs.

Check-list pour le docteur. Le standard peut être utilisé en différentes circonstances. Chaque praticien a ses préférences. Une liste a été créée et le docteur la consulte avant de s'engager sous terre. Il verra s'il a besoin d'ajouter quelque chose.

Dans les formations en Suisse le docteur débutant sera mis en civière comme victime pour connaître la situation. Il y a 18 docteurs et 4 paramédicaux.

Formation : il n'y a pas de formation spécifique pour les médecins, ils participent aux exercices régionaux et à l'exercice annuel. La plupart des médecins sont des montagnards expérimentés, la plupart sont instruits à l'armée. Ils ont leur propre expérience.

Une particularité : il y a un diplôme de médecine de montagne. Celui-ci est dispensé par la Suisse Société de Médecine de Montagne. Une leçon concerne les aspects souterrains. Les médecins ont une rencontre tous les deux ans avec une visite de grotte.

La formation médicale des équipes de secours : Il y a beaucoup d'application sous terre.

Chaque région est responsable de la formation de ses équipes.

La formation des médecins de montagne a commencé il y a une quinzaine d'années en Suisse.

Région du Holloch : concept du secours au Holloch le plus grand de Suisse.

Il y a eu 3 accidents de 1969 à 1973 qui ont donné lieu à une conception particulière du secours dans ce réseau. Les professionnels de santé n'avaient pas les traitements adaptés sur le site. En conséquence il faut permettre le traitement médical par les spéléos eux-mêmes.

On est en première ligne pour l'hypothermie, l'immobilisation, le traitement de la douleur, l'état de choc, le suivi de l'évolution du blessé.

Il y a des dépôts dans la grotte, récupérables en quelques heures et un stock additionnel dans la place centrale. Formation pour qui ? Tous les spéléos et ceux qui le souhaitent de manière à avoir 2 ou 3 spécialistes dans chaque équipe.

Il est demandé une formation aux premiers secours avec certification au préalable. Une formation adéquate a lieu au moins tous les 2 ans. L'aspect légal permet à des non praticiens de pouvoir intervenir.

Il y a un module pour les injections, perfusions pour les besoins vitaux et traiter les chocs.

Pour les décisions il faut reconnaître le degré des situations dangereuses...

Une fiche sur l'état et l'évolution du blessé existe et est utilisée lors des interventions.

Module pour les immobilisations. Module pour l'hypothermie avec vêtements secs, tente thermique, air réchauffé pour la respiration.

Aujourd'hui il y a 105 personnes formées.



### Grande Bretagne par le docteur William Lumb

Personnel et organisation du traitement médical en Angleterre.



A partir d'un exemple d'accident, une chute à 2.215 m de l'entrée (45 minutes) présentation de la médicalisation.

Principe : enseigner aux spéléos ce qu'ils ont besoin de savoir sur le plan médical et des soins.

Nécessité d'être spéléo avant d'être docteur. Les docteurs doivent être compétents dans leur sport.

De 96 à 2009 : Au cours de 644 secours il y a eu 157 médicalisations pour assister les victimes. Les interventions médicales ont concernés 45 hypothermies, 75 traumatismes et 14 pour des aspects médicaux. 17 Décès : 3 chutes, 9

noyades, dont 2 en plongée, 3 crises cardiaques, 1 écrasement, 1 sur corde et sous cascade.

Aspects légal : il n'y a pas de limitation légale. La loi a évolué concernant l'usage des drogues comme la morphine pour calmer la douleur.

La liste des drogues utilisées est connue des personnes qui apportent les soins. Le certificat de soins aux victimes est valable pour 3 ans. Il y a un système de validation annuelle. Il y a une assurance spécifique.

Dans les secours longs il y a un certain nombre de contrôles à faire. Dans ces longs secours il faut anticiper pour l'hypothermie et un sac néoprène est utilisé pour la victime. Il faudra réhydrater. L'aspect psychologique est à prendre en compte.

Présentation des secours les plus longs en Grande Bretagne en 2001 : 3 jours et 35 heures de civières.

Suggestions :

- parler au blessé
- considérer les soins comme disponibles
- ne pas oublier les yeux,
- la qualité du brancardage se dégrade après 4 heures.

Il y a 20 000 pratiquants en Grande Bretagne. Une présentation du cours donné aux volontaires pour la formation spéléo médicale est présentée. Il y a une interactivité mélangeant films et démonstration ainsi que le développement des problèmes médicaux et leur évolution. L'enseignement s'adresse aux bons spéléos volontaires.

