

UIS BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING

September 6-7, 2008

Sunshine Hotel – Jeju Island (Republic of Korea)

	Attendance on both Sessions <i>Saturday and Sunday, August 6-7, 2008; 9:00am to 18:00 local time</i>
President	Andrew James EAVIS
Vice-Presidents	Pavel BOSÁK
Secretary General	Fadi NADER
Adjunct Secretaries	George VENI
	Kyung Sik WOO
	Paul WILLIAMS
	Stein-Erik LAURITZEN
Honorary Past-President	
Past-President	Paolo FORTI
	Julia JAMES
	J.-A. LABEGALINI
UIS Department of Protection and Management, President	Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS
UIS Delegate of France	Claude MOURET
ISCA, President	David SUMMERS

1) Opening speech of the UIS President

Andy Eavis thanked all participants to have come to Jeju. He informed the Bureau that along with Fadi Nader, George Veni, and Roman Hapka, he was present at the Vercors' 4th European Congress of Speleology in France. And that both France and Korea are equally, ideal places to hold the UIS Bureau meeting for this year; especially after witnessing partially the outstanding presentations and excellent program of the 13th Vulcanospeleology Symposium, which was organized by the UIS Commission on Volcanic Caves and took place just before the meeting (from 1 to 5 September 2008). Andy Eavis thanked the organizers of the Symposium and the Commission for their efforts and congratulated them for the excellent international meeting.

The UIS president asked about the received apologies for the Bureau members who were absent. Fadi Nader (Secretary) informed the audience that all absent members had previously expressed that they could not attend this Bureau meeting.

George Veni showed the UIS Flag and its special bag (on which the “pins” from each upcoming congress are supposed to be placed).

2) Control of Minutes from Regular Session in 2007 (Aguadilla, Puerto Rico)

Paul Williams proposed a motion to accept the minutes of the preceding meeting that was held in Aguadilla (Puerto Rico) in 2007. George Veni seconded this motion and it was accepted by the Bureau.

The proposed agenda for this meeting was reviewed and the President asked for slight changes in the order of some featured items.



George and Pavel holding the UIS Flag (Jeju – Korea; September 6, 2008).

3) Previous meetings and events

a. Baltic Speleology Congress; 13-15 August 2007 Visby, Gotland SWEDEN (and General Assembly FSUE); <http://www.speleo.se/bsc/BSC%202007/Startpage.html>

Fadi Nader informed the Bureau that no Bureau members were able to attend the Baltic Speleology Congress that was held in Sweden. Urs Wildmer was present and was asked by Fadi Nader to represent the UIS.

b. 3rd Congress of the Argentinean Federation of Speleology (Feb. 2008)

In February 2008 Argentinian cavers held their 3rd National Congress in Malargüe, Mendoza Province, with the assistance of FEALC's Bureau, Carlos Bendetto and Efrain Mercado (UIS Adjunct Secretaries) and Jose-Ayrton Labegalini (UIS past President). During the congress Latin American speleologists held also an official meeting in order to organize the future FEALC strategies in the region. Principally, there was a suggestion to unify efforts and work together to support the new Paraguayan Speleological Organization and to face other problems of cave and karst protection in Brazil and Argentina (North Patagonia).

c. UIS-FSUE meeting (Paris; Feb. 16, 2008)

Fadi Nader informed the Bureau about the participation of Andy Eavis and Fadi Nader to the FSUE Bureau meeting, which took place in Paris and regrouped Carlos Lopez Casas (president of FSUE), Antonio, Olivier Vidal, Jean-Claude Thies, Ged Campion, Christianne Grebe. The results of this meeting were reported to the Bureau members earlier this year.

d. FFS elections (Lyon – France; May 17, 2008)

Fadi Nader informed the Bureau about his attendance to the General Assembly of the French Federation of Speleology in Lyon (on May 17, 2008) and the elections of the new FFS Bureau including the president (Laurence Tanguille).

e. Vercors 2008: the 4th European Speleo Congress (Lans, Aug. 23-31, 2008)

<http://vercors2008.ffspeleo.fr/>

Andy Eavis informed the Bureau about the UIS presence at Vercors 2008 including Andy Eavis (President), Fadi Nader (Secretary), George Veni and Roman Hapka (Adjunct Secretaries). Andy also shared some of his feedbacks over the European Federation General Assembly (now called Federation Speleologique Europeenne; FSE).

