

# UIS ANNUAL BUREAU MEETING

September 9-10, 2020

ONLINE

*Session 1: September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

	<b>Attendance: Session 1</b> <i>Wednesday September 9, 2020; at 15h00 CET</i>
<b>President</b>	George VENI
<b>Vice-President for Administration</b>	Zdenek MOTYCKA
<b>Secretary General</b>	Fadi NADER
<b>Treasurer</b>	Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA
<b>Adjunct Secretaries</b>	Bernard CHIROL Nivaldo COLZATO Mladen GARASIC Satoshi GOTO Gyula HEGEDUS Tim MOULDS Bärbel VOGEL
<b>Honorary M. &amp; Past-Presidents</b>	Andy EAVIS J.-A. LABEGALINI P. BOSAK
<b>Guests</b>	Laurence TANGUILLE (FFS, Organization ICS 18)
<b>Absent(s)</b>	Efrain MERCADO

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

George VENI thanked all participants for the 2020 UIS Bureau meeting, for the first time by video-conferencing on Zoom. The meeting consists of two sessions, each of which having a duration of around 3 hours. Several matters have been shared ahead of the online meeting in order to have time-framed, efficient discussions.

**Points in black (bold): to Discuss in the VC meeting –**  
**Points in blue: information, shared ahead of the meeting**

George VENI proposed to approve the meeting agenda, which was approved unanimously.

**DECISION 1: The Agenda items of the Meeting were approved by the present Bureau members.**

## **2) Approval of Minutes of Regular Bureau Meeting of 2019 (Bohol, Philippines)**

Zdenek MOTYCKA reported that the text under Point #12 “UIS Commissions and Expeditions” in the 2019 Bureau meeting minutes has a copy-paste by error from the previous 2018 Bureau meeting minutes (Ebensee, Austria). He proposed to discard it.

Fadi NADER suggested that this error will be published in the 2020 meeting minutes as erratum of the previously published minutes.

After review, George VENI proposed to approve the minutes of the previous annual meeting. Tim MOULDS seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**DECISION 2: The revised minutes of the 2019 annual meeting were approved by the UIS Bureau.**

## **3) Review Action Items and Decisions of previous UIS Bureau Meeting (2019) – Decisions to be made on follow up un-accomplished actions**

Members of the Bureau having listed actions, reported their activities.

Action1: George remains in contact with the ISCA board about having their board meeting during the Congress. He is promoting the Congress with the ISCA President and they are requesting abstracts and papers from ISCA. The time and date of the ISCA Board meeting will be coordinated by the Congress organizers either in a general meeting room or the UIS meeting room if other rooms are not available.

Fadi NADER (Action 2) explained that whenever a UIS Bulletin is published, a post on Facebook is made to inform FB members and to provide a link to the website link (where the UIS Bulletin is downloadable).

Action 4: George just sent a message to Boris Watz and Uwe Kruger to learn their status on the video. Any news will be reported below.

Action 5: George contacted Alexey about the Bureau’s concerns. He replied that he would correct the problems and we have not heard any complaints since then.

Only two ACTIONS were kept from the 2019 meeting. They are presented here:

**ACTION 1: Satoshi GOTO to coordinate/prepare use of new social media accounts in different countries/regions to promote the UIS.**

**ACTION 2: The UIS Bureau will inform the General Assembly and seek its approval on the new fee categories (as proposed at the 2019 Bureau Meeting, Bohol – Philippines):**

- A: 480 €, 2000 or more covers**
- B: 360 €, 1000-1999 covers**
- C: 240 €, 500-999 covers**
- D: 120 €, 100-499 covers**
- E: 60 €, <100 covers**

#### **4) ICS 2021 (ICS Organizing Committee FFS)**

Laurence TANGUILLE updated the situation with respect to the ICS organization progress.

##### **a. Updates – Status**

- Budget issues: the French Federation of Speleology (FFS) will not fund the ICS 18, which have an impact on the ICS program and activities
- Zdenek MOTYCKA sent the email list to Laurence, who sent it to Yannick DECKER who will send the emails. Better communication by ICS organizers is needed.
- Tim MOULDS: Covid-19 issues and doubts on people to attend the ICS in 2021. Take into account for Budget forecast! Action>> add a mention on website that measures will be taken for Covid-19!
- January next year the ICS Organizing Committee will to decide if the ICS is postponed or not!

