

UIS BUREAU MEETINGS AT THE 17th ICS

July 22-29, 2017

Penrith (Panthers Event Centre) – Sydney (Australia)

	Attendance: Session 1 <i>Saturday July 22, 2017; at 8h30 (local time)</i>
President	Kyung Sik WOO
Vice-President for Administration	George VENI
Vice-President for Operations	Efrain MERCADO
Secretary General	Fadi NADER
Adjunct Secretaries	Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS Nivaldo COLZATO John CUGLEY Mladen GARASIC Zdenek MOTYCKA Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA
Honorary M. & Past-Presidents	Pavel BOSAK Andy EAVIS J.-A. LABEGALINI
Bureau members not in attendance	Giovanni BADINO Christian DODELIN

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

Kyung Sik Woo thanked all participants for coming to Penrith (Australia). He presented the apologies of Giovanni Badino and Christian Dodelin for not attending this annual UIS Bureau meeting. Kyung Sik Woo also asked John Cugley to forward the Bureau's satisfaction and congratulations to the organizers of the 17th ICS and for their efforts leading to a successful congress.

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

2) Approval of Minutes from Regular Bureau Meeting of 2016 (Dalesbridge, UK)

A few minor comments were made on the minutes of the last UIS Bureau Meeting (Dalesbridge – UK; 2016), which were noted by Fadi Nader.

Fadi Nader, then, proposed a motion to accept the minutes, and it was passed 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) Review of General Assembly Documents

First, the General Assembly agenda was revised and slightly modified. A first version had already been sent to all delegates ahead of the Congress (published in UIS Bulletin No. 58-2, November 2016).

Then the UIS Statutes with all modifications pre- and post- review by National Delegates have been reviewed for the last time and two versions were printed and distributed to all National Delegates attending the General Assembly. A first version was the older approved UIS Statutes and the second version represents the modified version (proposed to National delegates in November 2016, and published in UIS Bulletin No. 58-2) with the most recent modifications – after review of National Delegates – highlighted (replied received by Secretary General by June 2017).

For the modifications related to the Internal Regulations (which have also been published in the UIS Bulletin 58-2), the Bureau agreed that while the consent of the General Assembly is appreciated, only the those items that deal with the mode of payments and amounts by category for the annual dues of Member Countries, necessitates formal voting at the General Assembly. This relates to Article 2 (Clause 3), which re-organizes Member Countries in four (4) categories (A, B, C, D) based on the minimum number of speleologists in a given country. The yearly fees per category have been proposed and approved by General Assembly (A: 480 €; B: 360 €; C: 240 €; D: 60 €). For more information, refer to the UIS website (www.uis-speleo.org) and published UIS Bulletins.

All supporting documents for Bureau Members and National Delegates were prepared (printed and packaged in envelopes). These included the UIS Statutes versions, the Internal Regulation proposed changes on payments, the finance tables, and the voting cards.

4) Review of Finances (Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA)

a. Report of Treasurer

Nadja Zupan Hajna ran through the detailed budget and expenses since 2013, which she also presented (later on) to the General Assembly.

UIS FINANCIAL REPORT, Sydney 2017

Prepared by Nadja Zupan Hajna, UIS Adjunct Secretary – Treasurer

Bank account in Slovenia: at Intesa Sanpaolo Bank (changed name from Banka Koper),
Poslovna enota Postojna, Tržaška cesta 1, 6230 Postojna, Slovenia

Account name: Mednarodna speleološka zveza (International Union of Speleology) – UIS,
Titov trg 2, Postojna

Account No.: 10100-0037861520

IBAN: SI56 1010 0003 7861 520

BIC: BAKOSI2X

Financial situation on UIS account: 1.7.2017

- 14.972,76 USD (14,972.76 USD)
- 11.040,95 EUR (11,040.95 EUR)

- Instructions to Bank (deposits): No decision was taken at this stage, since this matter involves the new UIS Bureau (after elections at General Assembly).

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Finance Report to UIS General Assembly - Postojna, July 15th, 2017

Prepared by Nadja Zupan Hajna, UIS Adjunct Secretary – Treasurer (since Kerrville 2009); authorized representative of UIS in Slovenia since 2011

UIS MEMBER COUNTRIES: 54 (SINCE 2013!)