[www.nesracascare.co.uk](http://www.nesracascare.co.uk) est un site qui tient à jour les différents traitements.

### Allemagne par Jochen Gürtler et Werner Franke

Mountain rescue of Munich : Groupe de secours en montagne de Munich.



Les sauveteurs sont des volontaires, un peu sur le modèle autrichien. Il y a un désinvestissement des spéléos qui conduisent les secouristes à se tourner vers les pays voisins.

Environ 5 accidents par an.

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Il y a des formations médicales. Des entraînements avec l'usage des hélicoptères et en différents sites de montagne, été comme hiver. Pour les secours spéléo il y a un programme spécifique. Pour utiliser les soins et traitements il y a une licence annuelle à obtenir.

L'équipement médical comprend le ferno-ked, une civière etc... C'est un docteur qui peut administrer des médicaments et les injections.

Le crush syndrome (l'écrasement) est un risque fréquent en spéléologie.

Pas d'expérience en Allemagne mais les autres docteurs notamment de Grande Bretagne apportent les infos ou confirment les traitements proposés.

### **Hongrie par le docteur Peter Temesvari**

Il y a 3 ou 4 docteurs en Hongrie. Il est difficile de conserver les docteurs dans les équipes. Il y a une bonne équipe et bien entraînée avec du matériel.



Du matériel médical existe également avec un conditionnement adapté. Utilisation des emballages à bulles pour mettre les victimes au chaud puis avec la couverture survie. Avec ce procédé il y a moyen de traiter efficacement contre le froid. C'est utilisé également en secours en montagne en France.

### **France par Eric Zipper et Christian Dodelin**

Présentation du protocole infirmier et médecin. Ceci pour donner un cadre législatif aux infirmiers afin qu'ils puissent pratiquer ce que leur métier leur permet dans le milieu extérieur. Plusieurs aspects sont abordés dans leur domaine de compétences notamment traiter la douleur, administrer certains traitements...



Un autre sujet est présenté avec notamment un secours médicalisé en 2004 en Savoie. La réduction d'une luxation de la rotule a permis de soulager le blessé mais également de traiter le secours en moins de 15 heures au lieu de 3 jours s'il avait fallu brancarder car une longue désobstruction aurait été nécessaire.

### **Italie par l'un des 4 médecins présents.**

L'accent est mis sur la spécificité du milieu souterrain qui nécessite une approche adaptée et différente de l'extérieur. Un parallèle est fait entre les interventions d'urgence à l'extérieur et la situation souterraine.



Une formation pour les soins est faite auprès des spéléos techniciens. L'usage de fiche de renseignements et de suivi de l'état de la victime est effectif.

Des protocoles sont élaborés pour les médecins et les infirmiers.

Pour les spéléologues un certificat reconnaît les compétences.

Des sessions de formation s'adressent à tous les niveaux que ce soit pour les cadres eux-mêmes ou les techniciens.



### Films en soirées

Nous avons présenté des vidéos réalisées en stage : Formations au Brésil, en Roumanie.

Le film italien du secours à Piaggia Bella a été présenté ainsi que quelques films sur de la plongée souterraine.

### Dimanche

Présentation de la version Nicola version 3 développée par Graham Naylor. Un exercice secours sera mis en place en Grande Bretagne pour tester les premiers prototypes.

Info sur les recherches du SSF et info des Suisses sur le développement qu'ils ont fait avec possibilité d'envoi de SMS et texte.



### EVENEMENTS SPELEO SECOURS - Dates :

- 8 au 15 mai Bulgarie 12° conférence de la commission spéléo-secours de l'UIS (Union Internationale de Spéléologie).
- Prochaine 4° rencontre du groupe des Karsts Alpins en Croatia 17-18 septembre 2011 ; National Parc sur la côte Adriatique. Thème : techniques et tests.

### Projet association européenne : **European cave rescue association.**

L'association n'est pas déjà créée. Une proposition de statut est faite par les Autrichiens. Le projet a besoin de mûrir et concerne les autres pays européens. Les propositions de texte seront envoyées aux participants afin de pouvoir se prononcer dans l'avenir.

Quel nom adopté ?

Parmi les aspects : indépendance vis-à-vis des organisations d'états et structures non lucrative.

Le Docteur Suisse est d'accord pour coordonner les rencontres entre médecins.