**ACTION 3: Zdenek MOTYCKA will follow up on the recommendations/decisions for actions requested from the ICS 18 organizers:**  
**-a-Improve communications by sending invitation to the mass-email list prepared by Z. Motycka (and shared with Yannick DECKER).**  
**-b-Add information related to Covid-19 measures taken prior and during the ICS 18.**  
**-c-Organize a meeting in January 2021 to decide whether the ICS 18 will be postponed or not.**

##### **b. Progress – Way Forward**

- **Technical program (involving UIS Commissions)**  
To date: 320 abstracts and 40 registrations received  
Deadline for abstract submission: 31 October 2020  
Deadline for first price subscription 24 January 2021

More communication is needed to encourage cavers (especially locals) to participate to in the congress.

Vulcanospeleology: to be discussed between Christophe, George, Fadi and the Commission President (John Brush) – Action to be set.

**ACTION 4: George VENI will organize a video-conference meeting including Fadi NADER, Christophe GAUCHON and John BRUSH.**

- **Spelemedia**  
Films and photographs (different prizes), rooms are defined.
- **UIS Prizes**  
Nivaldo is in charge of the UIS prizes and published information in the Bulletin (categories,, how to submit, etc.).
  - Giving prizes at the ICS (duration: less than 60 minutes)

- Communicate more by UIS/ Nivaldo COLZATO and ICS organizers /Bernard CHIROL

**ACTION 5: Bernard CHIROL and Nivaldo COLZATO will amplify communications between UIS and ICS organizers concerning the UIS Prizes.**

- **Excursions**  
Bernard CHIROL is in charge of Excursions.  
20 excursions and camps before and after the congress are planned (definitive prices will be posted by the end of September 2020).
- **Budget**  
The registration of UIS Bureau members is waived but they have to pay for excursion and extra expenses (to be clarified by ICS organizers /Bernard CHIROL).

**ACTION 6: Bernard CHIROL will ask for clarifications concerning the payment required by UIS Bureau members.**

- **Circulars**  
UIS Bureau is concerned about the fact that Circular #2 has not yet been made available on the website and sent through the participants lists.

**ACTION 7: Bernard CHIROL will tell ICS organizers to provide as soon as possible the Circular (#2) with all details for registrations and excursions.**

## 5) UIS Media

- Website (E. Mercado)
  - Translation option (M Garasic, N Colzato) – No need / automatic translators exist on the web.
  - Add information and not just the link about the ICS (Efrain/Jasmina/Bernard).
  - Add UIS Bulletin 52-2 on the website (still missing (Efrain/Jasmina)).
  - Jasmina RIJAVEC is working on reconstructing the whole website – in progress.

**ACTION 8: Efrain MERCADO will follow up with Jasmina RIJAVEC on adding information (e.g. on the upcoming ICS 18) on the new UIS website, including the UIS Bulletin 52-2 (missing in previous website).**

- Facebook Page has >3200 members, as reported by Fadi
  - Add information and not just the link about the ICS.

**ACTION 9: Fadi NADER will follow up with Jasmina RIJAVEC on adding information (e.g. on the upcoming ICS 18, UIS Bulletin) on the FACEBOOK page.**

- c. Bulletin (N. Colzato) – check Nivaldo’s report  
Need news and information/contributions from Commissions.  
Need to disseminate/distribute the Bulletin to more people.

**DECISION 3: Promote the UIS Bulletin among commissions for publishing more news and info and disseminate/distribute the Bulletin further (enhance outreach).**

- d. UIS History video (M. Garašić, G. Veni)
  - In progress and will be added on the website.

**ACTION 10: MLADEN GARASIC will follow up with Jasmina RIJAVEC on adding the UIS History video, once it is finished, to the UIS website.**

#### **6) UIS Bureau internal functioning (F. Nader / G. Veni)**

- a. **Information policy inside the Bureau (email, deadlines, skype)**  
More Skype meetings are needed for the Bureau to share results of committees.