(4) Updates on the 15th ICS (Kerrville, USA) by G. Veni (<http://www.ics2009.us/>)

George Veni updated the Bureau members on the organization progress of the upcoming 15th ICS which will be held in Kerrville (Texas), between 19 and 26 July 2009.

- UIS Bureau members will get free registration and lodging during the congress. Pat presidents will get free registration.
- Participants from countries considered as “developing economy” (by the World Bank) will be refunded for visa costs whether they receive visa or not. Others may apply for visa refund (a limited amount of money is placed for such refunds in case visas are rejected). In addition, the ICS’s sponsors will receive free registrations that they may donate (e.g. to members of developing economy).

a. George Veni showed the 2nd Circular (<http://www.ics2009.us/2ndcirculares.html>) and discussed the overall status of the ICS.

- Deadline for submitting abstracts: December 1, 2008.
- The proceedings of the ICS 15 will be downloadable from the KIP (Karst Information Portal; <http://www.karstportal.org/>)
- The program was discussed and slight changes were recommended:
 - The first session of the UIS General Assembly is to be held just after the Opening Ceremony of the ICS on 19 July (Sunday) 2009
 - The last session of the UIS General Assembly will be held on the 26th of July (Sunday) 2009 and will cover the whole day.
 - Two Bureau meetings will be held between the two Assembly sessions (usually on Lunch time) and a Bureau meeting with the heads of the UIS Commissions and Working Groups.
 - A UIS meeting room, equipped with internet, computer and copying facilities, will be available during the congress.
- George showed the map of the Congress venue (<http://www.ics2009.us/campusmap.html>).

b. Day Pass Price:

G.V.: The current UIS policy is for day passes to cost one-third the amount of registration. There are concerns that it is too high and questions on if it is one third the early price, final price, or before or after optional discounts are removed.

DECISION 1: The Bureau agreed to wave the current ICS Guidelines concerning the day-passes and apply a ¼ of the early registration fee for one-day pass price.

ACTION 1: George Veni will review the ICS Guidelines after the 15th ICS and will propose changes based on experience.

c. 5-day Registration:

G.V.: One NSS Vice-President wants the UIS to consider offering a 5-day registration option for NSS members who normally go to 5-day NSS conventions. Others think that is bad idea.

DECISION 2: The Bureau agreed not to offer a 5-day registration option.

d. Photographs during presentations:

G.V.: We have noticed that some people take photographs of presentations, often capturing each slide. Sometimes this is awkward and not appropriate for the authors. I have been asked to find out if the Bureau will approve us creating policy that photos are not allowed without both the author's and session chairman's permission.

DECISION 3: The Bureau decided that taking photographs should not be allowed during sessions and presentations.

e. ICS Languages:

George Veni explained that if the accepted languages (for papers in proceedings) are other than English, the organizing team cannot guarantee that the proceedings will be ready before the Congress (i.e. 19th July 2009). He reminded the Bureau members that the deadline for abstracts being December 1, 2008, not enough time remains for searching for reviewers in all the disciplines who can review papers that are in other languages than English. The current program is scheduled in order to have proceedings ready by April 2009 (5 months after abstract deadline).

Andy Eavis addressed the audience and asked for compromises (keeping in mind that the proceedings should be ready before the ICS). Pavel Bosak and Paolo Forti suggested that the papers in proceedings to be in English, while presentations could be in UIS official languages (French, German, English, Spanish, Italian, Russian).

DECISION 4: While the ICS follows the UIS statutes and all UIS official languages are accepted, the participants are strongly advised to submit their articles in English to insure their inclusion in the Proceedings of the 15th ICS. Presentations are recommended to be in English to ensure wider exposure, yet those who would like to present their work in their native language (provided it is one of the six UIS official languages) they may do so, keeping in mind that the majority of the audience is English-speaking. All abstracts should be in English.

Kyung Sik WOO asked about movie languages: any language is accepted for movies, English subtitles are recommended.

Pavel Bosak suggested that all those who submit abstracts must be registered first in order to avoid review for people who eventually will not attend the congress.

