

UIS BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING

15-16 April 2011

Hotel Terasa – Jedovnice (Czech Republic)

	ATTENDANCE: <i>Wednesday thru Saturday, April 13-16, 2011</i>
President	Andrew James EAVIS
Vice-President Administration	George VENI
Vice-President Operations	Christian DODELIN
Secretary General	Fadi NADER
Adjunct Secretaries	Giovanni BADINO Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS Efrain MERCADO Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA
Honorary & Past-Presidents	Pavel BOSAK Hubert TRIMMEL
Bureau members not in attendance	Alexander KLIMCHOUK, Stein-Erik LAURITZEN, Paul WILLIAMS, Kyung Sik WOO
Organizer of the 16th ICS (Brno, Czech Republic)	Zdeněk MOTYČKA

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

Andy Eavis thanked all participants for coming to Jedovnice and Brno (Czech Republic). He informed the Bureau that Alexander Klimchouk, Stein-Erik Lauritzen, Paul Williams, and Kyung Sik Woo have apologized for not being able to come to the Bureau Meeting. Andy Eavis thanked Zdeněk Motyčka and Pavel Bosak for hosting the Bureau meeting.

The Agenda of the meeting was then approved by the present Bureau members.

2) Approval of Minutes from Regular Sessions in 2010 (Postojna, SLOVENIA)

Andy Eavis proposed a motion to accept the minutes of the preceding meeting that was held in Postojna (Slovenia) on June 12 and 13, 2010. Fadi NADER seconded this motion and it was passed by the Bureau.

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

3) Previous meetings and events

a. FEALC Congress (Matanzas, Cuba) 4 to 8 August, 2010;

Andy Eavis, George Veni, and Efrain Mercado attended this event and verbally reported the main outcomes to the UIS Bureau.

b. ISCA Congress (Slovakia) 20-24 October 2010;

Andy Eavis, Arrigo Cigna, Giovanni Badino and Pavel Bosak attended this event and verbally reported the main outcomes to the UIS Bureau.

c. 1st Croatian Speleo Congress (Croatia) 24-27 Nov 2010;

Christian Dodelin, Fadi Nader, Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns and Nadja Zupan Hajna attended this event and verbally reported the main outcomes to the UIS Bureau.

d. National Symposium of the Turkish Federation of Speleology (Istanbul / Turkey);

Fadi Nader attended this event and verbally reported the main outcomes to the UIS Bureau.

4) Organization updates concerning the 16th ICS – Brno 2013

a. Report of Site Visit of venues and facilities

b. News from the Organizing Committee

Mr. Zdeněk Motyčka informed the UIS Bureau about the updates concerning the organization of the upcoming 16th ICS in Brno (Czech Republic) in 2013. His verbal report included seven important steps that summarize the work that has been done since the previous UIS Bureau meeting in Postojna (June, 2010) and projects the future perspectives.

A discussion took place about inviting the FSE to plan their General Assembly and Bureau meeting for the year 2013 at the venue of the 16th ICS in Brno. The UIS Bureau members and the 16th ICS organizers found that this idea is adequate and should be encouraged.

DECISION 1: The Bureau offers facilities for the FSE to run its General Assembly and Bureau meeting at Brno in 2013 during the 16th ICS.

ACTION 1: Fadi Nader (upon the approval of Andy Eavis) will send a letter to FSE to invite them to plan their General Assembly and Bureau meeting for the year 2013 at the 16th ICS in Brno (Czech Republic).

5) Location of the UIS Bureau 2012 meeting (IRAN)

Possible venues:

- a. Euro SpeleoForum (2012): date not known; no invitation or support
- b. Iranian Cavers and Speleologists Association meeting (2012): date not known, general invitation, probably some support with facilities
- c. 4th Argentine Speleological Congress, Mendoza, Argentina (1-8 April 2012): invitation, probably some support with facilities
- d. Artificial Caves Commission, Torino, Italy (May 2012): written invitation, probably some support with facilities

- e. Pseudokarst Commission, Galicia, Spain (10-15 September 2012): invitation, no support
- f. International Workshop on Ice in Caves, Italy, (September 2012): no invitation or support
- g. Hidden Earth (22-23 or 29-30 September 2012): possible invitation and support
- h. Volcanic Caves Commission, Amman, Jordan (15-22 March 2012): invitation, no support

DECISION 2: The upcoming annual UIS Bureau meeting will take place in Iran between 14 and 24 April 2012. The Bureau will contribute to a symposium at the University of Shiraz and part of it will visit the salt karst in southern Iran together with Iranian cavers to evaluate that area for World Heritage designation. If this plan fails than the Bureau meeting will be in Jordan combined with the upcoming Symposium of the Volcanic Caves Commission.

