

Minutes from the UIS Assembly General

First session, August 22, 2005

Kalamos (Attika), Greece, Dolphin Hotel

The Assembly General was opened by the UIS Secretary General, Mr. Pavel Bosák by the statement of the number of present national delegates of member countries. In the moment of the opening, totally 33 member-countries (from 56) were registered (Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Spain, USA, France, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Mexico, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, Venezuela). During the session, other delegates of 2 member countries appeared (Korea, New Zealand, no voting). There were present also delegates of member countries with delay in payment more than 3 years, which could not vote (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Romania).

The opening was followed by the presentation of the UIS President, Mr. José Ayrton Labegalini, concerning the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the UIS and presentation achievements and failures of the UIS Bureau in time between the 13th and 14th International Congresses of Speleology, i.e. for the period of July 2001 to August 2005. He declared the Assembly General as opened. After opening, all participants took a while of silence for all cavers and scientists who left the international audience between congresses (e.g., Linhua Song, China, George Huppert, USA, Vladimír Panoš, Czech Republic, Stanislaw Dżułyński, Poland, László Jakucs and Attila Kósa, Hungary, Jacques Choppy, France, Guy-Christian Collet, France and Brazil, Takanori Ogawa, Japan).

The Assembly General approved the minutes of the last Assemblies General from Brasilia, DF, Brazil 2001 by 31 votes for with no votes against or abstained.

The Secretary General of the UIS presented his report. After the Departments, Commission, Working Group and Committee representatives presented reports and information on the activity: Department of Protection (Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns), Commission on Physico-Chemistry and Hydrogeology of Karst (Yavor Shopov), Commission on Glacial Caves and Karst of Polar Regions (Giovanni Badino), Commission on Volcanic Caves (Jan Paul van der Pas), Commission on Archaeology and Palaeontology of Caves (David Hubbard), Permanent Commission on Speleotherapy (Hubert Trimmel), Commission on Hydrogeology of Karst and Speleogenesis (Pavel Bosák), Commission on Pseudokarst (Jan Paul van der Pas), Commission on Bibliography (Patrick Deriaz), Commission on Karst Atlas (Hubert Trimmel), Informatics Commission (Peter Matthews), Commission on History of Speleology (Pavel Bosák), Rescue Commission (André Slagmolen), Commission on Cave Diving (Holandan), Commission on Statute (Claude Mouret). The Assembly General appreciated the activity of Mr. André Slagmolen as the founder and the first President of the Rescue Commission.

The Assembly General elected two auditors: Mr. Andrew Eavis (Great Britain) and Mrs. Grace Matts (Australia). They were elected, both, by 32 votes for with no vote against and no abstention.

The Assembly General elected the Commission for the elections of the new UIS Bureau composed of Mr. Arrigo A. Cigna (Italy), Mrs. Linda Gentry el Dash (Brazil), and Mr. William White (USA) by 30 votes, no against, and 2 abstentions.

Mr. George Veni (USA) presented of candidate for the 15th Congress of Speleology in Texas, USA 2009.

Two new member countries were admitted to the UIS on the basis of the UIS Bureau recommendation: Pakistan, presented by Mr. Fadi Nader (20 votes for, no vote against and no abstention) and Serbia and Monte Negro, presented by Mr. Uroš Aksamovič (30 votes for, no vote against, 1 abstention).

Several materials were presented to the Assembly General. Mr. Pavel Bosák presented the UIS Bureau proposal to grammar corrections of the UIS Statutes in French language and translations of the UIS Statutes to English, German, Italian, Spanish, Russian and Arabic. Mrs. Julia James presented the UIS Prizes - the best discovery, the best book and the best poster.

At the end of the first session, three information were given. The Director of the Public Relations Department of the Samcheok City Hall presented the message of the Samcheok city Mayor, Mr. Kim Il Dong. Mr. Andrej Mihevc presented the establishment of the stable address of the UIS in Postojna, Slovenia on September 19, 2002. New Editor-in-Chief of the prestigious UIS journal – International Journal of Speleology – Mr. Jo de Wale – presented new editorial policy and new face of the journal. The session was closed at 15:15 local time.