DECISION 5: The Bureau agreed to strong suggestions to avoid GPS coordinates publication in the proceedings and articles that are controversial regarding the UIS Code of Ethics.

(5) UIS/UNESCO

Fadi Nader updated the Bureau members on his latest contacts and correspondence with UNESCO highlighting the possibility for launching a joint project with UNESCO and the European Speleological Federation for producing a children speleo book.

Fadi thanked Andrej Mihevc in providing “rapidly” a translated “Actes Juridiques de Reconnaissances de l’UIS” which was a necessary step in boosting the relationship with UNESCO.

Paul Williams suggested to contact ICSU and to ask to be affiliated to this scientific organization in order to be recognized by UNESCO.

Later in the evening, Fadi, Paul, Paolo and Stein-Erik met and Paul drafted a letter to be sent to ICSU asking for affiliation.

ACTION 2: Fadi Nader will send a letter (drafted by Paul Williams) to ICSU on the behalf of the UIS asking for affiliation of UIS to ICSU.

(6) UIS/IUCN

Fadi Nader showed the documents sent by Elery Hamilton-Smith concerning the IUCN task force on karst and a long discussion was carried out. Paul Williams explained the way IUCN operate for making decisions on world heritage sites and conservations.

ACTION 3: Fadi Nader will send a letter to Elery Hamilton-Smith informing him that the documents were received by UIS Bureau and were discussed.

ACTION 4: Fadi Nader will write a letter (drafted by Paul Williams) to the IUCN asking about the objectives and the foreseen future, purpose and composition of the Task Force. The letter will also enclose the will of the UIS to cooperate with IUCN for conservation of caves and karst.

(7) UIS/ISCA

David Summers (President of ISCA) addressed the UIS Bureau and tackled three main points:

- Draft Guidelines
- International Commission on History in Show Caves
- First Sustainable Forum of Show Caves (China)

David Summers explained that although the ‘Draft Guidelines for Management of Show Caves’ is due to the 13th of October 2008, it is a living document and never a “final” document. The document needs to be refined and will be discussed again in Kerrville in July 2009. The Guidelines are supposed to be signed in October 2010 in Slovakia during the ISCA convention. David Summers stated that ISCA is seeking for further collaboration with the committee set by the UIS Burea (Julia James, Paul Williams, and Stein-Erik Lauritzen) and comments are welcome.

David Summers informed the UIS Bureau that on the 7th of August 2008, ISCA formed the ‘International Commission on History in Show Caves’. The first president is the French, Joelle Dharcourt. The main objective of this commission is the fundamental conservation/preservation of pre-history artifacts in show caves.

After his attendance at the ‘First Sustainable Forum of Show Caves’ in China, David Summers shared his ideas with the UIS Bureau expressing his will to appoint a commission to deal with sustainable development in show caves.

Andy Eavis thanked David Summers for his efforts to attend the UIS Bureau meeting and welcomed these excellent news. Andy Eavis proposed to have an ISCA-UIS meeting at Kerrville (to discuss the Guidelines). David Summers will reply to Fadi Nader about the possibility to have ISCA officers during the 15th ICS in Kerrville 2009.

ACTION 5: Julia James, Paul Williams and Stein-Erik Lauritzen (sub-committee on the Code of Ethics) will review the ISCA Guidelines and will report their recommendations to Arrigo Cigna.

(8) Code of Ethics

Fadi Nader introduced this subject by informing the Bureau that French, Italian and Belgian cavers are asking for including in the Code of Ethics the “duties” of the host countries and to balance the rights and duties of the foreigners and locals. Fadi also stressed that after the very sad story of vandalism of Iceland volcanic caves (whose entrances GPS coordinates were published), an effort should be made to avoid publishing GPS coordinates of discovered caves.

