

UIS BUREAU MEETING

August 18 – 19, 2016

Dalesbridge, United Kingdom

Attendance: Session 1 <i>Thursday, August 18, 2016; 09:00-19:00 (local time)</i>	
President	Kyung Sik WOO
Vice President of Administration	George VENI
Vice President of Operations	Efrain MERCADO
Secretary General	Fadi H. NADER
Adjunct secretaries	Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS Nivaldo COLZATO John CUGLEY Christian DODELIN Mladen GARAŠIĆ Zdeněk MOTYČKA Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA
Honorary members/Past-presidents	Andrew James EAVIS José Ayrton LABEGALINI Julia JAMES
Bureau members not in attendance	Giovanni BADINO
Guests	Ged CAMPION (FSE) Arjan Van WAARDENBURG (Speleo Nederland) Hayatullah KHAN DURRANI (Pakistan) Frederic DELEGUE (FFS)

1) Opening comments of the UIS President/Approval of the Agenda

Kyung Sik Woo thanked all participants for coming to Yorkshire. He thanked Nadja Zupan Hajna for the success of the 50th Anniversary of the UIS (last year, 2015). He expressed gratitude to Andy Eavis and the EuroSpeleo Congress organizers for the invitation and facilities to undertake the 2016 UIS Bureau meeting at Dalesbridge, coinciding with the European congress of speleology. Kyung Sik Woo also thanked Nivaldo Colzato for the exceptional work regarding the UIS Bulletin and the Leaflet which was distributed at the EuroSpeleo Congress. Then, Fadi Nader presented the Agenda of the 2016 Bureau meeting, which was approved by the Bureau members.

2) Approval of Minutes from the 2015 Bureau Meeting (Postojna, Slovenia)

The minutes of the 2015 UIS Bureau Meeting were approved by consensus.

3) Review of Decisions and Action Items of previous UIS Bureau Meeting (2015)

Most of the Decisions and Action Items of the 2015 UIS Bureau meeting were achieved. Only a couple of Actions, which were partially achieved, have been transferred to the 2016 list.

In particular, the decisions and actions pertaining to the amendment of the UIS-ISCA MOU, the promotion of the 17th ICS (Australia, 23 to 29 July, 2017), and Spanish version of the book “Cave Geology” of Art Palmer, as well as a request to add two plates on the Proteus Sculpture in front of the Karst Institute in Postojna, have been

reported on the 2016 list. The work on the UIS statutes and internal regulations also proceeded.

4) UIS Relationships with Regional Organization and Countries (F. Nader)

a. European Federation of Speleology (FSE), Affiliated Organization of the UIS

Ged Champion, president of the European Federation of Speleology (FSE), attended the morning session of the meeting and expressed the FSE's satisfaction regarding the constructive relationship between the UIS and FSE, especially since last year. In addition, UIS Adjunct Secretary Mladen Garašić has been elected as Vice-President of FSE, providing further links between the two organizations. A discussion also took place about similar issues concerning member countries and delegates.

Ged pointed out the most active commissions of the FSE, namely for cave and environmental protection and cave rescue, as venues for further collaboration. The latter commission was headed by UIS Adjunct Secretary Christian Dodelin until the FSE meeting the day before. FSE seeks special collaboration and coordination with these two themes. Since Efrain Mercado and Christian Dodelin formed a committee in 2015 to look after cross-border rescuing possibilities, they were invited to discuss such matters with the FSE Cave-Rescue Commission (Antoniya VLAYKOVA), who is dealing with similar issues.

DECISION 1: The UIS will communicate with FSE concerning cave rescue cross-borders, via Efrain Mercado and Christian Dodelin.

b. FEALC

Efrain Mercado (President of FEALC and UIS Vice President of Operations) briefed the UIS Bureau on the major development of speleology in Latin America and the Caribbean.

He informed the Bureau that the upcoming FEALC congress will take place in Colombia in 2018, and that he will seek accommodation for the UIS Bureau's 2018 meeting.

The UIS Bureau, hence, recommends that the next Bureau (2017-2021) considers having the annual 2018 meeting coinciding with the FEALC 9th congress in Colombia.

The FEALC and FSE Presidents signed the cooperation agreement between their two organizations at the UIS Bureau Meeting. This is a symbolic gesture highlighting the UIS role, as a platform for the world's caving organizations.