ACTION 27: Fadi will send a letter to the Iranian Cavers asking about the possibility to have meeting and scientific program in Shiraz around March 2012 and determine if support is available in Iran for a World Heritage evaluation of the salt karst area.

6) UIS/UNESCO (F. Nader)

Fadi Nader informed the Bureau that the UIS has become an Associate Member of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and that two representatives of the UIS should participate at the ICSU General Assembly in September 2011 in Rome. A fee of 500 Euro should be paid annually to ICSU.

ACTION 2: Fadi Nader will contact Arrigo to ask him about possibly representing UIS at ICSU GA in Rome 24 September - 1 October, 2011 (Nadja will see as well if she can attend, and Andy can come on the 29th September).

ACTION 3: Fadi Nader will prepare a payment order of 500 Euro to ICSU and send it to Nadja (with invoice attached).

7) UIS Code of Ethics (Stein-Erik Lauritzen)

ACTION 4: Publish the current draft of Ethics completed by S.E. Lauritzen on Website as working document and ask delegates to review before upcoming UIS Bureau Meeting in 2012.

8) Commission Reports

George Veni, VP-Administration, reported on the activities of the Departments, Commissions, and Working Groups:

a. Archaeology and Paleontology

No reports or communications.

b. Arts and Letters

They are working on the contest for the UIS Anthem and hope to have some for the Bureau to review and select from next year.

c. Artificial Cavities

The committee has reorganized with Mario Parise as President and members from six countries. They are organizing the *International Workshop on Speleology in Artificial Cavities* for May 2012 in Torino, Italy.

d. Atlas of Karst Regions

No reports or communications.

e. Bibliography

New BBS was recently produced but is still one year behind schedule. Greg Middleton and Patrick Deriaz began discussing adding the BBS information into the Karst Information Portal, but this has apparently been delayed until Patrick catches up with BBS.

f. Biology

Last year, Peter Matthews started discussing adding biological systematic into the Infomatics database with the commission. No information has since been reported on progress.

g. Cave Diving

No reports or communications.

h. Cave Mineralogy

Organized a cave mineralogy session of *the International Mineralogical Association Convention* in August 2010, and Bogdan Onac and Paolo Forti are preparing a special issue on cave minerals for the *International Journal of Speleology*.

i. Cave Rescue

Christian Dodelin has organized successful cave rescue workshops in France, Mexico and Turkey in 2010, and the commission is working with cave rescue conferences in April and May 2012 in Hungary and Bulgaria.

j. Cavers' Dictionary

No reports or communications since Farsi was added in late 2009.

k. Department of Education

There was a report in July 2010 on an conference in Tunisia.

l. Department of Cave and Karst Protection

The Department has developed Management Guidelines for Show Caves, and continues to provide regular news and information.

m. Glacier, Firn, and Ice Caves

The 5th International Workshop on Ice in Caves is planned for September 2012 in northern Italy. Details have not yet been released.

n. History of Speleology

Commission President Karl Mais has been ill and not responding to messages. Hubert Trimmell offered to serve as the contact for the commission until Mais is in good health.

o. Hydrothermal Karst

Alexander Klimchouk reports that he and Yuri Dublyansky will likely dissolve this working group and include within a Hypogenic Karst Working Group under the Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis Commission.

p. Informatics

See Biology Commission.

q. ISCA

David Summers reported some difficulties and differences of opinion on the UIS Management Guidelines for Show Caves. Pavel Bosak and Hubert Trimmel were at the ISCA Congress where the differences were discussed, and can provide more information.

r. Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis

Alexander Klimchouk reports the commission has revised and reorganized the online journal, *Speleogenesis and Evolution of Karst Aquifers*. Also, the commission is co-sponsoring the *International Conference on Karst Hydrogeology and Ecosystems* in Kentucky in June 2011.

s. Longest and Deepest Caves

No activity. The President (Aitana Tamayo) does not respond to e-mails and the Vice President (Pat Kambesis) does not feel comfortable directing the commission without the President's knowledge or approval.

t. Microbiology and Geomicrobiology

The commission created microbiological decontamination protocols for the UIS.

u. Paleokarst and Speleochronology

No reports or communication. George Veni was having trouble reaching Stein-Erik Lauritzen by e-mail, but the problem is now fixed and he will contact Stein-Erik again soon for a report.

v. Physical Chemistry and Hydrogeology

No activity reported.

w. Pseudokarst

The commission held a successful conference in 2010 and is planning another conference in September 2012 in Galicia, Spain.

x. Speleotherapy

No news reported since organizing a conference in 2009.

y. Techniques and Materials Development

Christian Dodelin and George Veni asked Bernard Tourte and Mark Passerby to reorganize the commission, but they did not have time. Dodelin and Veni will search for others to organize the commission.