		EUR	USD	Comments
SUM 2012		12.964,39	10.964,94	Deposit!
		EUR	USD	Comments
2013				16 ICS Brno, CZ
Income		10.719,43	36449,66	
	Member fees	10417,5	1238,00	
	Bank Interest	7,93	211,66	
	Other income	294,00	0	
	Deposit back	0	35000	
Expenditure		-11635,92	-30560,00	Deposits!
	Bank Fees/Payments	179,75	0	
	Administration	320	0	
	Commissions	350	0	
	Speleo Related	1456,17	560	
	Deposit	10000	30000	Separate part of account!
Balance 2013		-916,49	5894,45	
SUM 2013		12047,90	16854,6	
		EUR	USD	Comments
2014				
Income		9374,81	30225,26	
	Member fees	4300,00	0	
	Bank Interest	95,16	225,26	
	Other income	16745,31	0	
	Deposit back	10000	30000	
Expenditure		-23813,56	-30467,81	Deposits!
	Bank Fees/Payments	142,81	17,81	
	Administration	320	0	
	Commissions	1825	300	
	Speleo Related	1525,75	150	
	Deposit	20000	30000	Separate part of account!
Balance 2014		-2673,09	-242,55	
SUM 2014		9374,81	16612,05	
		EUR	USD	Comments
2015				
Income		26797,19	30671,51	
	Member fees	5965,00	500	
	Bank Interest	382,19	171,51	
	Other income	450	0	
	Deposit back	20000	30000	
Expenditure		-30024,61	-35724,11	Deposits!

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	Bank Fees/Payments	185,83	11,11	
	Administration	320	0	
	Commissions	1500	0	
	50 th Anniversary	2750,96	0	
	Speleo Related	7267,82	713,00	
	Deposit	18000	35000	Separate part of account!
Balance 2015		-3208,62	-5052,60	
SUM 2015		6147,41	11559,43	
		EUR	USD	Comments
2016				
Income		23136,80	38664,73	
	Member fees	4861,5	0	
	Bank Interest	73,80	18,73	
	Other income	201,5	3506	
	Deposit back	18000		
Expenditure		-20030,45	-35013,29	Deposits!
	Bank Fees/Payments	78,07	13,29	
	Administration	320	0	
	Commissions	250	0	
	Speleo Related	1382,38	0	
	Deposit	18000	35000	Separate part of account!
Balance 2016		3106,35	3651,44	
SUM 2016		9253,76	15210,87	
		EUR	USD	Comments
2017				
July 1				
Income		2962,97	0,84	
	Member fees	2962,76	0	
	Bank Interest	0,22	0,84	
	Other income	0	0	
Expenditure		-1175,68	-238,11	
	Bank Fees/Payments	55,68	0	
	Administration	320	238,95	
	Commissions	800	0	
	Speleo Related	0	0	
	Deposit	18000	35000	Separate part of account! Back on July 27!
Balance 2017		1787,29	-238,11	
SUM 2017/1		11040,95	1497,76	

- Tax Audit Payment: Nadja Zupan Hajna also informed the Bureau about the payment for the Tax Audit in Slovenia (obligatory).

b. Funding Commissions

- Upcoming payments (Internet, Commissions): No new payments requested.
- Request from three commissions already honored:
 - Department of Protection: 250 € (Habe Prize);
 - Speleogenesis 150 USD;
 - Speleootherapy 250 €
- Other expenses.
 - ICSU (500 €/ year) + Mobility (up to 3000 €)
 - Accountant (320 €/year) for Tax Audit

c. Fund-raising news (Z. Motyčka)

Zdenek Motyčka reported on the progress regarding the Fund-Raising initiative. An electronic form was made available online (final version still needs to be worked out; most of which was done during the 17th ICS in Sydney by Zdenek and Efrain).

d. Expedition Fund (Z. Motyčka)

This point was postponed to the next Bureau Meeting, since some issues still need to be finalized and need the approval of the elected Members after the second session of the General Assembly.

DECISION 1: Pending the approval of the proposed modifications on the UIS Statutes and Internal Regulations, the official Treasurer will take care of financial issues of the UIS and there will be no need for the Secretary General to make payment orders as was done before.

5) UIS Commissions (George VENI)

George VENI summarized the status of each Department, Commission, and Working Group (from Vice-President Administration Report, 2017).

Archaeology and Paleontology Commission

This commission was reestablished in 2013. During the past four years it has been active, but mostly in building its foundation and membership. Specific activities include:

- Comment on a petition on access to a Petralona Cave hominid skull that was submitted to the UIS Bureau with a recommendation for action.
- Letter of support to the Torquay Museum, England (a nationally important repository of cave archaeological and paleontological materials) with respect to local government funding decisions.
- Distribution of “important new papers” via the Commission email list.

Artificial Cavities Commission

This commission is active with a website and has organized two excellent symposia in 2015 (Italy) and 2017 (Turkey). Extensive proceedings volumes have been published for each symposium.

Arts and Letters Commission

Commission members have been involved with the following conferences with respect to their art salons and/or associated activities:

- August 2014, Speleology Federation of Romania
- November 2014, Casola Caving Symposium, Italy
- June 2015, Italian cave science symposium
- August 2016, EuroSpeleo, UK
- July 2017, International Congress of Speleology, Australia

The commission is planning activities at the Eurospeleo Forum in Ebensee, Austria, in August 2018.

Atlas of Karst Regions Commission

This commission closed in November 2013.

Bibliography Commission

No report has been received from the commission since it was given 500 euros in 2015 for the BBS. In 2016 the commission worked with Adjunct Secretary Nivaldo Colzato on the scanning of all issues of the BBS.