FEALC President Efrain MERCADO (left), and FSE President Ged CAMPION (right), after signing the FEALC/FSE Agreement (Dalesbridge – UK, August 19th, 2016)

c. Asian Union of Speleology (AUS), Affiliated Organization of the UIS

Kyung Sik Woo informed the Bureau about the Asian Speleological Federation which now is called Asian Union of Speleology (after its first congress in China, 6-8 November, 2015). The Union will be registered in Indonesia and is led by Eko HARYONO (President, Indonesia), Zhang YUAN HAI (Vice-President, China) and Satoshi GOTO (Secretary, Japan).

It appears that some member countries of the AUS are not member countries of the UIS; some efforts should be done to integrate these countries in the UIS.

DECISION 2: The UIS Bureau members will do their best to help integrate into the UIS member countries of the AUS.

d. Balkan Speleological Union (BSU)

Fadi Nader shared documents sent by the Balkan Speleological Union (Alexey Zhalov; Ref# № 001 /08.01.2016, Sofia), requesting that the BSU becomes an Associated Organization of the UIS.

The UIS Bureau members discussed this matter carefully and proposed to refer this request to the European Federation of Speleology (already an Associated Organization of the UIS). The UIS Bureau considers the UIS as the international platform where member countries form its General Assemblies and Continent-scale international organizations form its Associated Organizations. Smaller-scale, regional and sub-continental organizations are encouraged to be associated to the FEALC, FSE and AUS.

ACTION 1: Fadi Nader will inform BSU about the decision of the UIS Bureau regarding their request to be associated to UIS, suggesting them to refer their proposal to FSE (Associated Organization of the UIS covering Europe).

e. Spanish Federation(s) / Confederation

The UIS Bureau received an official letter from the Confederation de Espeleologia y Cañones (CEC), which is the new nation speleological organization covering almost all of Spain. Prior discussions with the representatives of CEC, Luis Domingo I Mila and Francisco M. Martinez Garcia, clarified the situation in Spain following the legal problems and dissolution of the Spanish Speleological Federation.

The UIS Bureau agreed to accept the representation of Spain by CEC and the delegates proposed in their official letter (Luis Domingo I Mila and Francisco M. Martinez Garcia, respectively). Fadi Nader reminded them that according to the UIS Statutes, the delegates of the UIS represent all cavers and speleologists of their member countries and not any single organization.

ACTION 2: Efrain Mercado will see to the updating of the UIS website concerning Spain, its related delegates, and national speleological organizations.

ACTION 3: Fadi Nader and Nadja Zupan Hajna will contact the CEC and confirm their acceptance as delegates for Spain, provided them with the modes of payment Spain's fees ahead of the upcoming General Assembly in Sydney, Australia, in 2017.

f. Pakistan (returning member)

Fadi Nader summarized the history of communication with Pakistan for more than 12 years. In 2005, Pakistan was approved as a member country of the UIS at the General Assembly of the 14th ICS (Kalamos, Greece). However, the Pakistan delegates could not attend the two next General Assemblies (Kerrville, USA, and Brno, Czech Republic, in 2009 and 2013 respectively). This prompted the UIS Bureau to revoke Pakistan's membership in 2013 to save Pakistan the expense of paying 8 years of fees and to make sure that its active contribution to the General Assembly can be maintained. The Bureau will be happy to re-present Pakistan as a returning member country to the upcoming General Assembly in Sydney, Australia, 2017, provided that a representative of Pakistan attends and that the needed requirements according to UIS Statutes are met.

Mr. Khan Durrani, President and founder of the Chiltan Adventurers Association Balochistan, and Pakistan Cave Research and Caving Federation, clarified the situation of Pakistan throughout the last decade and the difficulties encountered inside Pakistan to search for new caves and to do cave research and caving. He also expressed the difficulties and circumstances not allowing him or any representative of the Federation to attend the previous UIS General Assemblies.

The UIS Bureau members and Mr. Khan Durrani agreed to maintain an excellent level of communication and prepare for the upcoming General Assembly, hoping to re-integrate actively Pakistan within the Union. Meanwhile, the Pakistan Cave Research and Caving Federation will be part of

the list of international and national caving organizations listed on the UIS website.

Mr. Hayatullah Khan Durrani presented the UIS Secretary General, Fadi Nader, on the behalf of the Pakistan Cave Research and Caving Federation, a plaque to thank him for his collaboration and support.



Pakistan Cave Research & Caving Federation Hayatullah KHAN DURRANI (left), presenting a plaque to UIS Secretary General Fadi NADER (right), (Dalesbridge – UK, August 19th, 2016)

ACTION 4: Efrain Mercado will see to the updating of the UIS website concerning Pakistan and related details for its national speleological organization.