Envoi du projet d'association par internet et retour avec avis.

Information sur des démarches que font les Italiens auprès des institutions européennes.

Le projet de WEBSITE sera efficace cet été.

Adresse : [www.cave-rescue.org](http://www.cave-rescue.org)

Un DVD avec les communications a été donné à chaque pays participants.

D'après les notes et photos de Christian Dodelin  
Photos également de Jérémie Thirion et des organisateurs.

# Argentina : la UIS acompaña a la Red de Áreas Protegidas Espeleológicas

By Carlos Benedetto  
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Delegado UIS-Argentina  
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## Abstract

Argentinean Speleology restructuring process started in February 2008 after the III Congress: "Andean axis" was consolidated as its guiding strategic development plan: the Andes Mountains, which hosts the largest potential of natural cavities and in this geographical axis, is where they begin to apply protectionist laws and develop a network of protected areas. Projecting that axis outside Argentina, there are signs of revitalization of Speleology in Peru and Ecuador. Paraguay accompanies that process from outside the Andean area and proceeds in the representations by specific legislation and cave tourism promotion, as well as managed actively join the UIS. Protection Commission of the UIS maintained its active role in this process, especially in the caves of North-Patagonia in danger.

## Nueva vía de integración en la espeleología sudamericana

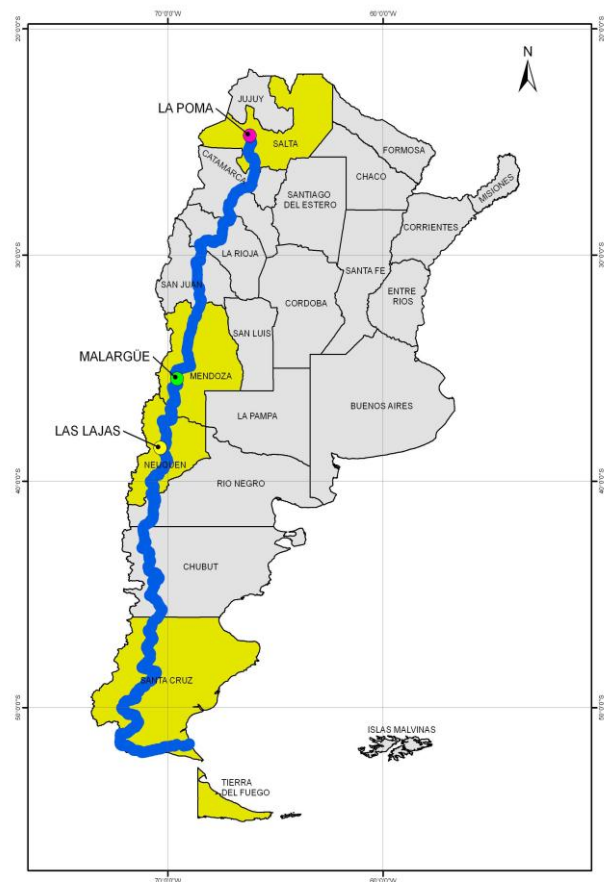
La reestructuración de la Federación Argentina de Espeleología (FADE) llevó a que a lo largo de 2009 se incorporaran nuevos espacios de trabajo. Aunque la presidencia de esta Federación está nuevamente en Buenos Aires, la sede social sigue estando a 1.400 kilómetros de esta ciudad capital nacional, sobre los Andes, en Nor Patagonia, Malargüe. Desde ambos espacios se está expandiendo.

En 2010 la Federación también constituyó delegaciones en el extremo sur del país, en las provincias de Santa Cruz y Tierra del Fuego, donde ahora existen los "espeleólogos más australes del mundo"

Pero además, la nueva conducción no prioriza la espeleología en las cavidades menores de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, sino que pone de relieve la importancia de entender que, salvo las grandes cavidades calizas del Brasil y la cuenca amazónica (Paraguay), la columna vertebral de la futura espeleología sudamericana son las "cavernas andinas".

En ese espíritu fue que se organizó, con la ayuda del gobierno de la Provincia de Salta, en el límite con Bolivia, un curso de formación de nuevos espeleólogos que en realidad tenía otro propósito adicional: el de iniciar los estudios para el futuro plan de manejo en la caverna Puente del Diablo, en la pre-Puna, a más de 3000 metros sobre el nivel del mar, la cual estaba y está protegida por ley, aunque en Salta no había espeleólogos.