**DECISION 4: Organize more Skype meetings for the Bureau members to share the discussions and progress of committees.**

- b. **Reporting of UIS Bureau members**
- c. **Reporting of Bureau committees (e.g. IYCK committee)**

#### **7) UIS Relationships with Regional Organization and Countries (G. Veni)**

- a. **FEALC/FSE/AUS.** No news.
- b. **ISCA.** Discussed above.
- c. **Member countries.** No news.

#### **8) News from major past speleological events**

- a. 3rd Asian TransKarst Conference, 30 August – 1 September 2019 (Philippines), <http://www.transkarst2019.com/> UIS attended!
- b. ArmConference 2019: Caves as Natural and Cultural Monuments, 11-13 September 2019 (Yerevan, Armenia), <http://armconference2019.com/> No one attended from UIS
- c. 25th International Cave Bear Symposium, 18-22 September 2019 (Paklenica National Park, Croatia), [nadja.kavcik@univie.ac.at](mailto:nadja.kavcik@univie.ac.at) No one attended from UIS
- d. 13th EuroSpeleo Forum, 26-29 September 2019 (Sofia, Bulgaria), <https://esf2019.speleo-bg.org>. Mladen and Gyula attended.
- e. International Symposium on Techniques for Remote Location of Unknown Underground Cavities, 26-29 September 2019 (Sofia, Bulgaria), <https://esf2019.speleo-bg.org/symposia/>. Same event as (d).

- f. Protected Karst Territories – Legislation, Tourism, Monitoring, 29 September – 2 October 2019 (Sofia, Bulgaria), <http://prokarstterra.bas.bg/forum2019> No one attended from UIS
- g. 46th IAH Congress “Groundwater Management and Governance Coping with Water Scarcity” (Topic 7: Karst Hydrogeology), 23-27 September 2019 (Malaga, Spain), <http://www.iah2019.org/topics-and-sessions/> No one attended from UIS
- h. Sustainable Management of Show Caves, 7-9 October 2019 (Skocjan Caves Park, Slovenia), <https://izrkc-sci-mtg.zrc-sazu.si/en/> No one attended from UIS
- i. National Cave and Karst Management Symposium, 7-11 October 2019 (Bristol, Virginia, USA), <http://nckms.org/2019-symposium> No one attended from UIS but George reported that NCKRI staff attended and it was a good meeting with many talks.
- j. British Cave Research Association 30th Annual Cave Science Symposium, 19-20 October 2019 (Keyworth, Nottingham, UK), for more information contact Dr. Andy Farrant at: [arf\[-at-\]bgs.ac.uk](mailto:arf[-at-]bgs.ac.uk). Andy attended and the meeting was good with good presentations.
- k. 13th European Cave Rescue Meeting, 15-17 November 2019 (Istanbul, Turkey), <https://caverescue.eu/13th-european-cave-rescue-meeting/> Gyula attend the meeting but moved to Croatia on the same date when it could not be held in Turkey.
- l. International Congress: 80th Anniversary of the Cuban Speleological Society, 19-23 February 2020 (Caibarién, Villa Clara, Cuba), for information contact [congreso80aniv.sec@gmail.com](mailto:congreso80aniv.sec@gmail.com). Efrain and Bernard attended. Bernard will send a report to the UIS Bulletin.

The following six conferences were postponed or canceled because of COVID.

- m. 16th Multidisciplinary Conference on the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst, 20-24 April 2020 (San Juan, Puerto Rico), [www.sinkholeconference.com](http://www.sinkholeconference.com)
- n. ALCADI Alps Carpathians and Dinaric Gorizia Italy 30 April 3 May – GH and MG to attend.
- o. 23rd Conference of the Australasian Cave and Karst Management Association, 3-8 May 2020 (Jenolan Caves, New South Wales, Australia), [www.ackma.org](http://www.ackma.org). TM May attend
- p. 9th International Workshop on Ice Caves (IWIC-IX) & the 12th Scientific Conference Research, Utilization and Protection of Caves, 12-15 May 2020 (Liptovský Mikuláš, Slovakia), for information contact [milos.melega@ssj.sk](mailto:milos.melega@ssj.sk)
- q. UIS Bureau meeting
- r. US Geological Survey Karst Interest Group Meeting, 13-14 May 2020 (Nashville, Tennessee), for information contact [akclark@usgs.gov](mailto:akclark@usgs.gov)
- s. UNESCOkarst 2020: Conservation of Fragile Karst Resources, 18-22 May 2020 (Bowling Green, Kentucky, USA), <https://unescokarst2020.com/> This conference occurred virtually and attended by about 70 people from several countries. George gave two presentations about the IYCK. UNESCO withdrew from the meeting, so it was renamed Karst 2020.

