

Minutes from the UIS Bureau Sessions (1997-2000)

The ?? regular session of the UIS Bureau Jedovnice, Czech Republic September 8-9, 1999

Present: Julia Mary James (President), Claude Mouret (Vice-President), Aleksander Klimchouk, Robby T.K. Ko, Urs Widmer (Secretaries Adjoint), Pavel Bosák (Secretary General)

Past-Presidents and Honorary Members: Hubert Trimmel, Vladimír Panoš

Appologized: Paolo Forti, Andrew James Eavis, Stephen A. Craven, George Huppert, Jose Ayrton Labegalini, Franco Urbani, Abel Vale, Arrigo A. Cigna, Adolfo Eraso Romero, Derek C. Ford

1. *Opening of the Session* and confirmation of the Agenda. The Agenda was approved.

2. *Control of Minutes from 1997.* As items concerning resting points from La Chaux-de-Fond sessions were included into the Agenda, they are not mention here.

3. *Finances.* Review of finances after the 12th International Congress of Speleology (after audit), i.e. August 1997 to August 1999.

<i>CZK final state:</i>	28,080.00	<i>USD final state:</i>	21,751.02
income 1997	5,141.00		6,320.71
expenses 1999	1,711.20		3,540.25
income 1998	0,000.00		4,625.52
expenses 1998	338.40		0.44
income 1999	45,619.90		1,089.79
expenses 1999	20,959.00		0.44
<i>CHF final state:</i>	0.00	<i>ATS final state:</i>	7,005.04
income 1997	1,510.00		9,495.04
expenses 1999	0,000.00		2,000.00
income 1998	0,000.00		0,000.00
expenses 1998	0,000.00		0,000.00
income 1999	0,000.00		0,000.00
expenses 1999	1,510.00		490.00
<i>SKK final state:</i>	2.00		
income 1999	14,172.00		
expenses 1999	14,170.00		

The control of finances showed that about 3.000 USD could be obtained from debts of annual contributions of member countries in an ideal situation.

Problem of possible investment of the sum of about 20.000 USD was discussed in detail. Although A. Eavis promised to make research, no results have been known. It was stated, that the sum available is too low for profitable investment.

The correspondence research to establish the account in EURO (together with USD account) was highly positive. Such step should save money of bank transfer and change. The final decision will be carried out after the question of stable address is solved.

4. *Preparation of the 13th International Congress of Speleology.* J. James and P. Bosák informed on their check visit in Brazil (August 1999) and on state of preparation of the event. The result of discussion resulted in following recommendations to organizers::

- transport - all aspects of transportation within Brazil have to be listed in the 2nd and 3rd Circulars (possibilities and prices of cheaper equivalents to air transport, possibility to book bus tickets at Congress registration, list of possibilities and prices on Congress WWW)

- 2nd Circular - meeting points of excursions to be mentioned, program of the UIS Commissions and Working Groups (organizers should contact presidents of UIS bodies), conditions for the print of contributions and abstracts (length limits, camera ready form?), children fee - free under some age, children care during events (possibility, price), security within city.

- other items - to prepare basic vocabulary available on WWW and in printed form at registration, circulars to be distributed to participants of important international events (e.g. Seoul 2000, IAH 2000), to prepare max. 3 camera ready pages to be printed in national journal, newsletters and magazines.

5. *Stable address of the UIS*. Following the UIS Bureau decision in 1996 (Salida), the proposal of Prof. Cigna to establish the registration of the UIS as non-profit non-governmental body in Luxembourg, together with the main UIS bank account was fully accepted. Mr. Jean.Claude Thies (Luxembourg) and Urs Widmer (Switzerland) will be asked to make research of possibilities.

6. *Responsibilities of individual members of the UIS Bureau*. The proposal of Julia James was discussed in detail. It was decided, that members of the present UIS Bureau will deal especially with following items:

The role of the President nad Secretary-General follows the UIS Constitution (Statute).

Both the Vice-Presidents act for the President and chair the Bureau meetings if the President is unavailable.

James Andrew Eavis - Senior Vice-President - contacts with the Speleological Federation of the European Union and co-ordination of activities.

Claude Mouret - Vice-President - representative of UIS with UNESCO.

Stephen Craven - the translator for our documents that need to be presented in good English, for example the UIS Constitution (Statutes). He will run the UIS prizes for the next congress. Co-ordination of UIS activities and the contact person for Africa.

George Huppert - advisor for UIS on conservation and cave management matters. Co-ordination of UIS activities in conservation, contacts with IUCN and the contact person for North America (USA, Canada, NSS, ...).

Alexander Klimchouk - the improvements in the UIS Constitution (Statute) and other principal documents. Organiser of a major publication on karst for the Union. Co-ordinator of contacts with IGU Karst Commission, responsible for fulfilling of Agreement with IGU.

Robby K.T. Ko - responsible for relations within Asia and work on obtaining new members for the Union, incl. affiliated ones.

Franco Urbani - co-ordination of UIS activities and the contact person for South America, contacts to the FEALC, and assistance with the organisation of UIS 2001.

José Ayrton Labegalini - the organisation of UIS 2001.

Abel Vale - assistance to George Huppert with conservation matters and assistance with the organisation of UIS 2001.