ACTION 5: Fadi Nader will keep contact with the Pakistan Cave Research & Caving Federation and prepare with them the information needed for presenting Pakistan to the upcoming General Assembly as a returning member country.

g. Speleo Nederland (membership of international sport organization)

Arjan Van Waardenburg (Speleo Nederland; the Netherlands), attended the morning session of the meeting and expressed again his suggestion that the UIS joins SportAccord, the international organization of sports. The annual fees to join that organization is around 5,000 Euros (or equivalent), and Arjan expressed his will to help in providing such amount of money for the first year should the UIS agrees to ask to become affiliated.

After discussion, and when considering the annual income of the UIS (which is less than the required fee), this request was dismissed at this stage. Instead, the Bureau would welcome any further idea proposed by Arjan to increase the income of the Union. Only, in the eventuality of stable, and sustainable yearly

income exceeding considerably the fees requested by such international sport organizations, the Bureau would seriously be able to consider joining SpeleoAccord or similar organizations.

h. French Speleology Federation (Candidate for organizing the 2021 ICS)

Frederic Delegue, representing the FFS, attended the meeting and presented the latest news about the proposal in-the-making by France as a candidate to organize the 18th ICS in Lyon, France.

He showed the map of the proposed congress venues and the areas for potential cave excursions. France is at this moment the only candidate for the 18th ICS. They are working to fulfill all needed requirements and to be ready to present their bid at the upcoming 17th ICS in Australia in 2017.

Prior to the meeting at Dalesbridge, Efrain Mercado, Fadi Nader, and George Veni were invited by the FFS and Only-Lyon (the public agency for the promotion of Lyon) to visit the city and some of the possible caves and karst areas where excursions could take place. They also commented about the logistics and discussions they had with the potential French organizers during their visit.

Fadi Nader reiterated that one major purpose of the visit was to boost the French colleagues to have France propose the International Year of Caves and Karst to UNESCO. The meetings in France were very successful in this regard. The FFS will soon coordinate an initiative to ask together with other organizations, such as the national show caves association, the national parks, as well as the associations of geologists and hydrogeologists, to ask the French government to make the proposal to UNESCO. Integrated actions and communications will be maintained with Fadi Nader.

i. Other matters

Fadi Nader briefed the Bureau about the news concerning the Cyprus Cave Project, stressing on the collaboration with European Federation of Speleology in general and the European cavers and speleologists in particular.

He stressed that in addition to the support for this project since its conception, the UIS, together with FSE and European cavers, will organize an international speleological expedition to Cyprus (similar to the previous ones: Tanzania, 2004/5; Iran, 2008; Lebanon, 2014) within the framework of this project.

5) UNESCO International Year for Caves and Karst (K.S. Woo)

Kyung Sik Woo informed the UIS Bureau about the development and status of the International Year of Caves and Karst (IYCK) initiative that was launched prior to and during the 50th Anniversary of the UIS last year in Postojna, which consists of proposing to UNESCO, and later to the UN, an international year in 2021 dedicated to caves and karst, coinciding with the 18th ICS.

The proposal has to be made formally by at least one UNESCO state member. Then it has to be included in the November 2017 UNESCO General Assembly. Nadja Zupan Hajna informed the Bureau that Slovenia has a seat on the executive committee of UNESCO and that since Slovenia had accepted to support this project, its UNESCO representative will bring the IYCK project to discussion at the upcoming meeting in September/October 2016, in Paris.

Fadi Nader summarized to get UNESCO to vote on the IYCK project, three actions should be passed by each proposing country. These actions are:

- 1) approval by the National UNESCO Commissions and referring the proposal to Governments;
- 2) approval of governments and referring the proposal to Permanent Delegations in UNESCO, Paris; and
- 3) voting and approval by the General Assembly of UNESCO in November 2017.

At this stage, Croatia, Lebanon, and Slovenia have reached completed Action 2, Belgium has completed action 1, and Hungary and France are aiming at action 1. Hopefully before the UNESCO executive meeting in Fall 2016, some of these countries will complete action 3, consolidating the proposal.

Once the proposal is included on the agenda of the UNESCO General Assembly, the UIS (together with the International Council of Scientific Unions) will need to organize and financially support an IYCK Day at the UNESCO in Paris to promote the project among the UNESCO state members and politicians.

There was also a common recommendation to seek for support from countries outside Europe, since until now most potentially proposing countries – except for Lebanon – are European.

DECISION 3: The UIS Bureau members are asked to keep pressure on and make sure that their countries support the 2021 IYCK UNESCO project. Fadi Nader will liaise between UNESCO delegations in Paris, ICSU and UIS.