The following three conferences were postponed or canceled because of COVID.

- t. 19th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology, 29 August – 5 September 2020 (Catania, Italy), <http://www.19isvetna.com/> Julia James to attend
- u. European Cave and Karst Protection Symposium – BV to attend
- v. 28th Classical karstological school Postojna Slovenia

The following two conferences have not yet occurred.

- w. EuroKarst 2021: The European Congress on Karst Hydrogeology and Carbonate Reservoirs, 22-24 June 2021 (Málaga, Spain), <http://www.eurokarst.org/>
- x. 18th International Congress of Speleology, 23-29 July 2021 (Lyon, France), <http://uis2021.speleos.fr/> UIS bureau to attend.

## 9) Attendance on future speleology events (listing events and attendees)

- a. Geological Society of America Convention/GSA 2020 Connects Online, 25-28 October 2020 (Montréal, Québec, Canada), <https://community.geosociety.org/gsa2020/home>. George Veni will not attend but will send NCKRI staff. NCKRI is planning to organize an IYCK session for next year's convention.
- b. British Cave Research Association Science Symposium, 14-15 November 2020, (virtual meeting), <http://bcra.org.uk/forum> Andy will attend and maybe George. It will be free.
- c. ALCADI 2020: International Symposium on History of Speleology and Karstology (ALps, CARpathians and DINarides), 5-8 December 2020 (Gorizia, Italy), contact: [seppenhofer@libero.it](mailto:seppenhofer@libero.it) The meeting may be postponed again.
- d. 1st Karst Science Forum, postponed to 2021 (Bucharest, Romania), <https://www.eris100.ro>
- e. International Course and Field Seminar: Characterization and Engineering of Karst Aquifers, postponed to 2021 (Žabljak-Durmitor Mt., Virpazar-Skadar Lake in Montenegro, and in Trebinje in Bosnia & Herzegovina), <http://www.karst.edu.rs>
- f. 7th International Course Characterization and Engineering of Karst Aquifers (CEKA), postponed to 2021 (Montenegro: Žabljak-Durmitor Mt., Virpazar-Skadar Lake, and Bosnia and Herzegovina: Trebinje), <http://www.karst.edu.rs> No more news.
- g. 16th Multidisciplinary Conference on the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst, 12-16 April 2021 (San Juan, Puerto Rico), [www.sinkholeconference.com](http://www.sinkholeconference.com). George Veni is co-chairing the conference and will send more news soon.
- h. 14th International Symposium on Pseudokarst, 22-25 April 2021 (Świętokrzyskie [Holy Cross] Mountains, Poland), <https://14pseudokarst.wonders4you.com/>
- i. US Geological Survey Karst Interest Group Meeting, May 2021 (Nashville, Tennessee, USA), [https://www.usgs.gov/mission-areas/water-resources/science/karst-interest-group-kig-2020-workshop?qt-science\\_center\\_objects=0#qt-science\\_center\\_objects](https://www.usgs.gov/mission-areas/water-resources/science/karst-interest-group-kig-2020-workshop?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects). George Veni will probably attend; the meeting is usually free and may be organized virtually.
- j. Australian Cave and Karst Management Association Conference, 3-7 May 2021 (Wellington Caves, New South Wales, Australia), for more information: [enquiries@wellingtoncaves.com.au](mailto:enquiries@wellingtoncaves.com.au)
- k. European Cave Rescue Association Meeting, postponed to late spring or November 2021 (Cantabria, Spain), <https://caverescue.eu/ecra-meeting-2020-cantabria-spain/> Gyula plans to attend.
- l. Karst Waters Institute Frontiers in Karst: Sulfuric Acid Weathering, postponed to mid-summer 2021 (San Vittore, Italy), <https://karstwaters.org/conferences/sulfuric-acid-weathering/>
- m. 36<sup>th</sup> Brazilian Congress of Speleology, 03-06 June 2021 (Brasilia, Brazil), <http://36cbe.org.br/> Nivaldo and José will attend. The theme of the congress will be the IYCK.
- n. 28th International Karstological School "Classical Karst": Regional Karstology - Local and General Aspects, 14-18 June 2021 (Postojna, Slovenia), <https://iks.zrc-sazu.si/en/> Nadja and Mladen will attend.

