

## UIS BUREAU MEETINGS AT THE 15<sup>th</sup> ICS

July 18-26, 2009

Schreiner University – Texas (USA)

	<b>Attendance: Session 1</b> <i>Saturday July 18 at 15h00 and Sunday July 19, 2009 at 12h30 local time</i>
<b>President</b>	Andrew James EAVIS
<b>Vice-Presidents</b>	Pavel BOSAK Alexander KLIMCHOUK
<b>Secretary General</b>	Fadi NADER
<b>Adjunct Secretaries</b>	Stein-Erik LAURITZEN Efrain MERCADO Andrej MIHEVC Kyung Sik WOO George VENI Paul WILLIAMS
<b>Honorary &amp; Past-President</b>	Derek FORD Paolo FORTI Julia JAMES J.-A. LABEGALINI
<b>Bureau members not in attendance</b>	Carlos BENEDETTO, Roman HAPKA
<b>FSE</b>	Juan Carlos LOPEZ CASAS (President), Olivier VIDAL (Secretary), Manuel FREIRE (Treasurer)
<b>ISCA, President</b>	David SUMMERS

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

Andy Eavis thanked all participants for coming to Kerrville. He informed the Bureau that Roman Hapka and Carlos Benedetto had apologized for not being able to come to the Bureau Meetings and General Assembly at the 15<sup>th</sup> ICS. Andy Eavis thanked George Veni and the organizers of the 15<sup>th</sup> ICS for their efforts and congratulated them for the excellent congress.

The Agenda of the Meetings during the Congress were then approved by the present Bureau members.

### **2) Control of Minutes from Regular Session in 2008 (Jeju Island, Rep. Korea)**

Fadi Nader proposed a motion to accept the minutes of the preceding meeting that was held on Jeju Island (Republic of Korea) in 2008. Andy Eavis seconded this motion and it was accepted by the Bureau.

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

### **3) Previous meetings and events**

#### ***a. Visit of Postojna / Karst Research Institute (UIS headquarter) and re-arranging financial situation (Postojna, Slovenia – 3 to 6 December, 2008);***

Andy Eavis informed the Bureau about the visit to Postojna that took place at the end of the last year, during which Andy Eavis, Pavel Bosak, Fadi Nader and Andrej Mihevc met, visited the Karst institute and the breathtaking karst, cavers and officials, and assessed/re-arranged the financial situation of the UIS account. Andrej Mihevc is acknowledged and thanked for the warm welcome and excellent program. Details are published in UIS Bulletin No. 51-3 (Dec. 2008).

<http://www.uis-speleo.org/uisb513.pdf>

#### ***b. International Conference on Hypogene Speleogenesis and Karst Hydrogeology of Artesian Basins (Ukraine – 12 to 17 May, 2009);***

<http://network.speleogenesis.info/directory/conferences/hypogene/>

Andy Eavis informed the Bureau about his attendance to the Hypogene Speleogenesis conference held in Ukraine and organized by Alexander Klimchouk

### **4) Preparation for the General Assembly (Agenda)**

The Agenda of both sessions of the General Assembly was reviewed and amended to fit with the current situation (the minutes of the General Assembly will be the subject of a separate report).

Some important issues discussed concerning the General Assembly at the 15<sup>th</sup> ICS:

#### 1- The situation of Croatia:

Fadi Nader informed the Bureau that he received a letter from the mountaineering federation in Croatia asking to be represented at the UIS similarly/equally to the speleological federation (headed by Mladen Garasic, who is also the actual UIS delegate of Croatia).

After long discussion, the Bureau decided to still consider Mladen Garasic as delegate of Croatia and to ask the Croatian cavers to find viable solutions for their internal problems. The UIS has an obligation to support, by principle, the national speleological organizations rather than mountaineering bodies.

#### 2- New Member countries:

Fadi Nader informed the Bureau that official requests for joining the UIS were received from Jamaica, Paraguay, Costa Rica; while less official demands were also received from or on the behalf of Honduras and Philippines.

The Bureau decided to keep the proposals of Jamaica and Paraguay and to ask the General Assembly to vote on their acceptance as new UIS member countries.