ACTION 6: Kyung Sik Woo, with assistance from Nivaldo Colzato, George Veni, and Nadja Zupan Hajna, will work on a short PowerPoint presentation about the UIS and the proposed 2021 IYCK (by the first week of September). This document will accompany the formal proposal, declaration and letter pertaining to the proposal of 2021 IYCK.

6) News and Updates of the UIS Commissions (G. Veni)

Note: Several of the commissions do not report activities below, but George Veni forgot to ask them for reports in time for the Bureau meeting so there may more activities than listed.

- ✓ Archaeology and Paleontology (Donald McFarlane - USA): Participated in the International Cave Bear Symposium, The Netherlands, September 2015.

- ✓ Artificial Cavities (Mario Parise – Italy): Planning has begun for the March 2017 Hypogea conference in Cappadocia, Turkey.
- ✓ Arts and Letters (Ian Chandler – UK): Two workshops taught at EuroSpeleo.
- ✓ Bibliography (Patrick Deriaz – Switzerland): Working on Speleological Abstracts.
- ✓ Biology (John Holsinger – USA): No activities reported.
- ✓ Cave Diving (Maxime de Gianpietro – Switzerland): No activities reported.
- ✓ Cave Mineralogy (Bogdan Onac – Romania): No activities reported.
- ✓ Cave Rescue (Christian Dodelin – France): Training reported in UIS Bulletin 57-2 and 58-1.
- ✓ Cavers' Dictionary (Mladen Garasic – Croatia): No activities reported.
- ✓ Department of Education (Marcel Meyssonier – France): No activities reported.
- ✓ Department of Protection and Management (Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns – Belgium): See Jean-Pierre's report to the Bureau and UIS Bulletin 57-2 and 58-1.
- ✓ Glacier, Firn, and Ice Caves (Valter Maggi – Italy): International Workshop on Ice in Caves held in Slovenia in May 2016.
- ✓ History of Speleology (Bernard Chirol –France): Activities reported in UIS Bulletin 57-2.
- ✓ Informatics (Peter Matthews – Australia): Several activities. See UIS Bulletin 58-1.
- ✓ Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis (Alexander Klimchouk – Ukraine): DeepKarst 2016 conference, in April 2016 in Carlsbad, New Mexico, USA.
- ✓ Longest and Deepest Caves (Pat Kambesis – USA): No activities reported.
- ✓ Microbiology and Geomicrobiology (Hazel Barton – USA): No activities reported.
- ✓ Paleokarst and Speleochronology (Stein-Erik Lauritzen – Norway): No activities reported.
- ✓ Physical Chemistry and Hydrogeology (Yavor Shopov – Bulgaria): No activities reported.
- ✓ Pseudokarst (Jan Urban – Poland): Several activities. See UIS Bulletin 58-1.
- ✓ Speleotherapy (Iuri Simionca – Romania): No activities reported.

- ✓ Techniques and Materials Development (Aaron Bird – USA): No activities reported.
- ✓ Volcanic Caves (Jan Paul van der Pas – The Netherlands): Organized 17th Symposium on Vulcanospeleology in February 2016 in Hawaii, USA.

7) Communication & Data

The UIS Bureau discussed several issues related to UIS communication means and data in general. These are reported briefly here below.

a. UIS website

The UIS Bureau would like to specially thank Jasmina Rijavec for her prompt actions with regard to updating and managing the UIS website.

b. Facebook and social networks

Fadi Nader and Jasmina Rijavec take care of the Facebook Group of UIS, under the management of Efrain Mercado.

c. Electronic Voting

Since 2013, the UIS General Assembly has had electronic voting. Today, this is an important tool, especially for having Extraordinary General Assemblies if needed. Efrain Mercado had managed an electronic form for undertaking the elections, yet the Bureau can also use other possible and available means for electronic voting, or by emails.

d. Data storage or electronic archive in Postojna

Zdenek Motycka presented a draft, preliminary structure for the electronic archiving in the UIS office in Postojna. It has been agreed that Pavel Bosak and Nadja Zupan Hajna will take care of this matter and manage the archiving of Bureau and general UIS data at the UIS offices in Postojna (Slovenia).

DECISION 4: Pavel Bosak and Nadja Zupan Hajna will be in charge of data storage and the electronic archives of the UIS in Postojna UIS office.

e. UIS Bulletin

The Bureau members unanimously thanked Nivaldo Colzato for the excellent work he has achieved in modernizing the UIS Bulletin.

A common understanding was expressed that the next issue of the Bulletin will be dedicated to the upcoming ICS General Assembly sessions and related pre-congress documents.

f. UIS Logo and Visual Identity

Nivaldo Colzato presented the document he prepared defining the UIS logo and visual identity. The Bureau found no further comments to make and accepted the document.