Biology Commission

This commission has been inactive over the past four years and not very active before that. The commission officers have reported that they can no longer participate but George VENI has contacted other biologists who are interested in re-energizing the commission and will meet to discuss it during the week of the congress.

Cave Diving Commission

This commission has been active, with most of its activities reported in the UIS Bulletin. The commission officers had to cancel attendance at the International Congress due to a recent injury. The commission's major activities were:

- Launched a website in 2013.
- Organized Cave Diving Workshops in 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016.
- Exchanged information about cave diving rescue in various countries, especially those which lack such organizations.
- Collaborated in the successful testing of a new subterranean positioning device that is something like an underground GPS.

German Yanez, of Mexico, was appointed as the new Acting Secretary of the Commission and was put in charge of promoting the activities of the Commission in Central and South America.

Cavers' Dictionary Working Group

This commission remains active and since 2013 has added Arabic, Russian, Turkish, and Ukrainian to the dictionary, for a current total of 28 languages.

Department of Education

From 2009-2013 there was almost no communication from this commission. In Brno the commission met and there was discussion of making the commission more active but no news of any activities have been sent to the UIS or UIS Bulletin.

Department of Karst and Cave Protection

This department is active with projects and activities in several countries. A detailed report has been sent to the Bureau by Adjunct Secretary and Department President Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns.

Glacier, Firn, and Ice Caves Commission

This commission has been active and organized two symposia: 2014 (USA) and 2016 (Slovenia).

History of Speleology Commission

This commission has been active and published reports in the UIS Bulletin. It will meet at the congress. Here are some of its major activities:

- Assisted with the publication of the first book on the caves of Cyprus.
- Meeting with the author of the video *Casteret Chasseur D'abîmes*.
- Several history books were published by commission members: Johannes Mattes (Austria), Vlado Bozic (Croatia), Trevor Shaw (UK) and Alenka Cuk (Slovenia), and Bernard Chirol and Theo Savoie (France).
- New project about the history of caving and women, which included a course in the Jura Mountains in 2016.
- Organized the forum “Caves as objects of history and culture” in April 2016 at the international scientific forum at Divnogorye Voronezh, Russia.
- Discovery of old speleological documents.

The commission may ask to be reclassified from the Department of Documentation to the Department of Research.

Informatics Commission

This commission has been active and reported its activities in the UIS Bulletin. Most of its work has been through its working groups, which are reported separately in this report.

Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis Commission

This commission is active and will meet at the congress. It continues to promote research through its Speleogenesis website, four conferences it has sponsored or co-organized, and several publications it has produced since 2013. Long-time president of the commission, Alexander Klimchouk, will be stepping down and a new president elected at the congress.

Long, Deep, and Large Caves Commission

No reports have been received from this commission since 2013, although its project to laser-survey the world's largest rooms has been widely publicized and will be presented at the congress, where the commission will meet.

Microbiology and Geobiology Commission

This commission has not been active during the past four years, except discussion in 2014 to possibly organize a symposium. That remains a possibility.

Paleokarst and Speleochronology Commission

No activity has been reported by this commission for the past four years.

Physical Chemistry and Hydrogeology Commission

The commission applied for, but did not receive, an ICSU grant in 2014. No other activities have been reported.

Pseudokarst Commission

This commission is active and has reported its activities in the UIS Bulletin and its own newsletter, with #24, 25, 26, and the most recent issue, #27, published this month. The commission has published many reports and conducted one symposium, the 13th in the Czech Republic in 2013. Efforts are underway to organize the 14th symposium, although the location has yet to be selected.

Publications Exchange Working Group

This working group is active and making good progress in documenting speleological information around the world. Over 70 speleological libraries have joined the group's library network and more are expected to join.

Speleotherapy Commission

This commission has been active with a major meeting in 2013, a symposium in 2015, planning for another symposium underway, and several publications. An extensive report was published in the most recent UIS Bulletin.

Survey, Mapping, and Surface Map Symbols Working Group

This working group has been active in creating a proposed list of map symbols for artificial cavities.

Techniques and Materials Development Commission

In 2013 and 2014 there was interest by the commission in developing a publication on this topic, but nothing has happened recently

Volcanic Caves Commission

The commission is active and held a symposium in 2014 in the Galapagos Islands, and in 2016 in Hawaii. Another symposium is planned for New Mexico, USA, tentatively for 2018.

The reports of the commissions are published in the UIS Bulletin. Here is a summary of the activity of Commissions as reported since 2013 (from Nivaldo Colzato Adjunct Secretary Report, 2017).