Desde hacía décadas los espeleólogos de otras provincias sostenían que "el NOA (Noroeste Argentino) es un diamante en bruto para la espeleología, pero necesitamos formar espeleólogos locales que hagan el trabajo de explorar, documentar y proteger las cuevas que existen". Se había hablado mucho al respecto, pero nada se hizo, excepto una experiencia de trabajos de campo a cargo del grupo de Luis Carabelli (ahora presidente de la FADE), pero que no había obtenido la valoración adecuada por parte de sus colegas. Todos anunciábamos un futuro promisorio para el NOA, pero no reconocíamos los méritos de estos primeros trabajos en ese mismo NOA.



Finalmente, el gobierno de esa provincia norteaña ayudó a este proyecto para que fuera posible la confluencia entre espeleólogos, investigadores científicos, operadores de turismo y guardaparques, y ello se plasmó en un curso que la Federación dictó en octubre de ese año. En esa ocasión confluyeron sobre la ciudad de Salta alumnos de la misma provincia y de Buenos Aires, pero también instructores de la FAdE de cuatro provincias: la misma Salta, Tucumán, Buenos Aires, Mendoza.

También viajaron desde Paraguay nuevos colegas de la Federación Paraguaya de Espeleología, que compartieron experiencias y finalmente hubo la firma de un convenio entre ambas federaciones y el establecimiento de un contacto directo entre técnicos de las oficinas gubernamentales de áreas protegidas de Salta y Mendoza, lo cual venía a ser algo novedoso.

Luego de eso, la Federación Paraguaya propondría (y en esto hay conversaciones avanzadas con colegas argentinos, brasileños y boliviano), para la futura conformación de una “Confederación Sudamericana de Espeleología”.

Por último, fueron los técnicos de la Federación quienes, conjuntamente con guardaparques salteños, redactaron el informe final de la experiencia con propuestas para el futuro plan de manejo de Puente del Diablo, la tercera caverna argentina protegida por ley (las primeras son Las Brujas en Mendoza y Cuchillo Cura en Neuquén). Para el 2010 se proyecta continuar con la experiencia, posiblemente con apoyo material de empresas europeas dedicadas a la fabricación de equipos de progresión en cavernas. De esta manera, el “diamante en bruto NOA” empezaba al fin a ser un diamante que comenzaba a ser pulido, con el agregado de la ratificación de las buenas relaciones entre Paraguay, Argentina y otros países del MERCOSUR.

Paraguay sigue avanzando en la consolidación institucional de la Espeleología, ya que la FEPAE – Federación Paraguaya de Espeleología, consiguió que la asamblea del Congreso UIS 2009 en Kerrville – USA, aprobara el ingreso de dicho país como miembro pleno de nuestra Unión, de la mano de proyectos conjuntos como los que relatamos en este informe. Al mismo tiempo sigue trabajando para conseguir la protección legal de las cavernas y la aprobación de proyectos espeleoturísticos alternativos a las actividades mineras en las regiones kársticas del país.

Como ya dijimos en el número anterior, “la naciente espeleología paraguaya propone el desarrollo del espeleoturismo como alternativa a las actividades mineras no controladas, pero también al desmonte descontrolado de bosques cuya madera es usada para alimentar los hornos mineros, mientras que paralelamente han propuesto al Congreso Nacional un proyecto de ley para dar marco regulatorio a todo esto”.

En este tiempo los espeleólogos paraguayos no solamente viajaron a capacitarse en Argentina, sino también en Brasil, con el apoyo de los espeleólogos de este país; además están analizando firmar, con la Federación Española de Espeleología, un convenio parecido al que ésta tiene con la Federación Argentina y otras sociedades nacionales de América Latina.

Y, como decimos antes, están pasando a un rol políticamente activo, al haber sido quienes propusieron la formación de la Confederación Sudamericana.



*Nuevos espeleólogos argentinos y paraguayos en la pre-Puna, extremo norte de la Argentina, octubre 2009  
Ecuador, Perú, Paraguay*

### **Nor Patagonia y futura Red de Áreas Protegidas Espeleológicas**

Apenas tres semanas después de la experiencia exitosa en Salta, espeleólogos y biólogos de Mendoza y Tucumán pudieron “volver a Cuchillo Cura”, el sistema cavernario de mayor diversidad biológica de la Argentina y cuyo acceso estaba prohibido por la mala aplicación de la legislación vigente. La UIS tuvo mucha influencia en ese cambio positivo largamente esperado.