ACTION 7: Efrain Mercado will see to posting the “UIS Logo and Visual Identity” document on the UIS website.

g. UIS Flag and Anthem

Nivaldo Colzato also presented his document concerning the definition and characterization of the UIS flag and anthem. The Bureau agreed that this document needs further reviewing.

ACTION 8: George Veni with Nivaldo Colzato will first review the “UIS Flag and Anthem” document before its revision by the Bureau and finalization by the year end (2016).

8) Review of modified UIS Statutes

The UIS Bureau reviewed the modified UIS Statutes which has been earlier modified by a lawyer in Slovenia (together with Nadja Zupan Hajna) in order to make them compatible with the related Slovenian laws. Besides, the same document was also revised by Fadi Nader and George Veni, and discussed with Efrain Mercado, Kyung Sik Woo, and Nadja Zupan Hajna just before this Bureau meeting in Dalesbridge (UK).

As such, the statutes were read carefully and modified by the present members of the Bureau and made almost ready to include in the upcoming UIS Bulletin and sent to UIS delegates.

It is the wish of the UIS Bureau to seek comments and further modifications if needed by the UIS Delegates within six (6) months after publishing in the UIS Bulletin, so that a final version can be voted on at the first session of the upcoming General Assembly in Sydney, on the 23rd of July, 2017.

ACTION 9: George Veni will prepare a summary on the modifications made concerning the UIS Statutes and Nadja Zupan Hajna will consult the Slovenian lawyer about such changes, before submitting both the summary and modified text to Nivaldo Colzato for inclusion in the next UIS Bulletin (September/October 2016).

9) Review of modified UIS Internal Regulations

The UIS Bureau reviewed also the modified Internal Regulations, which have been earlier modified by Fadi Nader and George Veni. The new modified text together with a summary will be published in the next UIS Bulletin.

ACTION 10: George Veni will prepare a summary on the modifications made concerning the UIS Internal Regulations, before submitting both the summary and modified text to Nivaldo Colzato for inclusion in the next UIS Bulletin (September/October 2016).

ACTION 11: Fadi Nader will contact the UIS Delegates and ask them to review the modified Statutes and Internal Regulations within six months after

publishing in the UIS Bulletin to make sure that they can be voted on at the first session of the General Assembly on the 23rd of July 2017 in Sydney (Australia).

10) Procedure for applying for election to the UIS Bureau

Efrain Mercado, Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns, and Nivaldo Colzato showed an electronic form that they prepared for the candidates applying for election to the next UIS Bureau. This form consists of an electronic application that will make the candidature systematic and uniform.

Fadi Nader explained that in addition to this form there should be a nomination form proposing the candidature of the applicants.

ACTION 12: Nivaldo Colzato and Efrain Mercado will modify the standardized electronic form for candidates aspiring to be elected as Bureau members, and include a possibility to attach the nomination letter.

11) Pre-General Assembly document

Fadi Nader went through the pre-General Assembly document, which reminds delegates about their role at the General Assembly and introduces a preliminary agenda.

Together with the Bureau members, the documents was updated and prepared. It will be included in the next UIS Bulletin.

ACTION 13: Fadi Nader will finalize the pre-General Assembly document and send it to Nivaldo Colzato for inclusion in the UIS Bulletin.

The meeting was adjourned at around 19h00 (local time).

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President	Kyung Sik WOO
Vice-President of Administration	George VENI
Vice-President of Operations	Efrain MERCADO
Secretary General	Fadi H. NADER
Adjunct secretaries	Giovanni BADINO Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS Nivaldo COLZATO John CUGLEY Christian DODELIN Mladen GARAŠIĆ Zdeněk MOTYČKA Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA
Honorary members/Past-presidents	Andrew James EAVIS José Ayrton LABEGALINI Julia JAMES
Guests	Ernest GEYER (FSE)

12) Review of Finances (Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA)

a. Simplified summary of past year and current financial status:

Nadja Zupan Hajna presented a comprehensive summary of 2015 and 2016 (until July) financial status. At the moment of this Bureau meeting, the financial situation of the UIS was as follows:

USD Sub-Account

- Deposit (until July 2017): ~\$35,000
- Active account: ~\$15,000

Euro Sub-Account

- Deposit (until July 2017): ~18,000 €
- Active account: ~6,400 €

The Bureau members thanked Nadja Zupan Hajna for the careful keeping of the UIS accounts.

b. Fees payments of member countries

Nadja Zupan Hajna showed a list of the member countries and their situation with respect of paying their dues to the UIS. The Bureau members discussed each member country separately and decided to prepare two lists: one for countries that failed to pay their dues for 3 years (and may not be able to vote

at the upcoming General Assembly) and those that failed paying dues for 5 years and may have their membership stopped.

