

Opening speech of Mr Cristian Constantinescu, General Manager of Apimondia Foundation/FIITEA

E-mail: cconst@fiitea.org

Esteemed participants of the First Congress of the International Federation of Apitherapy,

I welcome the First Congress of the International Federation of Apitherapy and the VII-th. Congress of the Romanian Apitherapy Society, and I wish them full success.

I consider a rightful decision to organize the First Congress of the Federation in Romania having in mind the long standing Romanian tradition, of many decades, in apitherapy treatments and the remarkable achievements of scientific research in the field.

Starting from a good and solid material basis, numerous apitherapy treatments were usual in various clinics in Romania since 60's and 70' of last century. No doubt that the pioneer of these achievements was Prof. Veceslav Harnaj who with great determination and perseverance was preoccupied to implement such medical treatments which nowadays have become a world trend.

Happily there are numerous followers of these early achievements and I wish to point out the Institute of Beekeeping Research and Development headed by Cristina Mateescu, the Romanian Apitherapy Society (headed by President Stefan Stangaciu) and many other researchers and practitioners.

Apimondia Foundation in Bucharest, also a creation of Prof. Harnaj, has contributed by numerous apitherapy articles published in magazine *Apiacta* – printed in five language versions – and delivered in many other countries, as well as books written by Romanian and foreign authors.

Recently FIITEA Apimondia has passed over from publishing to more practical activities. Within the Oncology Clinic hosted in one of its buildings, there are naturist treatments to increase the immunity of human body following chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatments in fighting against cancer diseases. In such treatments apitherapy plays a particular major role. Even more, doctors may improve their procedures by efficiency analysis of existing treatments.

We are here for an event of international significance, the first Congress of the International Federation of Apitherapy. I think it is the right time of internationalizing this field of activity. It is the need of collaboration among scientific people in the field. I met many scientists with remarkable achievements and practitioners whose activity is limited unfortunately to their national borders. Everybody knows that bees have no borders. The same must be for people that transform their knowledge and products in components for human health.

Apimondia Congresses and those of regional beekeeping organizations like: Apislavia, Apibalcanica, others in Europe, Latin America and Asia have apitherapy subjects in their scientific sessions. However the multitude of other subjects in debate like bees' health, melliferous Flora, nature conservation, support for developing countries, etc. do not allow to dedicate enough time for apitherapy as well.

In the end of my brief speech I would like to congratulate the organizers and particularly Dr. Stefan Stangaciu for his nomination as Secretary General of the International Federation of Apitherapy. Also outstanding is the fact that the home office of this Federation is in Romania as well. And that also due to Dr. Stefan Stangaciu.

There is still a target not attained yet: organizing in Romania an Apimedica Symposium under Apimondia auspices. Now I am pretty sure that this goal will be soon reached.

Thank you all for participating to this event!