

Final meeting

I'd like to tell you a few words in English, to all of you and especially to our visitors from more distant countries.

As delegate of the host University and on behalf of our University, I want to tell you how happy we are having met and welcomed you in Liège.

It looks like as if the meeting might be considered successful ; considering the diversity of lectures, the exhibition of posters, the duration of discussions, I guess that you had most opportunities to exchange ideas, even on a controversial basis, which is the best way to ensure that science goes on, step by step. And I hope that you had also opportunities to establish or to strengthen strong bonds and even solid linkages between your institutions as well as between individuals.

We all are convinced that the integrated study of a group of closely related species under different points of view is the best way to understand how an animal functions successfully in its environment. On considering the work still in progress in your laboratories, I am sure that there will soon be a third International *Barbus* conference !

We enjoy very much the presence among us of colleagues and delegates from countries South of the Mediterranean Sea and from more central or eastern parts of Europe. Perhaps, the third *Barbus* Round Table will be held elsewhere in one of these countries, and I may say that we are ready to help and give assistance.

We are on the way to close the second *Barbus* Round Table. I'd like to address my thanks to all of you who are here and who participated in lectures, discussions, posters exhibitions and human interactions ! I am glad to address special regards to our co-organizer, Patrick BERREBI, who gave much support. Special congratulations are due to the present General Secretary, Pascal PONCIN, who worked very hard so that everything was ready in time. And, last but not least, I address my warmest thanks to all these people who worked, not in front of the stage, but in the background, and without whom the meeting perhaps would not have proceeded without any difficulty here or there. I am one of them : my contribution has been requested to test and to taste the cocktails ! Finally, to all of you, who participated and contributed, my congratulations and thanks.

Well, the most important part of the Round Table is still to be covered, since I see that we have a lot of good things to drink and to eat. So I invite you to stand up and to choose a drink. Pick up a glass and to all of you, ... cheers !

JCR