Participation of the UIS Departments, Commissions, and Working Groups in the UIS Bulletin in the period from July 2013 to June 2017 (7 Issues):

NAMES / ISSUES	56-1	56-2	57-1	57-2	58-1	58-2	59-1
Atlas of Karst Phenomena	x	-	-	-	-	-	-
Commission on Archaeology and Paleontology in Caves	x	-	-	-	-	-	-
Commission on Artificial Cavities	x	-	-	-	-	-	x
Commission on Arts and Letters	x	-	x	-	-	-	-
Commission on Bibliography	-	x	-	-	-	-	-
Commission on Cave Diving	x	-	x	-	-	-	x
Commission on Cave Mineralogy	x	-	-	-	-	-	-
Commission on Cave Rescue	x	-	x	x	x	-	x
Commission on Glacier, Firn, and Ice Caves	x	-	-	-	-	-	-
Commission on History of Speleology	x	-	x	x	-	-	x
Commission on Informatics	x	-	x	-	x	-	-
Commission on Informatics - Publications Exchange Working Group	-	-	-	-	x	-	x
Commission on Informatics - WikiCaves Working Group	-	-	-	-	x	-	-
Commission on Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis	x	-	-	-	-	-	-
Commission on Long, Deep and Large Caves	x	-	-	-	-	-	-
Commission on Materials and Techniques	x	-	-	-	-	-	-
Commission on Physical Chemistry and Hydrogeology of Karst	x	-	-	-	-	-	-
Commission on Pseudokarst	x	-	-	-	x	-	-
Commission on Speleochronology and Paleokarst	x	-	-	-	-	-	-
Commission on Speleotherapy	x	x	x	-	-	-	x
Commission on Volcanic Caves	x	-	-	-	-	-	-
Department of Protection of Karst and Caves	x	-	-	-	x	-	x

DECISION 2: Pending the approval of the proposed modifications on the UIS Statutes and Internal Regulations, all Departments, Commissions, Working Groups will be called “COMMISSIONS”.

6) UIS Prizes (N. COLZATO, J-P. BARTHOLEYNS, J.A. LABEGALLINI)

a. Standard UIS Prizes for the 17th ICS

Nivaldo COLZATO presented the status of the UIS Prizes for the 17th ICS. He described the various nominations (16 books and 2 major exploration projects). He also showed the UIS Bureau Members the procedure he has planned for judging, including the organization of Jury Members and the fill-out Judging Forms.

Five UIS Prizes are proposed:

- 1- “The most significant discovery/exploration” with a certificate and a prize of 200 €.
- 2- “The most significant publication (book) about caves or a karst-related topic” (scientific and/or technical publications are considered for this prize), two prizes, each of which with a certificate and 100 €.
- 3- “Poster Prize” - The best poster displayed at the ICS, divided in two categories (each with a certificate and 100 €:
 - Best Scientific Poster, judged by a Scientific Committee composed of international experts;
 - Caver’s Prize, i.e. the best poster in the opinion of the visitors to the poster display.

ACTION 1: UIS Bureau allows the payment of 600 € for the UIS Prizes to be granted at the 17th ICS in Penrith, Sydney (Australia). Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA will process the payment during the 17th ICS.

b. HABE Prize (Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS)

Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS presented to the UIS Bureau the status of the Habe Prize for 2017.

The Habe Prize consists of a certificate by the Department of Karst and Cave Protection and a check of 250 €. This was approved at a previous Bureau meeting.

Five interested submissions were received on time from Brazil, Indonesia, Myanmar, Russia and Slovenia. They concern the recovery of a degraded area, the comprehensive and durable management of a karst area, a cave documentation project, a new international protection system agreement, and a film about diving in the service of cave protection.

The jury of the France Habe Prize 2016 was composed of two members of the Scientific Committee of the UIS Department of Karst and Cave Protection and its President. They noted each submission following an evaluation framework about presentation, compilation, photography, scientific content, legibility and original point of view. They decided unanimously to present the 2017 France Habe Prize, an amount of € 250, to the best and more original contribution.

The winner is this year Ir. JUNIAT Irawati from Indonesia for the Protection and management of karst regions in Indonesia.

The jury congratulates the four others participants for their investment in karst and cave protection.

Nominations for the 2018 France Habe Prize must be received by May 20, 2018.

c. Sami Karkabi Prize proposal (Fadi NADER)

With Sami KARKABI (founder of the Speleo-Club du Liban, which has been at the origin of developed speleology in the Middle East) passing away in March 2017, the Speleo-Club du Liban decided to organize a Prize in his memory. They asked the UIS to be associated to this Prize.

Fadi NADER communicated the Lebanese request to the UIS Bureau and showed a short movie that was made as a tribute for Sami KARKABI.

The decision on this request was postponed for the next UIS Bureau meeting with the new Bureau Members after the elections in the second session of the General Assembly.