For Costa Rica, which is already a member country of the UIS with a heavy debt (no payment in the last years), since a new national organization is now active and requests to reactivate the country's membership to UIS, the Bureau will cancel all debts and welcome Costa Rica again (they still have to pay for this year, i.e. 2009/50 US Dollars).

3- Proposal of Adolfo Eraso:

This is mainly concerning the Commission on Glacial Caves and Karst in Polar Regions. Adolfo proposed to merge GLACKIPR and IWGIC (Working Group on Ice Caves). And he asked the Bureau to think about an appropriate name.

The Bureau accepts the motion to merge both groups and proposes the following name for the new merged commission: “GLACIER, FIRN AND ICE CAVES COMMISSION”

4- Commissions and Working Groups:

Fadi Nader informed the Bureau that with the help of J.-A. Labegalini, almost all the Commissions and Working Groups were contacted, sent reports or replies. Only the commissions on “Archeology and Paleontology in Caves” and “Materials and Techniques” did not respond. While the first is known to be active (a symposium is scheduled at this ICS!) – David Hubbard (co-president) will be approached to settle this matter, the Commission on Materials and Techniques has been silent for long time and a decision should be made whether to keep it or not.

The Bureau approved a motion forwarded by Andy Eavis, who suggested to keep the commission and find a person who would be keen or re-activating it.

**(5) Review of Finances (Pavel Bosak)**

Pavel Bosak ran through the detailed budget and expenses which he also presented to the General Assembly and suggested the following (which was approved by Bureau and proposed for voting at the General Assembly):

- For all future payments (as of the year 2010), the operating currency will be the Euro rather than the US Dollar, keeping the same rates for categories A, B and C.
- Member countries can still pay in advance their fees (for the upcoming years) according to previous US Dollars-rates until the end of 2009.
- Healthy treasury involves stable payments by member countries rather than sporadic payments. Delegates should be encouraged to settle payments in a systematic way (e.g. every year).
- Other means of funding must be found, the UIS treasury cannot survive only from member countries fees.

**(6) Code of Ethics**

The UIS Code of Ethics was prepared mainly by Stein-Erik Lauritzen with the help of Paul Williams and Julia James. Yet, the document is not considered to be finished and was termed as a “working document”. Paul Williams proposed to add “working document” to the title of the code of ethics in order to avoid ambiguities.

The Bureau decided that the new Code of Ethics would benefit of a last review by Julia, Paul and Derek together with Stein-Erik before distributing it to the National Delegates on Thursday 23 July (during the UIS Bureau meeting with National Delegates). The latter delegates are urged to take the document with them home and to discuss it with their national communities and suggest appropriate changes.

The new deadline for voting the new Code of Ethics as an official UIS document will be next ICS (16<sup>th</sup>) in Brno (Czech Republic) in 2013.

### **(7) UIS Prizes**

Fadi Nader reported that Julia James took care of preparing the UIS prizes (Poster-, Book-, and Exploration-Prizes). She had prepared certificates (and frames) and will need to finalize them in Kerrville. She made sure that all will be ready for presentation at the ICS Banquet at the Congress.

### **(8) Varia I**

Fadi Nader informed the Bureau members about the last correspondence and exchange of letters (emails) with some member countries – various news are already published in the last three UIS Bulletins (see <http://www.uis-speleo.org/publicat.html#uisbulletin>):

1- Congreso Centroamericano de Espeleologia (CCE II; Guatemala 2011):  
Ferdinando Didonna (Coordinator of ICEKE Project / Instituto Centroamericano de Estudios Karsticos y Espeleologicos) asked the symbolic patronage of the UIS in order to promote the 2<sup>nd</sup> CCE.

This demand was also discussed with FEALC officers and decision was postponed to the second session of the UIS Bureau Meeting (after election of new Bureau).

2- International Advanced Training for Iranian Cavers in Lebanon (16-30 September 2009):

Fadi Nader informed the Bureau that the International Speleological Expedition to Iran (ISEI 2008) was excellent and he distributed a letter from the Iranian cavers who benefited from the UIS expedition, expressing their thanks and gratefulness. Fadi Nader also forwarded an official request from the Speleo-Club Du Liban to symbolic and financial support to organize an advance training session for a team of some ten Iranian cavers in Lebanon. Due to the actual political situation, Iranian cavers can more easily travel to Lebanon rather than to other countries.