Julia James, Paul Williams and Stein-Erik Lauritzen had worked (during the Jeju Symposium) on a document suggesting changes to the current UIS Code of Ethics. This document was discussed during the meeting. Some of the discussed comments are:

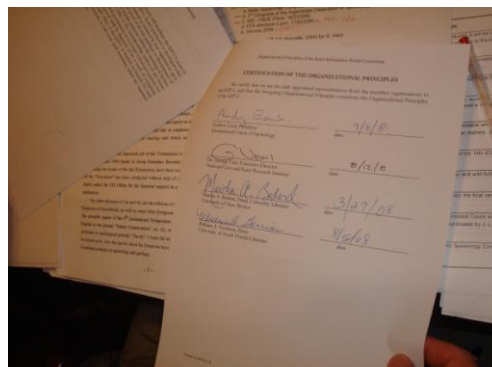
- The Bureau found that it is important for foreign cavers to contact always the UIS delegate **as well as** other people before and during exploration in a foreign country.
- The item related to ‘Development of Show Caves’ is to be left to ISCA (‘Guidelines’): a small paragraph introducing this subject and a link to ISCA’s Guidelines.
- Competition in caves: the wording of the proposed statement should be changed to “Ideally, competition should be avoided....otehrwise should be carried out only in already damaged caves, etc.”
- Scientific sampling: over-sampling is not allowed. A need to attract speleothem/paleoclimate scientists to the UIS (e.g. Karst Record Conference).

ACTION 6: Julia James, Paul Williams and Stein-Erik Lauritzen (sub-committee on the Code of Ethics) will finalize the proposed changes as soon as possible. These are going to be circulated to Delegates before Kerrville (July 2009). They will be proposed for voting in the General Assembly at Kerrville.

(9) Karst Information Portal Consortium

a. Signature of Consortium Agreement:

George Veni brought the Agreement form which was signed by all partners of the KIP Consortium. Andy Eavis signed the agreement.



Andy Eavis, President of the UIS, signing the KIP Agreement (Jeju – Korea; September 6, 2008).

b. ICS 15 Proceedings on the KIP:

G.V.: The ICS Organizing Committee has decided not to create a CD of the proceedings to distribute with the printed copies. Instead, we will put the digital version of the proceedings on the KIP so they will be freely accessible to the world and do the most good.

b. Archive for Speleothems on the KIP:

George Veni informed the Bureau members that the KIP will also include an archive for speleothems in the USA.

Paul Williams told George that for the “archives” there are two issues. The first is related to the samples and the other the corresponding data. He suggested that the KIP links to the NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association).

c. UIS Speleological Abstracts on the KIP:

G. V.: With the UIS signing the KIP agreement, the most meaningful and productive quick means of partnership is for the UIS to put all volumes of Speleological Abstracts on the KIP where they would be freely accessible to the world and completely and easily searchable. The SSS can and should continue to collect and review material, but instead of going to the expense and trouble of printing it, they would send their information to the KIP. I understand this is a very sensitive topic, but if Speleological Abstracts is a product of the UIS, then the Bureau has the right to make such decisions. I have long supported Speleological Abstracts, but they are not the property of the editors.

Fadi Nader answered that this is really a sensitive topic and that there are many people involved in the BBS. As a member of the UIS Bibliography Commission, Fadi explained the situation to the Bureau members, informing them that there is already a website for that commission and that the move to electronic publications was already discussed and would be eminent (probably no paper BBS will be produced after Kerrville 2009).

DECISION 6: Fadi Nader will present the idea of publishing the BBS on the KIP to Patrick Deriaz (Head of the Bibliography Commission) before Kerrville 2009.

(10) UIS Bureau 2009 Meeting (Kerrville, Texas)

DECISION 7:

The next UIS Bureau meeting (held in the UIS Meeting room at the Schreiner University – Venue of the 15th ICS in Kerrville, Texas) was scheduled as follows:

- Saturday July 18, 2009 @ 15:00
Only topics related to 1st General Assembly (Sunday 19/07/09)
- Two other meetings will be proposed in-situ. The Lunch-time is left for UIS meetings and business.
- Sunday July 26, 2009 meeting of the New Bureau – directly after 2nd G. Assembly.

(11) Peter Matthews' suggested amendments on the UIS Internal Regulations

Fadi Nader read through the comments and amendments of Peter Matthews on the UIS Internal Regulations. All were accepted by the Bureau Members.

Fadi Nader asked the Bureau, and was given the permission, to publish the amended Internal Regulations on the UIS website.

ACTION 7: Fadi Nader will publish on the UIS website the amended UIS Internal regulations.