7) Requests for UIS Membership /Relationships with International/Regional Organizations & Countries

a. ISCA (MOU)

George VENI informed the UIS Bureau that the document was finally ready for signature and he suggest that Kyung Sik WOO sign it in Penrith (Sydney) during the congress so that he can bring the signed copy with him and send it to the President of ISCA.

b. AUS/FSE (Associated Organization of UIS)

Fadi NADER informed the UIS Bureau that the AUS sent an official request to be an Associated Organization of the UIS. Though, this has been done before as reported by Kyng Sik WOO, now we now have the official request.

c. EU Projects (Cyprus / MED-FFS)

Fadi NADER informed the UIS Bureau of the progress with respect to the Cyprus Cave Project (EU funded) and the proposal made by the FFS (French), on Mediterranean show cave monitoring, which has been supported by UIS.

d. UNESCO International Year for Caves and Karst

Fadi NADER, Kyung SIK WOO, Nadja HAJNA ZUPAN and George VENI informed the UIS Bureau about the various initiatives and activities with regard to the IYCK proposal for 2021.

e. New Member-Country Proposals: Philippines, Kyrgyzstan, Sri Lanka

Fadi NADER informed the UIS Bureau about three official requests for New Member Countries to be presented to the UIS General Assembly. These are the Philippines, Kyrgyzstan, and Sri Lanka. For the latter country, it was still unclear whether the request was for regular membership, association, affiliation or cooperation. Fadi NADER proposed to find out during the 17th ICS following discussion with Armstrong OSBORNE, as he is involved in the application.

f. Returning Countries: Pakistan

Only one returning Member Country request was received and that is Pakistan. Nevertheless, nobody from Pakistan managed to attend the 17th ICS (Penrith, Australia).

8) Communication & Data

General discussions followed among UIS Bureau members concerning operational issues and the following matters:

- a. UIS website (updated regularly, now with the Fund-Raising link)
- b. Facebook (more than 1400 members) and social networks
- c. Electronic Voting (operational since 2014)
- d. Data storage, electronic archive in Postojna (ongoing)
- e. Bulletin (N. Colzato)
- f. UIS Documentation Centers

9) Attendance on past speleology events (listing events and attendees)

- a. EuroKarst 2016, 5-7 September 2016 (Neuchâtel, Switzerland), <http://www.eurokarst.org/>: Mladen Garasic.
- b. 40 anniversary of Speleo Nederland, 16-18 September 2016 (Belgium): Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns.
- 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 Veni.
- e. Espeleo Turismo Caripe, 23 to 25 November 2016 (Monagas, Venezuela): Efrain Mercado.
- f. 1st Asian Speleological Conference – 2nd Asian Tanskarst Conference (Lichan, China): J-P Bartholeyns, A Eavis, Z Motycka, and K S Woo.
- g. Journées de Spéléologie Scientifique (20th) (Han-sur-Lesse – Belgium): J-P Bartholeyns.
- h. American Geophysical Union, 12-16 December 2016, (San Francisco, California, USA), 3 August abstract deadline, <http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2016/>: Kyung Sik Woo.
- i. Hypogea 2017: International Congress of Speleology in Artificial Cavities, 6-10 March 2017 (Cappadocia, Turkey), www.hypogea2017.com.
- j. 3d International Symposium of Speleology, 28 April-1st May 2017 (Varenna – Italy): J-P Bartholeyns, A. Cigna, K. S. Woo, and N. Zupan
- k. US Geological Survey Karst Interest Group Meeting, 16-18 May 2017 (San Antonio, Texas, USA): George Veni.
- l. Climate Record: The Karst Record VIII, 21-24 May 2017, (Austin, Texas, USA), <http://sites.uci.edu/kr8conference/>: George Veni.
- m. 25th International Karstological School, mid-June 2017 (Postojna, Slovenia): Nadja Zupan, Mladen Garasic, and Zdenek Motycka.
- n. 34th Brazilian Congress of Speleology, 13-18 June, 2017 (Ouro Preto, Brasil): Nivaldo Colzato, Jose-Ayrton Labegalini, and Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns.
- o. NSS Convention, 19-23 June 2017 (Rio Rancho, NM USA); <http://nss2017.caves.org/>: George Veni.
- p. National Association of Mining History Organisations Conference 2017, 23-26 June 2017 (Godstone, Surrey, UK), <http://namho2017.info/>
- q. 17th International Congress of Speleology, 23-30 July 2017 (Sydney, New South Wales, Australia), <http://speleo2017.com/>

10) Finalizing UIS 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 is subject of a separate report). The accompanying PowerPoint files were finalized as well and made ready for projection.

11) Closing

The first session of the annual UIS Bureau Meeting for the year 2017 ended at 18h00 (local time).

UIS Bureau Annual Meeting – Minutes
Penrith (Sydney, Australia) – July 22-29, 2017



UIS Bureau (2013-2017) at the 17th ICS (Penrith - Sydney, Australia)

	Attendance: Session 2 <i>Sunday July 29 at 14h37 local time (after second session of General Assembly and election of new Bureau)</i>
President	George VENI
Vice-President for Administration	Zdenek MOTYCKA
Vice-President for Operations	Efrain MERCADO
Secretary General	Fadi NADER
Treasurer	Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA
Adjunct Secretaries	Bernard CHIROL Nivaldo COLZATO Mladen GARASIC Satoshi GOTO Gyula HEGEDUS Bärbel VOGEL
Honorary M. & Past-Presidents	Pavel BOSAK Andy EAVIS J.-A. LABEGALINI Kyung Sik WOO
Past Bureau Members	Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS John CUGLEY
Bureau members not in attendance	Tim MOULDS

12) Welcoming New Bureau Members

George VENI (elected President of the UIS) opened the second session of the Bureau meeting (and the first meeting with the newly elected Bureau) in Penrith (Australia) by welcoming all new Bureau members and thanking all previous members for their work and dedication to the UIS.