- o. EuroKarst 2021: The European Congress on Karst Hydrogeology and Carbonate Reservoirs, 22-24 June 2021 (Málaga, Spain), <http://www.eurokarst.org/> Mladen will attend.
- p. Karst Record IX (KR9) Conference, 11-14 July 2021 (Innsbruck, Austria), <https://www.uibk.ac.at/congress/kr9/news/2017/kr9-postponed-to-2021.html.en> Nadja and Andy will attend.
- q. 18th International Congress of Speleology, 25 July – 1 August 2021 (Savoie Technolac, Le Bourget du Lac, Savoie, France), <http://uis2021.speleos.fr/>. The full Bureau will attend.
- r. Central Asian Speleological Forum, postponed to August 2021 (Tashkent, Uzbekistan), <https://speleo.kg/en/news/first-circular-speleo-ca-forum-2020/>. George Veni and Satoshi will probably attend.
- s. 34th International Geographical Congress karst sessions: Global Karst Critical Zone and Land Use Planning in Karst, 16-20 August 2021 (Istanbul, Turkey), <https://www.igc2020.org/en/KARST%20COMMISSION.html>
- t. International Association of Hydrogeologists 47th Congress, 22-27 August 2021 (São Paulo, Brazil), <https://iah2021brazil.org/en/>
- u. 19th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology, 28 August - 4 September 2021 (Catania, Italy), <http://www.19isvetna.com/>
- v. International Association of Hydrogeologists 48th Congress, 6-10 September 2021 (Brussels, Belgium), <https://iah2021belgium.org/>
- w. Fort Stanton Cave Science Conference, September 2021 (Socorro, New Mexico, USA), <https://geoinfo.nmt.edu/FtStanton/home.cfm>. George Veni will attend.
- x. 26th International Cave Bear Symposium, 30 September - 3 October 2021 (Reiss-Engelhorn-Museen, Mannheim, Germany), [doris.doeppes@mannheim.de](mailto:doris.doeppes@mannheim.de)
- y. 6th EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium, 26-30 October 2021 (Isle of Vilm, Germany), contact [symposium@eurospeleo.org](mailto:symposium@eurospeleo.org) Baerbel will attend.
- z. Speleo Kamaraton, 29 October – 1 November 2021 (Marina di Camerota, Salerno, Italy), <http://www.speleokamaraton.eu/> Bernard will attend.

Session 1 adjourned at 17:51 CET



*Session 2: September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

	<b>Attendance: Session 1</b> <i>Thursday September 10, 2020; at 15h00 CET</i>
<b>President</b>	George VENI
<b>Vice-President for Administration</b>	Zdenek MOTYCKA
<b>Secretary General</b>	Fadi NADER
<b>Treasurer</b>	Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA
<b>Adjunct Secretaries</b>	Bernard CHIROL Nivaldo COLZATO Mladen GARASIC Satoshi GOTO Gyula HEGEDUS Tim MOULDS Bärbel VOGEL
<b>Honorary M. &amp; Past-Presidents</b>	Andy EAVIS
<b>Guests</b>	Johannes MATTES
<b>Absent(s)</b>	Efrain MERCADO

**10) IYCK 2021 (G. Veni / N. Zupan Hajna)**

**a. Opening Ceremony and IYCK Program**

Patronage by the Director General of UNESCO for the Opening Ceremony requested official through the Slovenian Delegation/Embassy.

Venue, Program to be approved by UNESCO (in 2 months-time).