The UIS Bureau accepted to grant this project support and a financial help of 1,000 US Dollars.

3- Message from Barbel Vogel, President of the German Speleological Federation (VdHK):

Barbel Vogel sent a letter apologizing for not being able to come to the ICS 15 and attend the general assemblies. She suggested also that the UIS Bureau works on setting up networks with non-speleo partners (e.g. politicians, scientists, NGOs) and be present in the international arena (e.g. UNEP, IUCS), demands that the trade of speleothems to be prohibited worldwide, and recommended the re-set of the UIS website and webpages to be more attractive and user-friendly

4- Message from Hayatullah Khan Durrani, Delegate of Pakistan at the UIS:  
A letter/email was sent to Fadi Nader and George Veni, in which Hayatullah expresses his thanks for all efforts spent to make it possible for him to attend the 15<sup>th</sup> ICS and the General Assemblies. He also apologized for finally not being able to come due to various problems. He asked Fadi Nader to brief the Bureau members and the General Assembly about Pakistan.

5- Message from Carlos Benedetto, UIS Delegate of Argentina and UIS Adjoint-Secretary:

Fadi Nader read the letter that was sent by Carlos Benedetto (to Andy Eavis and Fadi Nader), in which Carlos apologized for not being able to come to Kerrville and whereby he appoints Juan Carlos Lopez Casas to represent Argentina in the General Assembly. Several points were also related to the Agenda of the meetings and recommendation of new member countries (discussed above). Besides, requests for official UIS letters of support. Several items of this letter were forwarded for the next elected Bureau.



For the first time in the UIS history, the UIS flag was raised at the opening ceremony of the 15<sup>th</sup> ICS in front of Dietert Auditorium (Schreiner University, Kerrville – Texas).

	<b>Attendance: Session 2</b> <i>Sunday July 26 at 14h00 local time (after second session of General Assembly and election of new Bureau)</i>
<b>President</b>	Andrew James EAVIS
<b>Vice-Presidents</b>	Christian DODELIN George VENI (absent)
<b>Secretary General</b>	Fadi NADER
<b>Adjunct Secretaries</b>	Giovanni BADINO Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS Aleksander KLIMCHOUK Stein-Erik LAURITZEN Efrain MERCADO Kyung Sik WOO Paul WILLIAMS Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA
<b>Honorary &amp; Past-President</b>	Pavel BOSAK Arrigo CIGNA Derek FORD Julia JAMES J.-A. LABEGALINI
<b>Past Bureau Members and Guests</b>	Andrej MIHEVC; Peter MATTHEWS
<b>FSE</b>	Juan Carlos LOPEZ CASAS (President)

**(9) Welcoming New Bureau Members**

Andy Eavis started the second session of the Bureau meeting (and the first meeting with the new elected Bureau) in Kerrville by welcoming all new Bureau members and thanking all previous members for their work and dedication to the UIS. He asked Fadi Nader to prepare letters of thanking to all members who left the actual Bureau.

After the election at the second session of the General Assembly at the 15<sup>th</sup> ICS, Christian Dodelin (France), Giovanni Badino (Italy), Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns (Belgium), and Nadja Zupan Hajna (Slovenia) joined the Bureau. Some shuffling in position occurred as George Veni was elected as Vice-President and Alexander Klimchouk as Adjoint Secretary. Pavel Bosak was elected by the General Assembly as Honorary Bureau Member.

Andy Eavis noted that in the previous years the Bureau has continuously evolved into better, efficient and pleasant working group. He expressed his delight for the new excellent Bureau.

**(10) Workflow of the UIS Bureau (F. Nader)**

***a. UIS Bureau FORUM – Communication intra-Bureau:***

Fadi Nader informed the Bureau members that the FORUM is already set and ready for all future communication intra-Bureau. He explained how the system works and invited all Bureau members to make use of this tool.

All UIS Bureau communication are to be made by means of the FORUM, except for extra-confidential issues which are usually not to be discussed among the whole team and could be the subject to emails. The FORUM can be accessed through <http://www.uis-speleo.org/forum>

Fadi Nader also explained that those who did not register need to be patient after their first registration is done (i.e. they have to wait one or two weeks), as their account still needs to be activated. They will be notified by email.