ACTION 14: Fadi Nader will notify the member countries that failed to pay their dues for the last 3 years or more ahead of the upcoming General Assembly.

c. Upcoming expenses

The Bureau members made a list of the upcoming expenses for 2016 and 2017 (until the 17th ICS General Assembly). Hence, the forecasted expenses (not exclusive) are the following:

• Support expeditions (see below)	3000 €
• Commissions: (up to)	~2250 €
• Habe prizes:	500 €
• ICSU fees:	500 €
• Lawyer (Slovenia):	500 €
• Auditor (Slovenia):	320 €
• Shipment (books):	400 €
• ICSU fees:	500 €
• Speleogenesis:	300 \$
TOTAL	8270 €

DECISION 5: Nadja Zupan Hajna will execute payment in due time of the above listed expenses from the UIS active accounts (Euros, and US Dollars if needed).

d. Modified categories for Member Countries yearly fees

Following on the discussion reported above with Arjan Van Waardenburg (Speleo Nederland), on enhancing the financial capabilities of the UIS, and based on the fact that since at least 1994 UIS fees did not change (except for the change from US Dollars to Euros), while speleology has been developing in many countries, the Bureau revised the Member Country categories and yearly fees in the proposed Internal Regulations which will be voted on at the next General Assembly in Sydney (2017). The new categories and yearly fees are as follows:

Category A (\geq 2000 speleologists):	480 €
Category B (1000 to 1999 speleologists):	360 €
Category C (100 to 999 speleologists):	240 €
Category D (<100 speleologists):	60 €

e. Instructions to Bank

Further instructions to the bank holding the UIS accounts are not needed since the US Dollars and Euro-subaccounts deposits are blocked until July 2017.

The next elected Bureau will decide on further actions.

13) Fund-raising and projects financial support

Since 2015, Zdeněk Motyčka has worked on a document suggesting a workflow for fund-raising and providing financial support for multinational speleological activities by the UIS.

a. Funding

In a simplified approach, he proposes funding to be split in two categories: i) funding caving activities; and ii) funding non-caving activities. George Veni suggested to add a third category whereby the funding party leaves the decision to UIS Bureau to what end (caving or non-caving) the money is used. So a third category “any activity” has been added.

Such funding categories will be published on the website and donations can be made to the UIS using the newly established PayPal account/website link. Zdeněk Motyčka also suggested increasing the general promotion of the UIS. He asked for an electronic PDF or a PowerPoint file for the leaflet which Nivaldo Colzato made and was distributed at this EuroSpeleo Congress.

ACTION 15: Efrain Mercado will see to adding to the website’s Paypal page the ability to make donations to the UIS based on three categories: i) caving activities; ii) non-caving activities; or iii) any activity.

ACTION 16: Nivaldo Colzato will prepare an electronic PDF file or PowerPoint, based on the paper-copy of the UIS leaflet, and send it to Bureau members to help in promoting the UIS.

b. Sponsorship and Affiliated Organizations financial support

Zdeněk Motyčka pointed out that sponsorship should be sought and for that reason the UIS should give something in return. The Bureau members discussed this matter and found out that what UIS can offer at this moment for potential sponsors is limited to space on the UIS Bulletin and the websites, as well as the use of the Logo. A leaflet designed for potential sponsors (Sponsoring Prospectus) needs to be prepared toward this end.

ACTION 17: Zdeněk Motyčka will prepare, together with George Veni and Nadja Zupan Hajna, a draft sponsoring leaflet which will be reviewed by Bureau members by end of 2016.

In order to strengthen the image and attractiveness of the UIS with respect to sponsorship, and since with the next General Assembly the UIS fees will likely increase, the UIS Bureau members agreed to change the minimum yearly fees required from Affiliated Organizations in the Internal Regulations

to the fees for the proposed Category C member countries (i.e. proposed 240 Euros). Affiliated Organizations are invited of course to support the UIS with larger amounts of money if they can.

ACTION 18: Zdeněk Motyčka will prepare a list of potential Affiliated Organizations. Bureau members will assist him.

c. UIS Support for Multinational Speleological Expeditions

In order to demonstrate UIS support for cavers and speleologists around the world, and since the UIS Treasurer has the needed surplus in terms of budget, the UIS Bureau decided to support financially up to three multinational speleological expeditions in 2017 and before the next UIS General Assembly. Each project will be supported with a budget of 1000 Euros. The selection of the winning projects will be based on transparent judging and precisely defined criteria.