Agreement to be signed by the Slovenian Embassy and UIS for the Opening Ceremony, to include the reservation, logistics, catering, and other event costs. We will negotiate the best price.

- Protocol managed by the Slovenian Embassy
- Potential sponsors: 2 (Kaercher via Barbel; Dassault Modeling via Paul Griffiths)
- Program (half day)/Concept plan (start, protocol welcome, opening of the year, movie, key lecture (Nadja), panel discussion (proposed John Gunn, Paul Griffiths, Clayton Lino, Fadi Nader), lunch by invitation.
- Book: financial support for printing from the Slovenian Karst Research Institute and the Slovenian UNESCO office will pay 5K€)
- Moderator. We will seek a well-known celebrity. Paul Griffiths has offered to help.

Advice by Barbel to Bureau members: Ask UNESCO Country commissions for support

**b. Leaflet, posters, movie, book and website**

**Missing on the IYCK website:**

**Leaflet in French, Hungarian, Japanese, and Persian**

## Planning Guide in Croatian, Hungarian, and Japanese

**ACTION 11: Nivaldo COLZATO will follow up with Jasmina RIJAVEC on adding all missing documents (leaflets, guides, etc.) on the IYCK website.**

**DECISION 5: UIS Bureau thanked Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA for her work with respect to IYCK 2021 and approved by voting the proposed steps with respect to IYCK 2021 activities.**

### 12) UIS Commissions and Expeditions (M. Zdenek)

a. News and Updates

b. Financial Requests

No special financial request from last meeting, except previously approved requests. (Protection Commission, Commission on Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis, Glacier, Firn and Ice Cave Commission)

c. International Expeditions support

One request has been received and supported with 800 EUR. Because of the COVID situation, a new deadline has not yet been announced.

In 2019 we supported 3 projects with total amount of 2 000,- EUR, so in the budget there is now still 1 000,- EUR from 2019.

**DECISION 6: The UIS Bureau set the end of November 2020 as a deadline for submitting requests of financial support to international expeditions (budget= 1 K€) and May 2021 the next deadline with a budget of 4 K€.**

### 13) Finance Update (N. Zupan Hajna)

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#### UIS treasurer report for 2020 Bureau meeting

Bank account balance	31.08.2020	2020	EUR	Description
	35 257.41 EUR			
	48 525.01 USD			
Jan. 1 - Sep.02/2020:	income		4672.14	all from fees
	payments		5859.3	- 800 eur support to conf. & meet; - commissions 1234.7 eur; - ISC membership 520 eur; - account. for taxing 320 eur; - IYCK film 2920 eur
			-1187.16	

There is no deposit in the Bank, regarding the organization of the IYCK 2021 because of the high estimated costs.

The invoices for UIS membership fees were sent on September 6.

In 2020 there were higher fees paid from:

USA: 1072.14 euro - USA 2019, 2020 (2 x 480 = 960 euro) = 112.14 euro extra (the result of a dollar-euro conversion error)

Portugal: 240 euro (until 2020 - 60/year) – their decision

Spain: 1440 euro - Spain 2018, 2019, 2020 (3 x 480?) – their decision

September 7, 2020

Nadja Zupan Hajna

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#### **14) Venue and date of the 2021 UIS Bureau Meeting: France, ICS**

- Extraordinary Bureau Meeting (November/December) on Zoom
- January 2021 Meeting (in Paris?)

**DECISION 7: The UIS Bureau will organize an extraordinary online meeting in November/December on Zoom. Pending instructions from UNESCO concerning the opening ceremony of the IYCK 2021, the UIS Bureau might meet in January 2021 in Paris.**

#### **15) Any other business**

##### **a. Candidates for the 19<sup>th</sup> ICS, 2025?**

Brazil. George received a letter proposal, stating the full proposal will be sent later. José-Ayrton informed the UIS Bureau that the details will arrive by January 2021.

##### **b. UIS Collection 3.0**

Presented by Gyula HEGEDUS to UIS Bureau in an attached report.

#### **16) Closing Statements (G. Veni)**

George VENI thanked all participants for their contributions to the 2020 annual UIS Bureau meeting.