Como ya informamos antes, la Comisión de Protección de la UIS a cargo de Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns, había escrito una carta al gobernador de la provincia de Neuquén, haciéndose eco de los reclamos de los espeleólogos argentinos durante el III Congreso Argentino (Malargüe, Mendoza, febrero 2008). En parte por ese reclamo y en parte por las insistencias de la UIS, de las biólogas que intervinieron finalmente en este “operativo regreso” y del ex director de Áreas Protegidas de la Provincia de Neu-

quén (miembro de la Federación nacional) a principios de noviembre finalmente se llevó a cabo una campaña corta para la identificación de murciélagos y crustáceos anfípodos e isópodos en ese sistema cavernario.

Tan importante como eso fue que, con la experiencia de Salta en el recuerdo inmediato, en Neuquén se inició la formación de una Red de Áreas Naturales Protegidas Espeleológicas, que incluiría a espeleólogos, técnicos y guardaparques de La Poma (Salta), Malargüe (Mendoza), Las Lajas (Neuquén), que son las localidades donde hay cuevas protegidas por ley con distintos grados de manejo público; son las tres únicas provincias en que el patrimonio espeleológico en general (no sólo las áreas protegidas en su sentido clásico) tiene protección legal, aunque con distintos grados de aplicación efectiva.

Algo similar iniciaron los delegados del extremo sur ante las autoridades de Parques Nacionales, en los que se conoció la existencia de cavernas, que están siendo catastradas.

Representantes de esas provincias iniciaron la Red con intercambios de información sobre los distintos criterios de manejo de áreas protegidas espeleológicas, a efectos de avanzar en la unificación de criterios y ponerlos a tono con los requerimientos de la UIS en la materia. Se estaban sumando a ella técnicos de la provincia de San Juan (donde no hay legislación espeleológica específica) y de la Administración Nacional de Parques Nacionales.

Al terminar la campaña de noviembre en Cuchillo Cura, el titular de la Comisión de Protección de la UIS escribió nuevamente al Gobernador de Neuquén para agradecer el gran paso dado y pidiendo más apoyo a los proyectos de investigaciones espeleológicas.

Pero en esa provincia subsisten problemas políticos que incluyen un abandono presupuestario de las áreas protegidas: hay 11 áreas, con un total de 11 guardaparques, sin recursos para hacer su trabajo. Al finalizar el año, los problemas de este tipo llevaban a renunciar al Director Provincial de Áreas Naturales Protegidas, aunque reteniendo sus funciones de coordinador técnico de proyectos científicos.

Ese problema merecerá en algún momento una nueva intervención de la UIS...

### **Mendoza: PPE y formación de técnicos en seguridad**

De las provincias argentinas de la Red, Mendoza es la que se encuentra en el estado más avanzado en cuanto a protección del patrimonio espeleológico.

Como ya informamos en un número anterior, los espeleólogos argentinos elaboraron, a pedido del Gobierno provincial, el Programa Provincial de Espeleología (PPE) hasta el 2012, cuya puesta en marcha fue demorada por cuestiones políticas y presupuestarias.

Pero a fin de año se conformaban, en el equipo gubernamental al que pertenece ahora el autor de esta nota, los equipos técnicos para la atención de cuatro de las trece áreas protegidas provinciales, incluyendo Caverna de Las Brujas.

El primer paso fue la entrega, en préstamo, de la biblioteca de la Federación a las autoridades, para el montaje de un Centro de Investigaciones que está ya funcionando en la ciudad de Malargüe. En julio se prevé la reali-

ización de un “meeting”, en la misma ciudad, al que fueron invitados todos los espeleólogos (federados y no federados) del país, como asimismo guardaparques, operadores de turismo, agentes de seguridad, etc.

La coordinación del programa y sus actividades ha sido puesta en manos del autor de esta nota, lo que significa un desafío para la UIS y para la FADE...

En el proyecto original, no abandonado, ese Centro debía llevar el nombre de Edouard Martel, en homenaje al fundador de nuestra disciplina, ya que en 2009 se cumplían 150 años de su nacimiento. Ese detalle aún sigue siendo discutido.

En el mismo espíritu, existe al fin la voluntad política de aplicar la Ley 5978, casi olvidada desde su sanción en 1993 (Ley de Cavidades Naturales); esto ocurrió gracias al esfuerzo de la Federación argentina.

