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## **Foreword**

The Bee Protection Working Group of the ICPBR has, for three decades, provided an important forum in which representatives from industry, national and international regulatory agencies, government and academic research bodies, and others can come together to address and assess the hazards to bees and pollination posed by crop protection operations. Such meetings bring the diversity of concerned parties into collaborations that help ensure that the common and sometimes divergent interests of crop production, beekeeping, pollinator management, agriculturally based industries, researchers, and conservation of sustainably managed and natural ecosystems are aired productively and objectively. Each time the group has met, it has provided crucial guidelines and advice. The 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, held in Bucharest, is no exception.

I am honoured to have been asked to write this Foreword to this latest volume, and to extend congratulations and thanks to all those who contributed to the meetings in its initiation, organization, and execution, to those whose participation and discussion were essential, to those who wrote up their findings and conclusions, and to the editorial team who brought this important and timely publication to fruition.

It is important to acknowledge the supporters of the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, so special thanks are extended to the Romanian Beekeeping Association, Apimondia Romania, the Research Institute for Plant Protection in Romania and the international companies sponsoring this meeting.

The importance of this book is amply illustrated through the overarching and global concerns of *The Convention on Biological Diversity* that recognizes that pollinators and pollination are crucial to global productivity in agriculture and nature and are under serious environmental stresses. The Bee Protection Working Group of the ICPBR is a vibrant and effective model that offers world leadership. I am sure that the excellent work will continue as the environmental stresses facing bees, other pollinators, pollination, agriculture, forestry, human life, and natural systems become more complex and global in scope. Certainly, it is important to take the present model as it pertains especially to the European & Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO) to the world.

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