Second session, August 27, 2005
Kalamos (Attika), Greece, Dolphin Hotel

The second session of the Assembly General of the UIS was opened and chaired by P. Bosák on 14:45. At the moment of the opening, totally 38 member states were registered (Germany, Argentine, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Spain, USA, France, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Mexico, Norway, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Korea, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, Venezuela), one country (Serbia) appeared a little bit later, so totally 39 member countries had the right to vote. The agenda of the Assembly General was approved by voting (38 voices for, 0 against, 0 abstention) owing to substantial changes in comparison with the proposal from August 21, 2005.

Mrs. Julia M. James presented results of the decision of the UIS Prize Committee concerning the UIS Book, Exploration, and Poster Prizes and results of Speleomedia. The program continued by the information of the UIS Commissions and Working Groups and by the approval of reports, plans and chair persons by voting. The results of voting were as follows:

Departement/ Commission/ Working Group	President	Votes for	Votes against	Abst.
Department of Protection and Management	Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns	36	0	1
Commission of Physico-Chemistry and Hydrogeology of Karst	Yavor Shopov	39	0	0
Commission on Caves in Glaciers and Karst of Polar Regions	Adolfo Eraso Romero Presented by G. Badino	36	0	1
Commission on Volcanic Caves	Jan Paul van der Pas	39	0	0
Commission on Archaeology and Palaeontology of Caves	David Hubbard Roman Hapka	39	0	0
Permanent Commission on Speleotherapy	Svetozár Dluholucký Presented by P. Bosák	39	0	0
Commission on Artificial Caves	Presented by P. Bosák	0	16	23
Working Group on Hydrothermal Karst	Presented by P. Bosák	0	30	9
Commission on Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis	Aleksander Klimchouk Presented by P. Bosák and A. Osborne	38	0	1
Commission on Cave Mineralogy	Carol Hill Presented by Charles Self	39	0	0
Commission on Pseudokarst	István Esterhász Presented by Jan Paul van der Pas	38	1	0
Commission on Bibliography	Partrick Deriaz Presented by Phillipe Häuselmann	39	0	0
Commission on Paleokarst and Speleochronology	Stein-Erik Lauritzen	39	0	0
Commission on Largest Caves	Presented by P. Bosák	32	0	7
Commission on Karst Atlas	Karl-Heinz Pfeffer Presented by P. Bosák	39	0	0
Informatics Commission	Peter Matthews	39	0	0
Commission on History of Speleology	Karl Mais Presented by P. Bosák	39	0	0
Rescue Commission	Mr. Dodet Presented by A. Slagmolen and Mr. Dodet	39	0	0
Commission on Material and Techniques	Presented by P. Bosák	20	2	16
Commission on Cave Diving	Phillipe Brunet	39	0	0
Department of Education	Marcel Meyssonier	39	0	0

Mr. Arrigo A. Cigna on behalf of Advisory Committee presented the Committee statement to proposed grammar corrections of the French text of the UIS Statutes and Memorandum of understanding between the ISCA and the UIS. The new version of the UIS Statute in French language was approved by voting: 39 votes for, 0 against and 0 abstention. The Memorandum was approved by voting: 35 votes for, 0 against, 4 abstentions.

Two budget auditors (Mr. Andrew James Eavis, Great Britain and Mrs. Grace Matts, Australia) reported on the result of the audit report (Appendix). Mr. Pavel Bosak is to be commended for his meticulous record keeping and his dedication. Approving voting resulted as follows: 39 votes for acceptance, 0 against and 0 abstention, so the audit report was accepted as it obtained absolute majority of votes approving properly evidenced financing of the UIS.

Information concerning speleological events between the International Congresses of Speleology was dealing with possible organization of the European Regional Conference on Speleology (European Congress on Speleology), as the only candidate for the 2009 International Congress of Speleology is the USA. The Speleological Federation of the European Union promised to take care on selection of the proper place.

The election of country organizing the 15th International Congress of Speleology in 2009 started by a short presentation of Mr. George Veni of the only candidate – the USA. The organizing country was then elected: 39 votes for, 0 against and 0 abstention.