(Misc. #1) Comment by Pavel Bosak

Pavel Bosak asked to stress a violation to the UIS Tradition with the fact that Alexander Klimchouk (Vice-President of the UIS) is also organizing a scientific conference related to karst and caves within the same year of the ICS (2009). Klimchouk's conference on hypogene speleogenesis is planned for may 2009, while the 15th ICS will be in July 2009. This will definitely decrease the number of scientists to contribute to the upcoming ICS. Pavel Bosak suggested to Andy Eavis to write a letter to Alexander Klimchouk.

Fadi Nader reminded the Bureau that he (as Secretary General does not receive letters or information about activities of the UIS Commissions and Working Groups)!

ACTION 8: Andy Eavis will write a letter to Alexander Klimchouk asking him about the reasons for organizing a scientific speleological conference in the same year of the 15th ICS and looking for optimal solutions.

SESSION 2: SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2008

(12) Workflow of the UIS Bureau

a. UIS Bureau Forum

Fadi Nader showed the Bureau members the UIS Forum and explained how practical it is, provided that all Bureau members use it. All UIS Bureau members had already registered in the Forum, except Pavel Bosak and Roman Hapka. Fadi asked the Bureau what to do! Especially that the people at the Informatics Commission worked hard to put up the forum according to the request of the Bureau (at the previous meeting, Aguadilla 2007).

Fadi Nader explained the different levels of the Forum with the highest level being for Bureau, a second level for Delegates and Commissions, and then for all cavers. While the Bureau members can view communications of the other levels, nobody can see the Bureau Forum level, etc.

Stein-Erik Lauritzen said that the Forum is the future of communication intra-Bureau. Paolo Forti suggested that both email-communication and Forum could be applied until the next Bureau (after Kerrville 2009), which will decide to move only to Forum communication.

DECISION 8: Fadi Nader will keep sending emails to Roman Hapka and Pavel Bosak, while the rest of the Bureau will use the Forum.
P.S.: All confidential issues will be circulated via emails

ACTION 9: Fadi Nader will send a letter to Manuel Freire and Peter Matthews thanking them on the behalf of the UIS Bureau for their efforts.

b. UIS Website

Fadi Nader showed the Bureau members the new UIS Website constructed by Manuel Freire. The Bureau members were impressed with the proposed website and accepted the changes. A request for minimum words and heavy photos and the possibility to have windows for voting was made unanimously.

ACTION 10: Fadi Nader will inform Manuel Freire that the proposed website is accepted and ask him to take into consideration the Bureau requests for minimum words, light photos and attachments and windows for voting.

c. UIS Bulletin

Fadi Nader showed the recent UIS Bulletin (issue of July 2008) and explained his idea of forming a team of ‘co-editors’ to help in having entries from different countries with different languages.

Andy Eavis suggested to use the title “contributors” rather than “co-editors”, the editor of the UIS Bulletin being the Secretary General according to Internal Regulations.

Pavel Bosak suggested not including the UIS Calendar in the Bulletin as it is on the website and to ask commissions to send yearly reports (which will be published in the Bulletin). Pavel informed that the Bulletin should include changes in national delegates, obituaries, and short review of publications. He stressed that entries could be in any of the UIS official languages.

ACTION 11: Fadi Nader will form the team of “contributors” and will continue preparing the Bulletin following the requests and suggestions of the Bureau. Next issue will be circulated in December 2008.

d. UIS Commissions

Fadi Nader asked that somebody should follow-up commissions. Some commissions are very active others are silent.

ACTION 12: J.-A. Labegalini will follow up commissions until the election of the next Bureau in Kerrville (USA) in 2009. He will keep Fadi Nader informed about communications with commissions.

George Veni informed the Bureau about the advances concerning the Atlas of the Great Caves of the World (Pat Kambesis), explaining that the Atlas will not be completed by July 2009 (Kerrville ICS). Fadi Nader also informed the Bureau that the Spanish Federation is proposing a new person to re-activate the Commission on Longest and Deepest Caves.

Fadi Nader read the letter of the Pseudokarst Commission requesting financial help to print the Commission Newsletter.