Andy Eavis asked Fadi Nader to send an email with brief instructions on how to register to all Bureau members; and to try to add “online instructions” that help the users. A question was raised concerning whether the FORUM is protected against robots. Peter Matthews replied reassuring everybody that indeed we are protected.

***b. UIS Website :***

Fadi Nader informed the Bureau members that the new website will be online in one or two weeks after the 15<sup>th</sup> ICS (definitely by mid-August). He explained that the website management is the responsibility of the Secretary General and the Vice-President (for Operations). He asked for help concerning the activation and the publicity for checking the website.

***c. UIS Bulletin:***

Fadi Nader informed the Bureau members that the Bulletin is published every six months on the website. He asked the Bureau members to send him important news to be added in the Bulletin.

***d. Follow-up of Commissions:***

Fadi Nader asked the Bureau members for help concerning the heavy work related to follow-up of commissions, ICS and website. He suggested to follow the guidelines of the Internal Regulations and share the responsibilities with Vice Presidents.

Christian Dodelin (VP) accepted to follow up commissions, while George Veni could follow up the 16<sup>th</sup> ICS in Brno and share with the organizers of the upcoming congress some tips and lessons learnt during the organization of the 15<sup>th</sup> ICS. He may as well help with the follow-up of the website (which is mainly done by the webmaster Manuel Freire).

***d. Follow-up of National Delegates, National and Regional Organizations:***

Fadi Nader asked the Bureau members for help concerning the heavy work related to follow-up of National Delegates, National and Regional Organizations. Four Adjoint Secretaries proposed to help in order to make the link with the delegates and organizations:

Efrain Mercado: Latin America and the Caribbean countries (+FEALC)

Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns: European countries (+FSE)

Kyung Sik Woo: Asian countries

Paul Williams: Australia and New Zealand

**(11) Running Projects:**

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

Jose Ayrton Labegalini informed the Bureau that the book project is well on its way and he estimated two more years to finish. Hence, we may think about its distribution at the upcoming 16<sup>th</sup> ICS in the Czech Republic.

Further collaboration and work will be done by the subcommittee made up by J.-A. Labegalini, A. Cigna, P. Bosak and F. Nader to finalize this project.

***b. Power-Point Presentations Project (G. Badino):***

Giovanni Badino briefly informed the bureau about this project (which was the subject of a presentation during the congress to which most of the Bureau members attended).

Paul Williams suggested that Fadi Nader should draft a letter of thanks and recognition to the authors of this project (Italian Speleological Society). This motion was maintained by the Bureau.

***c. UIS/UNESCO:***

Paul Williams explained our current situation concerning the affiliation to ICSU. Fadi Nader had already received letters of support from both IUGS and IGU (both affiliated to ICSU). So, what remains is to take a decision to fill in the application for affiliation to the ICSU. Paul Williams explained that this will cost the UIS some 500 Euros per year. Derek Ford strongly suggested that we seize the chance and get affiliated to ICSU.

The UIS Bureau voted positively to pay 500 Euros per year and to apply for affiliation to ICSU. Paul Williams will prepare the application forms and will contact Fadi Nader in order to submit the application in due time (before August 23, 2009).

Nadja Zupan Hajna suggested that since UIS has an address in Slovenia, we should try to ask to be refunded by the Slovenian Science Academy for the 500 Euros membership fees at ICSU.

**(12) Finances**

In addition to what has been already discussed about the Finances (see above), the following steps are recommended by the new Bureau:

- 1- Pavel Bosak will finalize all pending papers and financial matters by 29 September 2009 and will subsequently forward the full financial registry to Nadja Zupan Hajna.
- 2- String recommendations to follow the instructions made by the audit during the General Assembly (see Minutes of the General Assembly, separate document)
- 3- Prepare invoices to be sent to member countries (Nadja and Fadi)



Nadja Zupan Hajna (who will be acting treasurer) asked for an updated table with countries and their debts – she also suggested to publish this table on FORUM. The motion was maintained by the Bureau.

Fadi Nader will write an official letter to Nadja asking her to act as Treasurer of the UIS, according to the UIS statutes and Internal Regulations.