The elections of the New UIS Bureau was introduced by Mr. Arrigo A. Cigna by the statement of the Advisory Committee to the possibility of elections of non-present candidates. The Committee supported the possibility to elect physically non-present candidates owing to problems with Congress organization. The Secretary General, Mr. Pavel Bosák explained the voting procedure following the UIS Constitution (20 votes minimum for election in the first round).

Election Commission then organized the voting. Mr. Arrigo A. Cigna introduced candidate for the UIS President (Mr. Andrew James Eavis, Great Britain). Mr. Eavis was elected the UIS President in the first round on 39 voting cards: 39 votes for, 0 against and 0 abstention.

After Mr. Arrigo A. Cigna presented candidates for the UIS Vice-Presidents (Mr. Pavel Bosák, Czech Republic and Mr. Aleksander Klimchouk, Ukraine). Totally 39 voting cards were collected: 2 voting cards were invalid. Mr. Aleksander Klimchouk obtained 35 votes and Mr. Pavel Bosák obtained 32 votes. Both were elected in the first round.

After Mr. Arrigo A. Cigna presented the only nomination to the UIS Secretary General (Mr. Fadi Nader, Lebanon). On 39 voting cards Mr. Nader obtained 34 votes for, with 5 invalid cards.

After Mr. Arrigo A. Cigna presented 15 nominations for 8 positions of the UIS Secretaries Adjunct: Mr. Giovanni BADINO (Italy), Mr. Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS (Belgium), Mr. Carlos BENEDETTO (Argentina), Mr. Petar K. BERON (Bulgaria), Mrs. Katalin BOLNER-TAKÁCSNÉ (Hungary), Mr. Mladen GARASIĆ (Croatia), Mr. Roman HAPKA (Switzerland), Mr. Stein-Erik LAURITZEN (Norway), Mr. Efraim MERCADO (Puerto Rico), Mr. Andrej MIHEVC (Slovenia), Mr. Juan MONTAÑO (Mexico), Mr. Claude MOURET (France), Mr. George VENI (USA), Mr. Paul WILLIAMS (New Zealand), and Mr. Kyung Sik WOO (Korea). From 39 collected voting cards, 2 were invalid. In the first round, following candidates were elected: Mr. George VENI (28 votes), Mr. Andrej MIHEVC (27 votes), Mr. Carlos BENEDETTO (24 votes), Mr. Kyung Sik WOO (23 votes) and Mr. Paul WILLIAMS (21 votes).

Between the 1st and 2nd round of elections of Secretaries Adjunct, new UIS President, Mr. Andrew James EAVIS, presented his short statement. The representatives of The Hellenic Speleological Society and Hellenic Speleological Federation presented acknowledgements and gifts to UIS Bureau members and all national delegates. Mr. Andrew James Eavis was elected Honorary Member of the Hellenic Speleological Society.

In the 2nd round of elections of Secretaries Adjunct, 39 voting card were collected, all were valid, and following candidates were elected: Mr. Efraim MERCADO (15 votes), Mr. Roman HAPKA (13 votes), and Mr. Stein-Erik LAURITZEN (12 votes).

Mr. Pavel Bosák proposed to elect Mr. José Ayrton Labegalini, the UIS Past-President as the UIS Honorary Member, which motion was accepted unanimously by all 39 votes.

In the following part of the program – Interventions and supplementary information – there were presented several points. Cuban voting delegate, Mrs. Anna M. Abraham A. proposed the separation of position of the UIS Treasurer from the position of the Secretary General (which point was accepted by approval of report of financial auditors). The Venezuelan voting delegate, Mr. Efraim Mercado (Puerto Rico), presented memorandum of the Sociedad Venezolana de Espeleología concerning unethical behaviour of Slovak and Czech cavers in Venezuela. Secretary General, Pavel Bosák, promised to deal with the problem again on the next UIS Bureau Annual Meeting 2006.

National delegate of Australia, Mrs. Grace Matts, presented proposal for financing of the UIS Scientific Commissions.

The lottery of voting cards of national delegates or voting representatives organized by the representative of the 15th International Congress of Speleology 2009 – Mr. George Veni – won Mr. Michał Gradziński (Poland national delegate); he obtained free participation on the Congress in the USA.

