



HAZARDS OF PESTICIDES TO BEES

10th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Bucharest – Romania, October 8-10, 2008

In the period of October 8-10, 2008 FIITEA was engaged in organizing issues of the Symposium "Hazards of Pesticides to Bees".

Pieter A. Oomen (Netherland), President of International Commission for Plant-Bee Relationships, Bee Protection Group, came a few days earlier to discuss and finalize all arrangements.

FIITEA was responsible for chairing the afternoon Session of the first day (Wednesday, October 8, 2008) and administrative issues (hotel reservations and lodging of delegates, paper work, catering during Session days, issue of participation Certificates).



There have been 77 participants specialists from all over European Union. Four delegates from Ivory Coast (the only delegates from outside Europe could not make it). The presentations were well prepared and enjoyed live discussions. Helen Thomson, ICPBR Secretary (photo), played an important role in organizing the discussions and leisure programme.



At the end a guideline paper called “Environmental risk assessment scheme for plant protection products” was drafted as a recommendation approach to governments in Europe. The paper deals with the potential risks to pollinating insects from the use of soil-systemic plant protection products (PPP). It specifically addresses the assessment of risks to honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) and their brood and colonies arising from exposure of bees to soil-systemic insecticides and other

soil-systemic plant protection products. As for the assessment of risks arising from sprayed PPP, it is acknowledged that the most reliable risk assessment is based on data collected under conditions which most resemble normal practice (i.e. by field tests or by monitoring the product in use). However, beside financial and time costs, these tests pose the question of extrapolating results from one crop to others, since exposure of pollinators is not directly related to the application rate, but also results from systemic properties of the active compound and attractiveness of the crop, which itself is related to agricultural practice. Sometimes the debates turned out politically and the paper stirred up a lot of controversial discussions.



Mr. Etienne Bruneau, (photo) Chairman COPA/COGECA's Working Group of Honey was among participants and also as a speaker.



(photo) Mr. Pieter Oomen with Romanian co-organizers: Mr. Eugen Zorici, President of Romanian Beekeeping Association, Mr. Petru Moraru, Director of Beekeeping Research and Development Institute and Cristian Constantinescu, Director General of FIITEA Apimondia.



The programme included a trip to Snagov lake and Monastery where Dracula (Vlad Tepesh) was buried in 1476 and ended up with a dinner at a traditional food restaurant "Casa Romaneasca" (Romanian House).

ICPBR Symposium takes place once in three years. The one of October 2008 in Bucharest was on the 10th.