After the election at the second session of the General Assembly at the 17th ICS, Bernard CHIROL (France), Nivaldo COLZATO (Brazil), Mladen GARASIC (Croatia), Satoshi GOTO (Japan), Gyula HEGEDUS (Hungary), Tim MOULDS (Australia), and Bärbel VOGEL (Germany) were (re-)elected as adjunct secretaries. Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA (Slovenia) was elected as the first Treasurer of the UIS. Fadi NADER (Lebanon) was re-elected as Secretary General. Then Efrain MERCADO (Puerto Rico) was re-elected as VP-Operations and Zdenek MOTYCKA (Czech Republic) was elected as VP-Administration. Bernard CHIROL, Satoshi GOTO, Gyula HEGEDUS, Tim MOULDS and Bärbel VOGEL joined the UIS Bureau.

Kyung Sik WOO expressed how difficult it would be for him to leave the UIS Bureau as a President and congratulated George VENI.

13) Operations and responsibilities of the members of the UIS Bureau

a. Review job responsibilities following the Internal Regulations

George VENI informed the Bureau Members about the way the Bureau will function and the responsibilities of each member in his/her capacity based on the UIS Statutes and Internal Regulations. He also expressed his intention to have frequent communications with Executive Officers and Bureau Members by email and skype.

b. Follow-up of Commissions

Since Zdenek MOTYCKA was elected Vice-President for Administration, he will follow up on commissions instead of George VENI. The reports of Commissions should be included in the next UIS Bulletin (cf. Nivaldo COLZATO).

ACTION 2: George VENI will write an email to presidents of Commissions asking them to send their reports to Nivaldo COLZATO for publishing in the next UIS Bulletin, and informing them that Zdenek MOTYCKA, elected VP-Administration will do the follow-up until the upcoming 18th ICS (Lyon, France, 2021).

DECISION 3: UIS Bureau decided to keep the annual global budget cap for Commissions financial support at 2000 Euros, as was before.

c. National Delegates, Organizations and Regional bodies

In order to achieve pertinent communications with Member Countries and those countries aspiring to be members or to resume membership with the UIS, a decision was made to appoint specific Bureau Members as focal contacts for certain countries in order to establish contact.

Satoshi GOTO will take care of communications with Asian countries (also through his functions at AUS). Efrain MERCADO will also establish contact with Venezuela and Costa Rica (and FEALC).

ACTION 3: Satoshi GOTO will contact Vietnam and Mongolia and establish communication with those Member Countries. He will report to the UIS Bureau with further information and country focal contacts.

ACTION 4: Efrain MERCADO will resume contact with Venezuela and Costa Rica and report to the UIS Bureau with updates.

d. Identifying projects/responsibilities for Adjunct Secretaries

- ✓ **Fund raising:** The website is ready for fund-raising. Zdenek MOTYCKA and Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA will follow up on this matter in 2017 (especially concerning receiving donation through PayPal, clarification with the bank is needed).

ACTION 5: Zdenek MOTYCKA and Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA will ask the bank in Slovenia about any drawbacks in receiving donations through PayPal and viable solutions.

- ✓ **Funding Expeditions:** The UIS Bureau agreed to launch the Funding Expeditions Project (proposed by Z. MOTYCKA) in December 2017 for the year of 2018. Up to three funds will be granted with a global funding cap of 3000 Euros.

DECISION 4: UIS Bureau decided to launch Funding Expedition Project for 2018. Up to three funds will be given with a global budget (for the three of them) of 3000 Euros. Advertisement will be made on UIS website as of December 2017.

- ✓ **UN / UNESCO NGOs:** Bärbel VOGEL suggested to inscribe the UIS as a UN NGO. Fadi NADER also informed the Bureau that during the previous meeting at UNESCO, the Country Delegations strongly recommended the inscription of the UIS on the UNESCO NGO list (relatively easy through Internet).

ACTION 6: Bärbel VOGEL will investigate about the UN and UNESCO lists of NGOs and the possibilities for the UIS to be registered in such lists.

- ✓ **IYCK 2021:** The UIS Bureau discussed the situation regarding the UIS proposal for an International Year of Caves and Karst for 2021. It was clear that the group's learning curve about how to deal with such initiative has improved considerably for the UIS in the last year. The communications with ICSU, UNESCO and even the UN should be even more engaged in order to have at least one country making the proposal at UNESCO then UN councils by October/November 2017. Otherwise, the next opportunity will be in 2019. The UIS Bureau asked Fadi NADER to be the coordinator of this initiative and proposal.