También en ese marco, y paralelamente, la Federación organizaba en Malargüe el segundo curso de Seguridad y Rescate en Cavernas al amparo del convenio firmado en 2005 con la Federación Española de Espeleología. Esta vez la capacitación estuvo dirigida a bomberos, gendarmes y policías, y secundariamente espeleólogos y guardaparques, con el objetivo de involucrar a los técnicos de las fuerzas de seguridad en los temas específicos de la espeleología y el espeleorrescate.

La experiencia no sólo permitió dar continuidad a ese convenio, sino que constituye la base de un cronograma de actividades (cursos, simulacros) que se llevarán a cabo a lo largo de 2010, con la intención de incorporar a esas fuerzas en los protocolos de seguridad de la Caverna de Las Brujas, pero también de otras cavernas contempladas en el PPE.

Se discutía, también, sobre la sede del próximo curso con los capacitadores españoles (¿Salta? ¿Malargüe? ¿Neuquén?) y sobre los términos del futuro convenio entre las federaciones española y paraguaya, con la posibilidad de hacer un convenio tripartito.

La UIS estaba siendo invitada, asimismo, a adherir al meeting de julio de 2010 en la ciudad de Malargüe.







*Nuevamente espeleólogos y rescatistas argentinos y españoles en cavernas de Malargüe, Nor Patagonia*

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The Commissions and Working Groups are where the actual speleological work is done. Anyone who wants to contribute is invited to collaborate in the work of a commission under the co-ordination of its President(s)

**UIS domain:** <http://www.uis-speleo.org>

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**Departement de l'exploration**

COMMISSION OF CAVE RESCUE  
COMMISSION DE SPÉLÉO-SECOUR

President: Christian DODELIN, France

TECHNIQUES AND MATERIALS DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION

COMMISSION DU DEVELOPPEMENT DU  
MATÉRIEL ET TECHNIQUES

President: vacant

CAVE DIVING COMMISSION  
COMMISSION DE LA PLONGÉE SOUTERRAINE

President: Phillippe BRUNET, France

**Department of Education and Teaching**  
**Departement de l'Enseignement spéléologique**

President: Marcel MEYSSONNIER, France

COMMISSION OF SPELEOLOGICAL EDUCATION  
COMMISSION DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT  
SPÉLÉOLOGIQUE

President: Marcel MEYSSONNIER, France

ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
COMITÉ CONSULTATIF

Members (alphabetic order):

Dr. Pavel BOSAK, Czech Republic

Dr. Arrigo A. CIGNA, Italy

Dr. Julia JAMES, Australia

Friedrich OEDL, Austria

Dr. Hubert TRIMMEL, Austria

## UIS Addresses

Addresses of members and honorary members of the UIS Bureau and Presidents of the UIS Commissions and Working Groups.

Refer to the UIS official website ([www.uis-speleo.org](http://www.uis-speleo.org))

For any inconsistencies, mistakes or information changes of National Delegates, contact the webmaster.

## Contributions and Bank Accounts

### ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The UIS General Assembly at the 15<sup>th</sup> ICS decided to change the annual contributions of the UIS member-countries to Euro currency, while keeping the same rates as those since 1994. The annual contributions will be as follows, starting from January 2010:

Category A	300 Euros
Category B	200 Euros
Category C	50 Euros

Each UIS member country has the free choice of the category in accordance with its own financial possibilities and with the number of speleologists or speleological societies/ associations/ federations/ clubs/ institutions

The UIS Bureau is authorized to reduce or to remit the contributions, if the UIS member-country makes a respectively written demand. If the UIS Bureau requires, the UIS member country has to give reasons for the difficulties of a payment.

The authorization of the UIS Bureau to reduce or remit the contributions confirms that the impossibility of a payment by actual political problems or difficulties will not be an argument to exclude any member country from the international collaboration within the structure of the UIS.

### UIS Bank Account

#### Account name

Mednarodna speleološka zveza - UIS  
Titov trg 2  
6230 Postojna  
Slovenia

#### Bank (name and address)

Banka Koper d.d.  
Tržaška 2  
6230 Postojna  
Slovenia

#### Account No.

IBAN SI56 1010 0003 7861 520

**SWIFT Code:** BAKOSI2X

#### Accepted Currencies:

USD (United States Dollars)  
EUR (Euros)  
SIT (Slovenian tollars)