The UIS President Elect – Mr. Andrew James Eavis – in a short conclusive speech summarized the Congress, excursions, scientific program, sites and other topics. He declared the Assembly General as closed on 18:45 local time.

Prof. Petros Themelis, President of the Organization Committee of the 14th International Congress of Speleology, after short speech officially closed the Congress at 19:00 hours local time.

Appendix I

Auditors' Report 23rd August, 2005.

Financial Statement of the funds held in the name of the International Union of Speleology. For 2004 – 30/06/2005

Statement of Transactions from 2001 to 2005

Income	US\$	Euro	SIT	CZK
Annual Fees	19,128.10	649.01	58,000.00	
Interest	526.84	379.59	628.92	
Koper Bank (opening balance deposit)			5,000.00	
IUS logo use				1,350.00
Total Income	19,654.94	1,046.60	63,628.92	1,350.00
 Expendiure				
IUS Prizes	750.00			
Website	239.00			
IUS Bulletin	1,376.06			
Int. J. Speleol.	5,000.00			
IUS Commissions	500.00			
IUS Bureau exp	1,276.00			
Bank Charges	296.72			
Koper Bank (Refund Opening Balance)			7,491.22	
Koper Bank A/c set up fee			5,000.00	
Refund Registration Fee			5,600.00	
Secretarial Expenses				569.30
Total Expenditure	9,437.78	Nil	23,720.14	569.30
 Excess	 10,217.16	 1,046.60	 39,908.78	 780.70

Assets

Cash held in bank accounts as follows;

Account	Bal@	SET\$	CZK	US\$	Euro
Koper Bank (Slovenia) opened 18/2/04	8/8/05	144,782.38			
Ceska Sportelna (Czech)	11/8/05			35,038.51	
Petty Cash (Pavel Bosak)	13/7/05		21,661.51		
*ERSTE Bank (Vienna)	18/7/05				6,400.00
*Cash held in Vienna	?			300.00	513.26
TOTAL		144,782.38	21,661.51	35,338.51	6,913.26
<i>Values in US\$</i>		<i>723.91</i>	<i>917.86</i>	<i>35,338.51</i>	<i>8,421.98</i>

* See Note 1.

Total Asses US\$45,402.26

Auditors' Statement

Having examined the documentation for the financial accounts of the International Union of Speleology we believe that, with the exception of the money held in Vienna, they present a true and fair record of the transactions of the International Union of Speleology for the period from 2004 to 30th June, 2005.

No list of assets was presented.

We are of the opinion that this organization is solvent and able to meet its financial obligations.

Signature
Signed
(Mrs Grace Matts)
Honorary Auditor

signature
.....
(Mr A Eavis)
Honorary Auditor

Notes to the audited report

1. The ERSTE Bank account held in Vienna was not presented with sufficient information to audit it. Therefore amounts related to this account are an estimate gleaned from the documentation.
2. Some of the money is held in Vienna in the form of cash.

Recommendations

1. All accounts must be held by the Secretary General while he also has the capacity of Treasurer.
2. No cash should be held outside the General Secretary/Treasurer.
3. The cash in Vienna needs to be transferred to the control of the Secretary General immediately.
4. The IUS should look at formalizing the financial procedures within their statutes so that their money is protected at all times.

To comply with the legal requirements of Slovenia the IUS must:

1. As soon as possible all accounts (except the Petty Cash) be transferred to the Kopel Bank in Slovenia as the IUS is now registered in that country.
2. When the ERSTE Bank A/c in Vienna matures on 18/7/2006 it be closed and both principal in interest transferred to the Kopel Bank account in Slovenia.
3. As IUS is now registered in Slovenia and financial reports are required to be presented to the government, it is essential that these accounts be audited annually by a qualified accountant in Slovenia.
4. When audited they will need to be approved by the Bureau each year prior to presentation to the government.
5. At each Congress of the IUS (four-yearly) a set of audited reports for the four previous years will need to be provided to each financial member of the IUS for approval at that meeting.

Rewritten from original by Pavel Bosák (including all misprints)