Urs Widner - main UIS adviser to the Brazilian group organizing the UIS 2001, responsible for advertisement affairs, etc.

7. *Affiliated members to UIS*. The problem of affiliated membership was deeply discussed. The general conclusion from it is that (1) the height annual contributions should be proposed by the affiliated member; (2) the UIS Bureau expects that the affiliated members are such bodies who want to supply the activity of the UIS by different ways (sponsoring,) , (3) there is a problem of discrepancies within national caving bodies which will be solved by affiliated membership of concurrence body (in such case the UIS Bureau have to follow the Constitution /Statute/). The discussion mentioned also the right to vote of affiliated members.

The demand of the Croatian Mountaneering Association to become the affiliated member was accepted by voting (4 for, 1 against, 1 abstention). The annual contributions to be decided by the CMA or negotiate with the responsible body of the CMA.

8. *Internal Reglement*. It was generally decided that the Internal Reglement will be completed in: (1) number of Adjoin Secretaries, (2) annual fees of member-countries (A, B, C), (3) annual fees of affiliated members, (4) documents which are necessary to be presented during the Congress to accept national delegates and their substitutes (right to vote), (5) statement from Bowling Green on 3% payment from UIS official activities, (6) rights and duties of members countries incl. the cancellation of membership due to debts, (7)

description of right and duties of UIS Bureau members, (8) specifications concerning Commissions, Working Groups and Committees.

Intrernal Reglement will be sent to C. Mouret, he will translate the present text to English for Bureau members to comments and precision.

9. *Regulations for organizers of UIS events.* U. Widmer prepared adapted German version and transformed English and French versions to electronic form. He will distribute the text in an electronic form to UIS Bureau members for comments.

10. *Remission or shortage of annual fees.* The UIS Bureau accepted the demand of Israel (presented in a letter by A. Frumkin) to remit fees before year 1993, as the united caving organisation did not existed before. The UIS Bureau accepted to remit payments of Bosnia and Herzegovina on demand of J.P. van der Pas. The remission is valid until next UIS Bureau decision.

11. *UIS Constitution - changes and translations.* The UIS Bureau stated that there have to be some necessities for another changes of the principal UIS document in a short time. The preparation of changes and/or improvements to be prepared by the Commission headed by C. Mouret. All the changes had to be based on translations of the Constitution to other official UIS languages, especially to English. This is the principal task of the Commission on Statute. The statement of C. Mouret was based on the reality that valid Constitution is a patchwork which is not enough precise for eventual sponsors and this reality represents the necessity to change it. Nevertheless, it was stated that the Commission on Statute had finished only a few job.

A.A. Cigna promised to prepare official translation of the Constitution to Italian by a lawyer office.

12. *Relations to UNESCO.* C. Mouret is responsible for contacts. If necessary, he will ask Mr. Jaques Choppy for consultations, help and/or substitution. UNESCO office will be informed on activity of the UIS. C. Mouret will search possibilities concerning UNESCO projects (themes, possibilities of financing, internet connections and info).

13. *Financial support for UIS Commissions and Working Groups.* The UIS Bureau decided to grant UIS Commissions and Working Groups by max. 200 USD for 2000 based on precise annual report of each Commission and Working Group and detailed requests. The money will be precisely accounted according to conditions stated by the Secretary General in information letter to Commission/Working Group Presidents.

14. *Varia.*

14.1. proposal of S. Craven for *Chairman, Treasurer*. The function of Chairman is not constituted in the UIS principal documents (Statute, Internal Reglement). The role of the Chairman can be served by the President and/or Vice-Presidents. The model was successfully accepted during the present meeting. The UIS Bureau was informed on the statement of finance auditors to separate the function of the Secretary General and Treasurer. The function of the Treasurer will be appointed in the connection of establishment of future development concerning the establishment of bank account out of place where the Secretary General is living or in connection of necessary investments. At the present time the division of both functions is out of practical sense as there is a cash flow consisting only of expenses connected with edition and mail of the UIS Bulletin (made by Secretary General) and mail of Secretary General. The voting of Treasurer will need changes of the UIS Constitution (Statute).

The proposal provoked long discussion concerning the enlargement of the UIS Bureau practically in two persons - Chairman and Treasurer - and provoked by proposals of S. Craven. The discussion resulted in statement, that people proposed to some post can not accept the nomination if they know that they cannot be present on the work of the body in which they are elected. The functions in the UIS Bureau are not based on prestige, but on willing co-operation and hard work. If there are necessary some persons more, the UIS Bureau can ask anybody for consultations or to co-opt somebody for a well defined task.

14.2. The UIS Bureau accepts the information of A. Slagmolen in improvement of structure of the UIS Commission on Cave Rescue.

14.3. The European Congress on Speleology in Portugal 1999. The Secretary General will travel there, thanks to the offer of A. Eavis. The co-operation with SFEU will be discussed.

14.4. Information brochure/leaflet. The task is in continuation. The present text will be improved. The info on results of the UIS Bureau session will be distributed as press communication to main caving magazines and journals.

15. The next UIS Bureau session will be decided by mail.

Reported by: Pavel Bosák, UIS Secretary General