Zdeněk Motyčka will provide a simple workflow for applications, which will be received by Fadi Nader. The final decisions will be made by the UIS Bureau.

DECISION 6: The UIS Bureau agrees on financially supporting multinational speleological expeditions, twice on yearly basis, provided that the budget permits such action.

ACTION 19: Zdeněk Motyčka will provide the workflow and criteria for multinational speleological expeditions to apply for financial support.

14) ICS 2017

John Cugley, informed the UIS Bureau about the status of the organization of the 17th ICS in Australia (2017). He went through the 2nd Circular and informed the Bureau that online registration has just started. A group discussion followed with respect to visas and general costs.

In order to help cavers and speleologists to attend the congress in Australia, the UIS Bureau agreed to ask the organizers of the 17th ICS to remit part of the 5% dues to the UIS in the form of 10 Congress registrations that the UIS Bureau will give to cavers and speleologists who need financial support to attend the ICS.

DECISION 7: The UIS Bureau will forego payment of no more than \$4,500 (Australian) from the 5% of ICS fees paid to the UIS, in the form of 10 full congress registrations. The remaining amount will be paid separately to UIS. Subsequently, the UIS Bureau will offer these 10 registration to active cavers and speleologists who need financial support to attend the 17th ICS. The Bureau will set fair criteria for selecting who will receive the registrations.

15) Speleological events since the last Bureau meeting

There was consensus that reports on past events should be limited to those where some presentation or promotion was made on the UIS and not just where Bureau members attended.

- a. KG@B, International Conference on Groundwater in Karst, 20-26 June 2015 (Birmingham, UK); <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/generic/kgatb/index.a.spx>; Andy Eavis, Derek Ford, and George Veni attended this event.
- b. NSS Convention, 13-17 July 2015 (Waynesville, Missouri, USA); <http://nss2015.caves.org/>; George Veni attended this annual convention.
- c. 33rd Congress of the Brazilian Speleological Society, 15-19 July 2015 (Eldorado, Sao Paulo, Brazil), <http://www.cavernas.org.br/33cbe.asp>; Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns, Nivaldo Colzato, and José Labegalini attended.
- d. 21st International Cave Bear Symposium, 10-13 September 2015 (Hellevoetsluis, The Netherlands), <http://icbs2015.pleistocenemammals.com/>.
- e. 13th Symposium on Pseudokarst, 16-20 September (Czech Republic), <http://www.pseudokarst.de.vu/>; This is an event of the UIS Pseudokarst Commission and Zdeněk Motyčka attended.
- f. 14th Multidisciplinary Conference on Sinkholes and the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst, 5-9 October 2015 (Rochester, Minnesota, USA), <http://www.sinkholeconference.com/>; NCKRI jointly organized this event with the Minnesota Ground Water Association and George Veni co-chaired it. It is the longest-running international meeting on engineering and environmental problems in karst.
- g. Asian Conference on Speleology, 6-8 November 2015 (China); Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns, Arrigo Cigna, Christian Dodelin, Andy Eavis, Zdeněk Motyčka, and Kyung Sik Woo attended.
- h. 9th Balkan Speleological Union Camp, 15 to 21 November 2015 (Ogulin, Croatia); Mladen Garasic attended.
- i. National Cave and Karst Management Symposium, 19-23 October 2015 (Cave City, Kentucky, USA), <http://nckms.org/>; George Veni attended this meeting.
- j. 2nd International Planetary Caves Conferences, 20-23 October 2015 (Flagstaff, Arizona, USA), <http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/2ndcaves2015/>.
- k. Geological Society of America (GSA) Convention, 1-4 November 2015 (Baltimore, Maryland, USA), <http://www.geosociety.org/>; The new GSA Karst Division is already planning several cave and karst sessions and two field trips. George Veni attended.
- l. Karstology in Arid Regions, January 2016 (Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates), <http://abudhabi.zrc-sazu.si/>; Pavel Bosak and Nadja Zupan Hajna attended.
- m. Karst, Groundwater, Contamination, and Public Health, 27-30 January 2016 (San Juan, Puerto Rico), <http://karstwaters.org/conferences/kgcph/>.
- n. DeepKarst 2016, 11-14 April 2016, (Carlsbad, New Mexico, USA), <http://deepkarst.org/>; George Veni chaired this meeting for the UIS Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis Commission.
- o. Protection and management of show caves workshop, Yokjakarta (2-3 June, 2016); Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns attended.
- p. Protection and management of show caves workshop, Bogor (4-5 June, 2016); Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns attended.
- q. 24th International Karstological School (Classical Karst), 13 to 17 June 2016, (Postojna, Slovenia); Pavel Bosak and Nadja Zupan Hajna attended.