ACTION 13: Fadi Nader will write a letter to the President of the Pseudokarst Commission (Jan Urban) congratulating him for his appointment and thanking him for the work of the Commission and advising him to publish the newsletter electronically rather than printing it on papers.

e. UIS Delegates

The general assessment of the Bureau about the UIS delegates is controversial. While according to the UIS statutes (Article 2) the UIS delegate is an individual that can represent the cavers of his/her country, many countries are represented by organizations (e.g. Federations). Any member-country of the UIS has only one vote and the naming a delegate is a national issue.

The UIS annual country fees, can be paid by anyone from a certain country, yet in case of problems between cavers the right of voting will be cancelled and the representatives of the country (i.e. the delegate) will not be allowed to vote during General Assemblies.

A need to explain the rights and role of delegates is necessary and will be done in the next UIS ICS (Kerrville – USA, 2009).

(13) Finance

a. Accounting Table

Pavel Bosak distributed a paper showing a Summary-Table of accounts (USD and Euro accounts) of the UIS. The ending balance for 2008 is 38,132.61 USD and 2,949.66 Euros. These figures are alarming and if the situation is not remediated in 8 years UIS will be bankrupt!

b. Payments of Member-Countries

P.B.: For those paying in cash – my proposal is to add 20 % more for bank transfers (I cannot hold cash money except CZK – Czech currency, which was approved by Auditors during the last Congress – so we have to send cash money to our bank account as soon as possible after obtaining – this service something costs). Proposal to accept some motion – all payments must be arranged via cashier/treasurer, especially acceptance of postal/bank cheques.

A general agreement was clearly stressed about the need to increase member countries annual fees and to ask member countries to pay their past and future dues (on a 4-year basis) in Kerville at the General Assembly (July, 2009).

c. Audit expenses

Pavel Bosak explained that we are paying 1000 Euros every year for audit and accounting in Slovenia. He stressed that this amount is too high with respect of the service, yet it is obligatory (according to Slovenian laws).

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e. Shelves in Postojna Room

P.B.: BUDGET for 2009 – purchase of shelves and bookstores to UIS room in Postojna (maybe will be granted by the Institute, but I officially asked the Director to make budget – several hundreds of Euros).

f. Financial Requests

- The BBS requests for 1,500 Euros – granted
- The Bureau is committed to financially support the IJS.
- Andy Eavis asked if it is possible to get refunded for the 1,000 Euros he paid for supporting Vercors 2008. His request was accepted.

f. Situation after the ICS 15 (July, 2009)

Pavel Bosak explained that if Prof. Nadja Zupan Hanja (Karst Institute Slovenia) accepts to be on the next Bureau, the treasury issue will be solved as we need somebody to be located in Slovenia. He proposed Prof. Zupan Hanja to take over the Treasurer's duties as he is looking forward to retire from UIS Bureau.

DECISION 9: The UIS Bureau decided to appoint a sub-committee made up of A. Eavis, P. Bosak and F. Nader to follow up UIS Financial issues.

ACTION 14: The appointed sub-committee will visit Postojna in December 2008.

(14) Running Projects

a. UIS Book

J.-A. Labegalini distributed a proposed table of contents for the proposed book on the UIS.

J.-A.L.: I finished of consulting my bibliography for this work, all the 51 issues of the UIS-Bulletin (issue by issue and line by line of each one), nine ICS Proceedings, besides other publications and books. I am learning much about the UIS history; it is being possible to do a diagnosis and a prognostic of the UIS. Yet, I have some concerns concerning the time-table and I am afraid the book cannot be finalized before the upcoming ICS in Kerrville (2009).

Fadi Nader suggested that the work done by Labegalini is excellent, but not all should be included in the book.

Julia James accepted to edit the book only after the draft is completed.

Paolo Forti answered the question raised by Labegalini concerning the need for photos by reassuring the latter that this is not a problem and that photos can be provided. He also told Labegalini that he can send him a list of material still needed from the Speleological Library in Bologna and the data could be prepared by the person in charge of the Library.

DECISION 10: The UIS Bureau decided to appoint a sub-committee to follow-up the Book preparation. This will be constituted by Pavel Bosak, Arrigo Cigna and Fadi Nader.

b. Power Point Presentation

Paolo Forti showed an example of the proposed Power-Point Project by the Italian Speleological Society and asked for help.

