

Mediterranean Beekeeping Forum

Constitutional Document

Foligno 24 November 2007 - Italy

The representatives of beekeepers associations, institutions, and local, national, and international bodies and authorities, convened in Foligno from 23rd to 25th November 2007 for the International Forum on Beekeeping in the Mediterranean Basin,

underscoring the essential role of bees and beekeeping in the conservation and protection of the environment and of the immense wealth of the biodiversity of plant species, both agricultural and non-agricultural;

recognising beekeeping – one of the first production activities that marked the beginning of the human journey in history – as a true agricultural activity;

affirming the considerable positive economic effect that bees and beekeeping have on agriculture as a whole;

considering the support that beekeeping offers to the development of activities strongly tied to the traditions of the populations in their respective territories;

evaluating the importance that this activity can assume in the identification and enhancement of the territories;

underscoring the potentials of beekeeping in the sphere of local sustainable development from both the economic and social points of view;

recognising the role of decentralised cooperation as a method able to facilitate and strengthen the collaboration between territories and implement local human development;

recognising the ART GOLD Programmes that the United Nations is implementing in various countries in the Mediterranean as a valid instrument for facilitating the establishment of partnerships of decentralised cooperation between territories;

highlighting the food and nutritional value of honey and of the beekeeping other products and the importance of safeguarding their quality, wholesomeness, and the variety of origins;

hereby agree to:

" Work to affirm the values of exchange among the various experiences, solidarity, collaboration, and mutual understanding, in the awareness that the concrete problems of beekeeping activity can constitute an opportunity for bringing together the many communities of "women and men producers" driven by the common need to expand their knowledge and improve their living conditions.

" Bring about, by means of the associations of beekeepers and other public or private subjects, coordinated actions aimed at enhancing the quality of the beekeeping products of this area;

" Promote and set in motion the involvement of the European, international, national and local professional agricultural associations, the international organisations, and the national and international scientific and research institutes;

" Request the support of the national and regional governments, the local authorities and the European and international institutions;

" Develop projects of decentralised cooperation aimed to develop the beekeeping and to strengthening the collaboration and the synergy between the different actors and territories in the sphere of beekeeping;

" Participate actively, within the context of the United Nations ART GOLD Programme, in the planning and carrying out of initiatives for the development of the associative systems, for production improvement, and for expansion of the market opportunities of the beekeeping sector, also promoting, for their economic sustainability, the collaboration of regional governments, local administrations, and other funding entities.

" Pursue common strategic objectives for the proper recognition of the human, social, environmental, and economic value of beekeeping and for an appropriate recognisability of the Mediterranean beekeeping products on the domestic and international markets.

To this end, the signers constitute the **Mediterranean Beekeeping Forum**, to develop the actions described above and of which the main objectives are:

To develop the interchange, expansion, and enrichment of scientific and

technical knowledge in beekeeping;

To foster the acquisition of appropriate methods for increasing and improving the quality of the beekeeping production in the mediterranean area;

To promote protection of the indigenous varieties and the development of apicultural production methods that guarantee the wholesomeness of the honey;

To develop the actions of interchange and support to the development of beekeeping within the sphere of projects or programmes of decentralised cooperation, in particular the ART GOLD programmes of the United Nations, aimed at human development and the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals;

To prepare, by means of special working groups, a dossier on the current state of beekeeping in the Mediterranean area, on its problems and on the prospects for development;

To espouse and promote towards all other competent bodies the needs of beekeeping in the Mediterranean area;

To constitute the Mediterranean Beekeepers Federation that represents the interests of the beekeepers of this area;

To work towards attaining a denomination of origin for honey or for the varieties of honey of the Mediterranean area that will contribute to improving its quality and valuing the Mediterranean products as indigenous, wholesome, and excellent.

To work in order to forbid, in the agricultural practise, the wrong and the inappropriate use of the pesticides which could put at risk the bees life.

Approve the constitutional document and access to the Mediterranean Beekeeping Forum:

Beekeeper's association of Bekaa, Lebanon
United Association for Beekeepers Cooperatives in Akkar District, Lebanon
Beekeeper's association of Berkane's District, Morocco
Directorate General of Berkane's Beekeepers, Morocco
Beekeeper's Association of Marrakesh, Morocco
Beekeeper's Cooperative of Marrakesh, Morocco
Tunisian Union of Market, Trade and Craftsmanship
Beekeeper's association of Ramallah, Palestine

Skodra Apicultural Association, Albania
Beekeeper's association of Valona, Albania
Institute of Food Safety and Veterinary of Tirana, Albania
Beekeepers' Association of Malta, Malta
Farm Confederation (COAG) of Andalusia, Spain
Beekeeper's association of Umbria (APAU), Italy
Beekeeper's association of Piedmont (ASPRMIELE), Italy
"Cities of Honey" National Municipality Association for Honey, Italy
Beekeeper's Association of Lucania, Italy
National Observatory of Honey Production and Market, Italy
National Association of Chief Executive of Wholesale Market (ANDMI), Italy
FELCOS Umbria, Umbrian Municipality Fund for the Decentralized
Cooperation, Italy
Municipality of Foligno, Italy
ANCI, National Association of Italian Municipality, Italy

Foligno, 24 november 2007