DECISION 5: The UIS Bureau members are asked to maintain pressure and make sure that their countries support the 2021 IYCK UNESCO project. Fadi Nader will liaise between UNESCO delegations in Paris, ICSU and UIS.

14) UIS Advisory Committee

The UIS Bureau agreed to ask Paul Williams and Friedrich Oedl to serve on the UIS Advisory Committee. If they agree, the committee will include: Andy Eavis, Pavel Bosak, Jose Ayrton Labegalini, Kyung Sik Woo, Friedrich Oedl, and Paul Williams.

ACTION 7: George VENI will contact Friedrich Oedl and Paul Williams and invite them to serve on the UIS Advisory Committee.

DECISION 6: The UIS Advisory Committee (2017) includes: Mr Andy Eavis (UK); Dr. Pavel Bosak (CZ); Mr. Jose-Ayrton Labegalini (BR); Kyung Sik Woo (KO), Dr. Friedrich Oedl, jr. (A); Dr. Paul Williams (NZ).

15) Future Meetings and Events of Interest

- a.* International Clean-up of Gouffre Berger, 1-15 August 2017 (Vercors, France), <http://cds39.fr/BFC/index>.
- b.* 11th Balkan Caving Camp, 28 August – 3 September 2017 (Leonidio, Greece), <https://archive.org/details/11thBalkanCaversCamp2017> or <https://www.facebook.com/11th-Balkan-Caving-Camp-2017-in-Leonidio-301383733616075/>
- c.* 11th EuroSpeleo Forum, 15-17 September 2017 (Ferrières, Belgium), <https://www.speleovvs.be/index.php/en/caving-days>
- d.* Biospeleology Conference, 21-23 September 2017 (Seville, Spain), <https://5encuentrossevill.wixsite.com/veibs>
- e.* 44th International Association of Hydrogeologists Congress, 25-29 September 2017 (Dubrovnik, Croatia), <http://iah2017.org/>
- f.* National Cave and Karst Management Symposium, 16-20 October 2017 (Eureka Springs, Arkansas, USA), <http://www.nckms2017.com/>
- g.* British Cave Research Association 28th Cave Science Symposium, 20-21 October 2017 (Leeds, UK), website to be announced.
- h.* Geological Society of America Convention, 22-25 October (Seattle, - Washington, USA), http://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/Annual_Meeting/GSA/Events/gsa2017.aspx
- i.* International Conference on Geomorphology, 6-11 November 2017 (New Delhi, India), karst session, <http://www.icg2017.com/session.php>
- j.* Workshop: Grotte de Han, New Dramatic Effect of Lighting, 16-18 November 2017 (Han-sur-Lesse, Belgium), at@cavelighting.de.
- k.* To Know and Share Caves and Karsts: Understanding, Conservation, and Geotourism, 6-9 March 2018 (Ardèche, France), <https://dhuguet.wixsite.com/cavesymposium2018>
- l.* The Sinkhole Conference, joint with the 3rd Appalachian Karst Symposium, 2-6 April 2018 (Shepherdstown, West Virginia, USA), <http://www.sinkholeconference.com/>
- m.* EuroKarst 2018, 2-6 July 2018 (Besançon, France), <http://www.eurokarst.org/>
- n.* 18th International Vulcanospeleology Symposium, 21-27 July 2018 (Lava Beds National Monument, California, USA), <http://www.vulcanospeleology.org/sym18/ISV18.html>
- o.* EuroSpeleo Forum 2018, 23-26 August 2018 (Ebensee, Austria), <http://eurospeleo.at/expo.html>.
- p.* 24th International Conference on Subterranean Biology, 20-24 August 2018 (University of Aveiro, Portugal), <http://24icsb.web.ua.pt/>.

16) UIS Bureau 2018 meeting

The proposal by Efrain MERCADO on the behalf of FEALC, to have the UIS Bureau meeting at the upcoming FEALC Congress in Colombia (second week of August 2018; 13/08/2018) was well received by the UIS Bureau Members who thought that it would be a good opportunity for the UIS to meet with FEALC, though some concerns about security were also expressed.

Another significant event for 2018 is the Euro-Speleo Forum which will take place in Austria. The UIS Bureau agreed that at least some members of the Bureau should be there as well to represent the UIS.

DECISION 7: The UIS Bureau meeting for the year 2018 will be at the FEALC Congress in Colombia, if security permits. Representation of the UIS will also be organized for the Euro-Speleo Forum in Austria.

17) Any other business

a. ICSU Congress (2017)

The attendance of Kyung Sik WOO at ICSU Congress (25-26 October 2017) in Taipei (TAIWAN) to represent UIS was decided during the 2016 UIS Bureau meeting. If Kyung Sik WOO cannot attend, the Bureau will appoint somebody else to represent the UIS at the ICSU Congress.