ACTION 5: Both VPs (George Veni and Christian Dodelin) will try to find a solutions for this commission which will be called ("Advances in Caving Techniques).

z. Volcanic Caves

The commission held a successful conference in 2010 in Australia and is planning another conference in March 2012 in Amman, Jordan.

ACTION 6: Add a mention on the UIS website that informs about the status of the commission or working group. This could be "last updated XX/XX/XXXX" If the commission is not active, also add a statement inviting cavers interested in reviving it to contact the VP-Admin.

9) Delegates and National Bodies Reports

Christian Dodelin, VP-Operation, reported on the news from delegates and national bodies. He highlighted also demands of delegates and national bodies that the information and details about them should be up to date on the UIS Website (see below).

ACTION 19: Fadi Nader will provide an updated list of national delegates and organization with their details.

10) News from Regional Federations

DECISION 6: Representatives of the Regional bodies are considered as non-voting invited guests at the UIS Bureau meetings.

11) UIS Website and Forum

ACTION 7: The UIS Bureau agrees on a maximum budget of 2,000 Euros to professionally update the UIS website.

ACTION 8: VP-Operation (Christian Dodelin) will contact Peter Matthews and mention Pavel's contact and budget for upgrading UIS website.

DECISION 3: UIS Bureau members will use the FORUM for all intra-bureau correspondence between meetings and ICSs.

ACTION 24: Provide space on UIS website for EXPEDITION ADVISORY SERVICE (link with European Federation Project for international expedition c/o Manuel Freire.

12) Finance Update

Nadja Zupan Hajna reported the Financial Update of the UIS as follows:

1. Incomes in 2010

Income from received fees	879,17 €
Financial incomes from business claims	23,47 €
Financial income from interest	102,16€
Financial income from exchange rate differences	3.231,93 €
<i>SUM</i>	4236,73 €

2. Expenses in 2010

Costs of accounting services	267,60 €
Costs of payment transactions	90,90 €
Donations to other legal entities	1000,00 €
Material costs	44,00 €
<i>SUM</i>	<i>1402,50 €</i>

INCOME SURPLUS: 2834,23 €

3. Society in 2010 shows a surplus of 2834.23 € incomes and transfers them to unallocated surplus of total incomes of 50,240.69 €

4. **On the day of 31. 12. 2010** Society had the following assets:

- Cash in EUR: **5785.75**
- Cash in U.S. dollars: **34236,51 (25622,29 €)**
- Short-term foreign currency deposit in U.S. dollars: **25000,00 (18709,78 €)**
- Short-term interest: **122,87 €**

SUM: 50240,69 €

5. **On the day of 31. 12. 2010** Society had no liabilities; claims for interest on deposits are 122.87 €

Postojna, March 24, 2011

DECISION 4: Recommend for the upcoming General Assembly (Brno, 2013) a list of active member countries (dropping those countries that did not pay their fees for the last three consecutive years).

ACTION 20: Contact member countries and ask for debts before the upcoming ICS in Brno.

ACTION 21: Block more money at the bank in order to increase interest (10,000 USD over the 25,000 USD) as of 15 February 2012.

13) International Journal of Speleology

ACTION 9: Andy Eavis signed the contract with the University of South Florida (USF) concerning the electronic publishing of the IJS.

ACTION 10: VP-Operation (Christian Dodelin) will contact Joe de Waele and ask him about nominating a replacement person if he is still planning to retire as Editor of IJS in Brno in 2013.

ACTION 26: Andy will send a letter thanking University of South Florida for printing and distribution the IJS for two years.

14) Running Projects

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

J.-A. Labegalini sent no new report. As of the 2010 Bureau meeting he estimated the following schedule:

- 2011: Text finished before the 2011 Bureau meeting
- 2012: Editing, Review and Design
- 2013: Printing (before the upcoming 16th ICS, Brno – Czech Republic)

J.-P. Bartholeyns will remind him about the book in Brazil (July 2011).