### **(13) Code of Ethics**

In addition to what has been already discussed about the Code of Ethics (see above), the new Bureau strongly recommended to publish the exiting working document on the UIS website and to ask for suggestions and amendments. The deadline for working on the Code of Ethics is set to the first day of September 2010. Stein-Erik Lauritzen will compile all recommendations and suggestions.

### **(14) Varia II**

Several miscellaneous items were also discussed as well:

#### 6- Speleogenesis under EBSCO:

Alexander Klimchouk asked for permission to sign a contract with EBSCO so that the electronic journal SPELEOGENESIS would be part of the EBSCO network. The Bureau members gave the authorization to A. Klimchouk to sign the contract.

#### 7- Future of IJS:

The IJS team had a special meeting at the 15<sup>th</sup> ICS and they explained that the Italian Speleological Society can still support the IJS for only two more years. A need to find solutions is necessary now.

-The UIS Bureau thanked the efforts of Joe De Waele for the IJS and strongly recommend to (1) investigate all possibilities (including an emerging idea of getting an offer from Berkley) and (2) get legal advice from professionals.

-The UIS Bureau also requested that the Advisory Committee look into the situation of the IJS and all its aspects and reports to the next UIS Bureau meeting.

#### 8- Requests from Brazil:

First the Brazilian delegates requested the UIS to change their category as a member country (from B to C) and this since the year 2006.

- Efrain Mercado will investigate this request and ask the Brazilians for explanations.

Second the Brazilian delegates also asked the UIS for help and support to oppose a new national law about caves without the collaboration of local cavers.

- Fadi Nader proposed that Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns (head of the Protection Department and current Adjoint Secretary) handle this affair. Since Jean-Pierre will be in Brazil in September 2009, he could investigate about this issue.

- Paul Williams proposed that “the UIS respectfully ask that the Brazilian authorities to ask/consult the experts of the Brazilian Speleological Federations”.
- Pavel Bosak suggested also to find out the point of view of non-cavers (e.g. the Ibama quarries) and Stein-Erik Lauritzen commented that this situation could be a golden chance for local cavers to get income out of consultancy jobs.
- Following the September mission of Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns, Paul’s suggestion could be the subject of an official letter.

The UIS Bureau delegates Jean-Pierre Bartoleyns to investigate in-situ this matter during his upcoming trip to Brazil in September 2009.

9- Request from Philippines:

This is related to a call from cavers from the Philippines regarding the speleothems imported from China and sold in Philippines.

- Kyung Sik Woo is asked to investigate to whom we should send a letter in China (Speleological Society, Institute of Karst, etc.).
- A letter will be drafted by Paul Williams, signed and sent by Andy Eavis.

10- Costa Rica and the Congreso Centroamericano de Espeleologia (CCE II; Guatemala 2011):

FEALC representative (Efrain Mercado) strongly recommended not to grant this event the UIS support, since it did not receive yet the FEALC support.

- The UIS Bureau asked Efrain Mercado to initiate discussions with the Costa Rica cavers about this issue and to try to find solutions.
- The UIS Bureau will wait until the FEALC and Costa Rica sort out the problems concerning this congress.

11- UIS Fellowship (Paul Williams):

Paul Williams proposed to set a “UIS Fellowship” as a way to honor outstanding speleologists. He explained that other than the title, we could grant those special people of our community free ICS registrations.

- The UIS Bureau will discuss this proposal during the next Bureau meeting.

**(11) UIS Bureau 2010 meeting (12-13 June 2010, Postojna - SLOVENIA)**

The UIS Bureau members decided that the upcoming meeting will take place on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> June 2010 in Postojna (Headquarter of the UIS at the Slovenian Karst Research Institute) just before the Karst School (14 to 20 June, 2010) which will be dedicated to Dinaric Karst.

Nadja Zupan Hajna and Andrej Mihevc will provide the programme.

**(11) Closing Session (President) + Setting the Action List for 2010**

At 15h56, Andy Eavis closed the second session of the Kerrville UIS Bureau meeting and thanked everybody for their presence and their contribution.

Fadi Nader will prepare the minutes of the meetings and the Action List for 2010.