ACTION 8: George VENI will find out who can represent the UIS at the ICSU Congress in October 2017 if Kyung Sik WOO is unable to attend.

b. MOU Karst Institute Slovenia

Having noticed that no official documents exist between the Karst Institute of Slovenia and the UIS, a decision has been made to prepare an MOU between the two organizations.

ACTION 9: Pavel BOSAK and Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA will prepare a draft MOU document to be discussed by UIS Bureau.

c. Sami Karkabi Prize Proposal (follow up from Point 6d., above)

The proposal of associating the UIS to the Lebanese “Sami Karkabi Prize” was discussed with the newly elected Bureau. Briefly, the Lebanese cavers have set an international prize (worth of at least 500 US Dollars) and they request to associate the UIS with this prize by having it awarded at the ICS. The Prize shall be funded entirely by the Lebanese Speleo-Club (not by the UIS). The jury will be made up of members of the UIS (or selected by UIS Bureau) and Lebanese speleologists. It shall involve cave photography.

After long discussion the UIS Bureau voted in favor of the Lebanese request and made some recommendations.

- 1- The number of the jury Members should be odd, in order to facilitate the decision making;
- 2- The theme of the photo competition should be different than those at the UIS/ICS Photo-Salon Competitions;

- 3- Collaboration is recommended with the organizers of the ISC/UIS Prizes (e.g. the FFS for the 18th ICS, in 2021); and
- 4- Proposal to include Albert ANAVY to the prize, since he was the first Secretary General of the UIS and a very close friend to Sami KARKABI with whom they founded the Speleo-Club du Liban and played important roles on the national and international levels.

DECISION 8: The UIS Bureau agreed on being associated to the “Sami Karakabi Prize”, the first to be awarded at the 18th ICS in Lyon (France) in 2021. The UIS Bureau also made some suggestions with respect to the mechanism of award and nature of the Prize.

ACTION 10: Fadi NADER will write a letter to the Lebanese Speleo-Club, replying positively on their request to associate the UIS to their international, “Sami Karkabi Prize,” on the behalf of the Bureau, and forwarding them with the suggestions of the UIS Bureau.

d. Committee for Prizes

DECISION 9: The UIS Bureau agrees on having a committee for UIS Prizes composed of Nivaldo COLZATO, Jose-Ayrton LABEGALINI, Mladen GARASIC, and Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS.

e. Internal Regulations

The modified Internal Regulations have also been reviewed by the National Delegates in 2017. They need to be re-adapted to the latter’s requested modifications.

ACTION 11: Fadi NADER and George VENI will revise the Internal Regulations based on the National Delegates comments and propose a new version to be discussed at the next UIS Bureau meeting.

f. Documentation Centers

The first established UIS Documentation Center (or library) was done by the Swiss Speleological Society. It is located in La Chaux de Fonds (Switzerland). Though it is called as such, this library does not belong to the UIS. The case applies to the Bologna Speleo Library and many other libraries around the world.

The UIS Working Group led by Trevor Faulkner established contact with 72 libraries around the world. This is an impressive network for the visibility of the UIS and the Bureau expressed interest in having more communication with such entities.

ACTION 12: Zdenek MOTYCKA will communicate with Trevor FAULKNER about international documentation centers and means of having a related viable

network with UIS. He will prepare a motion for actions to be proposed at the next UIS Bureau meeting.

g. Finances

The UIS General Assembly approved the amended of fee categories of member countries. The approved categories and fees will be published on the UIS website and in the UIS Bulletin. The minimum yearly fees of Affiliated Organizations of the UIS will coincide with Category C (proposed 240 €), and this will also be published in the UIS Bulletin and on the UIS website.

ACTION 13: Nivaldo COLZATO and Efrain MERCADO will publish in the upcoming UIS Bulletin and on the UIS website the new categories and fees for Member Countries and Affiliated Organizations.

Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA explained the financial situation of the UIS Bank accounts and informed the UIS Bureau that on the deposited (blocked) accounts will be freed on the 27th of July, 2017. So a decision has to be made on how much to block for next year.

ACTION 14: The UIS Bureau asked Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA (Treasurer of the UIS) to block for the coming 12 months 20000 Euros and 35000 US Dollars.

Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA also informed the Bureau that she will wait for the 17th ICS organizers to declare the final income of the 17th ICS. Since according to the UIS regulations, 5% of the income would be paid to the UIS. The calculated amount will be less nine registrations that were sponsored by UIS, and less the mailing expenses for sending the UIS books back to Slovenia.

ACTION 15: Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA (Treasurer of the UIS) will inform the UIS Bureau about the exact amount of income returned to the UIS after the 17th ICS.

18) Closing Session (President) + Setting the Action List for 2018

At 17h30, George VENI closed the second session of the Penrith (Sydney), 2017 UIS Bureau meeting and thanked everybody for their presence and their contribution.

ACTION 16: Fadi NADER will prepare the minutes of the meetings and the Action List for 2018.



UIS Bureau (2017-2021) at the 17th ICS (Penrith - Sydney, Australia)