The Bureau and Paolo Forti sorted out an English translation of the Project Title: “Teaching Resources for Speleology and Karst”

Paolo Forti stressed that all help, suggestions and comments (especially for English language and also proposed photos and data in order to have a more international aspect of the Presentations) should be received by the Italian organizers before February 2009.

ACTION 15: George Veni will ask the organizers board of the 15th ICS about the possibility to include a DVD with the presentations for all participants of the Congress.

(15) Department of Protection and Management

Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns (President of the UIS Departement of Protection and Management of Caves) discussed the actions made with Barbel Vogel (President of the German Speleological Federation) and Christiane Grebe (officer of the European Speleological Federation) towards cave protection in Europe. Meetings were held at

the European Parliament in Brussels (with Spanish Deputy) in an attempt to draft a European law for cave protection (examples of the drafted documents were circulated to Bureau members).

The European Speleological Federation had also asked for the use of the UIS Logo.

Andy Eavis suggested that this issue should be delegated to Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns. The Bureau accepted and thanked Jean-Pierre.

DECISION 11: The UIS Bureau accepts to grant the use of the UIS Logo and full-support to the proposed work towards a European legislation concerning cave protection. The Bureau delegates Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns to follow-up this matter and keep the Bureau informed of results.

ACTION 16: Andy Eavis will write an official letter to Christiane Grebe thanking her for her efforts towards cave protection.

(16) New Member Countries

a. Philippine

Contacts with Philippine cavers (about 100) were initialized by Kyung Sik WOO. Fadi Nader had received the request by email of the President of the Association.

ACTION 17: Fadi Nader will ask an official letter of request to become a UIS member country of the UIS and will explain about the modes of membership. This should be done before the next General Assembly. Kyung Sik will assist Fadi in this matter (by November 2008)

b. Malaysia

Fadi Nader showed the Bureau members an official letter from Hymer, requesting to become a member country of the UIS.

ACTION 18: Fadi Nader will send a letter to Malaysia Association (M. Hymer) to inform that UIS has received the official request and that their request will be processed as usual (to be voted at the upcoming General Assembly of the UIS).

c. Iran

Fadi Nader will investigate about the possibilities for the Iranian cavers to request That Iran becomes a UIS member-country, after the UIS expedition to Iran (23 September to 7 October, 2008).

d. Paraguay and Honduras

J.-A. Labegalini disclosed that there is an agreement that the Paraguay and Honduras cavers will request to be member-countries of the UIS.

At this time David Summers thanked all Bureau Members and left the meeting.

(17) Proposed Projects/Ideas

a. Cave Biology Commission

George Veni transmitted the idea of proposing a UIS Cave Biology Commission at the upcoming UIS General Assembly.

G.V.: There is interest by some cave biologists in the US to create a Cave Biology Commission for the UIS. I will convey the comments of the UIS Bureau to the biologists for their discussion at the International Symposium on Subterranean Biology in Perth (Australia) at the end of September. They will then discuss the idea with the international community of cave biologists to see if there is international interest in this proposal. If so, they will propose to form a commission next year.

Pavel Bosak and Paolo Forti explained that a Commission on Cave Biology existed long time ago, and then decided to walk away from UIS.

ACTION 19: Fadi Nader will send an official letter to the existing bodies and to ask them to collaborate with UIS.

b. Children Speleo-Book

Fadi Nader discussed about the proposed Children Speleo-Book. He explained that this project will be run by the UIS Department on Education in collaboration with the European Federation of Speleology and the UNESCO. He showed the proposal technical summary and introduced the requested budget from UNESCO.

(18) Varia

a. UNESCO Protected World Heritage Sites

Paul Williams explained about the policies of the IUCN and UNESCO regarding the List of World Heritage Sites and invited the Bureau members to check the suggested sites in the last IUCN publication on World Heritage Caves and Karst. This publication is made by Paul Williams for the IUCN.

Andy Eavis thanked Paul Williams for his efforts and expressed the Bureau will to help and support.

b. UIS Prizes

Julia James informed the Bureau about the Poster Prizes for the next ICS (Kerrville, 2009). Two categories of posters will be invited (scientific and popular/caving) which need two judging committees.