- r. 10th Jubilee Balkan Cavers Camp, 21 to 27 June 2016 (Vratza, Bulgaria): Efrain Mercado attended.
- s. Workshop karst protection and show cave management, from 17 to 23 July 2016 (Hpaan, Myanmar): Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns attended.
- t. NSS Convention, 18-22 July 2016 (Ely, Nevada, USA): <http://nss2016.caves.org/>; Derek Ford, Zdeněk Motyčka, and George Veni attended this annual convention.
- u. 5th European Speleological Congress, August 2016 (Yorkshire Dales National Park, England, UK), <http://www.eurospeleo2016.eu/wiki/doku.php?id=start>: All Bureau members attended.

16) Future speleology events until July 2017 that UIS should consider attending

- a. EuroKarst 2016, 5-7 September 2016 (Neuchâtel, Switzerland), <http://www.eurokarst.org/>: Mladen Garasic will attend.
- b. 40 anniversary of Speleo Nederland, 16-18 September 2016 (Belgium): Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns will attend.
- c. 43rd International Association of Hydrogeologists, 25-29 September 2016 (Montpellier, France), <http://www.60iah2016.org/en/>.
- d. Geological Society of America Convention, 25-28 September 2016 (Denver, Colorado, USA), <http://community.geosociety.org/gsa2016/home>, George will attend.
- e. Espeleo Turismo Caripe, 23 to 25 November 2016 (Monagas, Venezuela): Efrain Mercado will attend.
- f. American Geophysical Union, 12-16 December 2016, (San Francisco, California, USA), 3 August abstract deadline, <http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2016/>: Kyung Sik Woo may attend.
- g. Hypogea 2017: International Congress of Speleology in Artificial Cavities, 6-10 March 2017 (Cappadocia, Turkey), www.hypogea2017.com: Fadi Nader may go.
- h. US Geological Survey Karst Interest Group Meeting, 16-18 May 2017 (San Antonio, Texas, USA): George will attend.
- i. Climate Record: The Karst Record VIII, 21-24 May 2017, (Austin, Texas, USA), <http://sites.uci.edu/kr8conference/>: George will attend.
- j. 25th International Karstological School, mid-June 2017 (Postojna, Slovenia): Mladen Garasic, Zdenek Motycka, and Nadja Zupan Hajna will attend.
- k. 34th Brazilian Congress of Speleology, 13-18 June, 2017 (Ouro Preto, Brasil): Nivaldo Colzato, Jose Ayrton Labegalini, Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns, and Efrain Mercado will attend.
- l. NSS Convention, 19-23 June 2017 (Rio Rancho, NM USA): <http://nss2017.caves.org/>: Zdenek Motycka and George Veni will attend.
- m. National Association of Mining History Organisations Conference 2017, 23-26 June 2017 (Godstone, Surrey, UK), <http://namho2017.info/>.
- n. 17th International Congress of Speleology, 23-30 July 2017 (Sydney, New South Wales, Australia), <http://speleo2017.com/>. All Bureau members will attend.

17) Venue and Date of the 2017 UIS Bureau Meeting:

The UIS Bureau members will have their next meeting at the 17th ICS in Sydney (Australia). The meetings will be scheduled as follows:

- i. 20th July: Arrival of officers
- ii. 21st July: Executive meeting, preparation of Bureau meeting, and initial preparation of General Assembly
- iii. 22nd July: 1st Bureau Meeting and final preparation of General Assembly
- iv. 29th July: 2nd Bureau Meeting (newly elected Bureau)

DECISION 8: The next UIS Bureau meeting will take place in Sydney (Australia) on the 22nd of July 2017, just before the 17th ICS.

18) Other business:

- a. Kyung Sik Woo informed the UIS Bureau about his communications with Boris Watz and the idea of making a new film for the UIS.

ACTION 20: Mladen Garasic and Jose-Ayrton Labegalini will help Boris Watz in producing a new film on the UIS.

- b. Julia James discussed with the Bureau about the Advisory Committee and the UIS prizes. This led to group discussions about the two subjects and further feedback.

20) Closing Statements

Kyung Sik Woo closed the 2016 UIS Bureau meeting at around 17h00, and thanked everybody for their presence and their contribution. He especially thanked again Andy Eavis and the organizers of the 5th EuroSpeleo Congress for inviting the UIS Bureau.

ACTION 21: Fadi Nader will prepare the minutes of the 2016 Bureau meeting and the Action List for 2016-2017.