ACTION 11: J.-A. Labegalini will prepare the draft text of the UIS Book for the next UIS Bureau meeting in 2012.

15) New Member-countries (existing and/or prospective):

ACTION 12: Fadi Nader will write a letter to Hymer to ask if his organization can consider itself representative of Malaysia. Fadi Nader will also highlight the job description of national delegates, who should be habilitated to represent all cavers of his/her country (Statutes).

ACTION 13: Fadi Nader will write a letter to ask if the speleological organization in Honduras can consider itself representative of Honduras and assume the job description of national delegates, who should be habilitated to represent all cavers of his/her country (Statutes).

16) Proposed projects/ideas:

a. International Expeditions – UIS/FSE

DECISION 5: Giovanni Badino will take charge of the task to develop special UIS expeditions and/or projects.

b. Speleo-Competitions (International) – Juan Carlos Lopez Casas

ACTION 14: Andy Eavis will write a paper with the cons and pros of Speleological Competitions that will serve as a serious/clear proposal to be voted on by next UIS Bureau (2012).

c. Others

Book on Ice Caves (needing financial support)

17) Future meetings and events:

- a. 50th Anniversary of Cave Rescue Organization, Budapest, Hungary, (29-30 April 2011)
- b. 12th Cave Rescue Conference in Bulgaria (8 to 15 May 2011)

- c. Granite caves (Sweden, 1 to 8 June 2011)
- d. 3rd International Conference on Karst Hydrogeology and Ecosystems (Kentucky, 8-10 June 2011) 4 days fieldtrip pre-conference
- e. 19th Karst School (Slovenia) /Karst Underground Protection (20-25 June 2011)
- f. Climate Change: the Karst Record 6 (27-29 June 2011?) speleothems /Birmingham, UK – pre- and post-conference fieldtrips
- g. 31st Brazilian Congress (July 2011)
- h. U.S. National Speleological Society Convention, Glenwood Springs, Colorado, USA (18-22 July 2011)
- i. Balkan Federation Speleo Camp
- j. 1st Central American Karst Congress, Coban, Guatemala (10-14 August 2011)
- k. MESS 3 (23-25 September 2011)
- l. Hidden Earth (23-25 September 2011)
- m. Euro SpeleoForum (23-25 September 2011)
- n. VMR Belgium (September-October 2011)
- o. National Cave and Karst Management Symposium, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA (3-7 October 2011)
- p. Euro SpeleoForum (2012)
- q. Iranian Cavers and Speleologists Association meeting (2012)
- r. Volcanic Caves Commission, Amman, Jordan (15-22 March 2012)
- s. Artificial Caves Commission, Torino, Italy (May 2012)
- t. Pseudokarst Commission, Galicia, Spain (10-15 September 2012)
- u. International Workshop on Ice in Caves, Italy, (September 2012)
- v. Hidden Earth (22-23 or 29-30 September 2012)
- w. others

18) Conservation Issues:

a. Progress by FSE

b. Far-East

ACTION 15: Paul Williams in consultation with Kyung Sik Woo will refine the letters to China and Philippines and then send them to Fadi Nader who will officially send them to the authorities.

ACTION 16: Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns will review the documents concerning the conservation of karst sites in Thailand and will decide what to do.

c. Middle East

ACTION 17: Fadi Nader will contact A. Klimchouk to review the Iisu Project (Turkey).

d. Americas

ACTION 18: Efrain Mercado will take the message to the Mexican cavers that the UIS Bureau is very concerned about the cave pollution in the Yucatan Peninsula and Efrain will report back to UIS Bureau.

19) Other Business

a. New Article for Internal Regulations: Karst Information Portal

ACTION 23: Pavel will look into Article 17 with the Advisory Committee.

ACTION 25: Bureau accepts to add Article 25 to regulations. The Regulations will need to be updated and published.

b. Which organizations are affiliated with UIS? What is the fee?

c. Request for Affiliation: National Cave and Karst Research Institute

DECISION 7: Decision by unanimous vote to accept NCKRI as an affiliated member to UIS with payment of Category A (300 Euro) annually.

d. FEALC

ACTION 22: Andy will write a support letter to FEALC.

e. ISCA

ACTION 28: President Andy Eavis will contact ISCA and resume UIS' relationship with them.

20) Closing Meeting and Setting the Action List of 2012

Andy Eavis closed the UIS Bureau meeting for the year 2011 and thanked everybody for their presence and contribution.

ACTION 29: Fadi Nader will prepare the minutes of the meetings and the Action List for 2012.