Julia showed an example of certificate to be printed in Kerrville and given to the winners (with 250 USD for the winners).

There was also a suggestion for Awards for commissions. Fadi Nader suggested that the Commission Awards should be group-awards and not for individuals. George Veni also suggested to check the categories of NSS awards (on website).

ACTION 20: Julia James will animate a discussion on Awards on UIS Forum.

(19) Future Policies of the UIS

a. Policies of the UIS towards Regional Organizations

Andy Eavis suggested that the UIS has to review its relationship with regional speleological divisions: UIS cannot compete with them, should not ignore them and all organization ought to work together. Therefore, the UIS and such divisions like FEALC, FSE and others need to split the world into a hierarchical order, with the regional division being in the heart of the UIS.

- Ultimately, the presidents of the regional divisions should be members of the UIS Bureau

Andy Eavis asked for suggestions from the Bureau Members.

Fadi Nader stressed for the need for a future vision concerning the relationship with such organizations.

Pavel Bosak explained that since long time, presidents of such organization are frequently invited to UIS Bureau meetings. He also raised the question about policies regarding “small” regional federations (e.g. Baltic, Balkan, Central America).

Julia James agreed that the proper direction would be to have regional divisions within the UIS.

Andy Eavis concluded that presidents of such divisions could be observers at the UIS Bureau. While Claude Mouret reminded that in the Bureau, only one vote is granted for each country.

The Bureau discussed thoroughly this matter and the issues related to the next Bureau after the 15th ICS in Kerrville.

b. Concerns about the UIS

George Veni proposed that if things continue in the same actual direction, in twenty years the UIS will become obsolete. Changes should be made immediately and the UIS Forum and Website should be renovated and appealing for the base cavers. George added that “good” people should be supported.

Stein Erik suggested to invite people to join the UIS.

Fadi Nader added that the role of the UIS Bureau should be to narrow the gap between the UIS and the world cavers.

Paolo Forti stressed that because of this gap, other regional organization took the place of the UIS, as the local and regional cavers deemed UIS as not useful.

Paul Williams affirmed that the Informatics Commission is the key for bridging the gap with base-cavers. Through this Commission, the worldwide cavers will know about the UIS.

Julia added that throughout the years, the UIS lost its scientists and failed to attract cave sportsmen. She asked the question: are we going to get back speleo-scientists and do we want the sport-cavers? She also added that with Andy Eavis, J.-A.

Labegalini, and F. Nader the situation is changing and we are getting back the base-cavers.

Fadi Nader affirmed that the UIS should care about both: scientists and sport-cavers.

George Veni informed the Bureau that the 1981 ICS changed his life and revealed a career for him as hydrogeologist which led him to the position of director of the national karst research institute in the US.

Then an idea of having a UIS booth at Kerrville (in the next ICS) was discussed. Kyung Sik Woo will take care of the UIS Booth and Fadi Nader will inform all UIS delegates about that Booth. Paul suggested having a list of universities with speleological research venues for students. Paolo Forti suggested a schedule of attendance to the booth of UIS officers.

DECISION 12: The UIS Bureau decided to have a UIS Booth at the ICS 15 in Kerrville (USA), to have UIS officers meeting base cavers and to inform interested cavers about the UIS and possibilities for research. Kyung Sik Woo will be in charge of that booth.

c. ICS after Kerrville (USA)

Andy Eavis declared that to date two requests were formally received: Czech and British candidates for the ICS16.

Andy added that he knows (after Vercors) that the French cavers may be interested in proposing their candidacy, so he proposed that the deadline for accepting formal requests for organizing the ICS to be postponed until the end of October 2008. Pavel Bosak seconded this motion and the Bureau unanimously accepted.

DECISION 13: The UIS Bureau decided to postpone the deadline for accepting requests to organize the 16th ICS to the end of October 2008.

(20) Closure

Andy Eavis closed the UIS Bureau meeting in Jeju Island (Republic of Korea) on the 7th of September 2008 at around 18:00, by saying that the two-day meeting, “were the best two days of bureau meeting I’ve ever attended...” He thanked all UIS Bureau officers for working positively for the UIS, caves and karst.

A fund raise also took place to support the IJS.