Confédération Ornithologique Mondiale

Président Général, Carlos Fernando RAMÔA

Ordre Mondial des Juges

Président : João LIBERADO

GENERAL OMJ TECHNICAL CONGRESS

Report of the OMJ Congress – Seville, 8 August 2026

Section D – Colour Canaries

The meeting started at 9:00 a.m.

OMJ Representatives

- João Liberado – OMJ President
- José Fernandes – Section D Manager
- Also present were Mr. Bernardino Yeves and Mr. Bernardo Williamson (COM).

Country Representative

- **Brazil:** Mario Simões, Eduardo Martins
- **Italy:** Gaetano Zambeta, Francesco Sellitto
- **Spain:** Enrique Martin, Manuel Cárdenas Teno, Jesús Herranz, Justo Serna Enrique, Francisco Marchante, José Japón, Emilio Manuel Cuéllar, Francisco José Rodríguez
- **Germany:** Olaf Hungenberg, Franz-Josef Dreßen
- **Portugal:** Diniz Pereira, Manuel Fonseca
- **France:** Jean-Paul Glemet
- **England:** Rob Bradock
- **Malta:** Sergio Ebejer
- **Netherlands:** Rein Grefhorst
- **Belgium:** Johan Vandermaelen, Jan Van Overvelt, Stijn Van Dijck
- **Switzerland:** João Liberado
- **Uruguay:** Bernardo Williamson

Representatives Participating by Videoconference

- **Slovenia:** Trafela Ivan
- **United States:** Radame Fernando
- **Bosnia:** Adnan Kalajdzic

No voting took place, and no interventions were made by the representatives participating by videoconference. However, some communication problems were encountered.

As the Section Manager was only able to attend from 10:30 a.m., the first three items on the agenda were chaired by the OMJ President, João Liberado.

We would like to thank the COM, particularly Bernardino Yeves and Bernardo Williamson, for their support and cooperation.

1 – OMJ PROPOSALS

a. Grouping Classes with a Low Number of Birds

During World Championships, classes presented individually with fewer than five birds for three consecutive years will be grouped with other classes.

The proposal to group classes with an insufficient number of birds was rejected during the vote, particularly because of uncertainty regarding which body or person would be responsible for deciding whether classes should be grouped.

Voting result:

- **In favour: 3 votes**
- **Against: 9 votes**
- **The proposal was rejected.**

OMJ Note:

We would nevertheless like to point out that the majority of the other sections voted in favour of the OMJ proposal.

We will therefore need to consider how to proceed, as this measure must be applied in a harmonised manner across all sections. Since the majority supports reducing the number of classes, in accordance with the initial proposal, a counterproposal prepared by the Psittacidae Section will be examined in order to seek harmonisation between the different viewpoints.

b. Controls in Cases of Fraud

During international exhibitions and World Championships organised under the authority of the COM, in cases where fraud is detected in birds, and always in the presence of the COM or OMJ Supervisor, the OMJ reserves the right to handle the birds in order to carry out the necessary checks.

These checks may be conducted using new technologies, as well as feather analysis on the birds concerned.

Voting result:

- **Proposal approved unanimously.**

2 – REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AGATE MOGNO PROPOSED BY ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL

The proposal was presented, and the process undertaken in Argentina and Brazil was explained. It was stated that three years of approval are required before classes can be opened.

The standard was approved, with the following clarification added:

"The tone of the striped pattern must be dark lead grey."

See page 104 of the standard.

Voting result:

- **Proposal approved unanimously.**

3 – GERMANY PROPOSALS

a. Specification of the Phaeo Standard

During the discussion of this item, it was clarified that the sentence added to the Phaeo standard was related to difficulties encountered concerning schimmels and mosaics.

It was nevertheless agreed to include the following sentence in the description of Melanics (page 34) and in the section concerning Mosaics (page 29):

"In mosaics, the lower abdomen must not show any lipochrome. Attention must be paid to confusion between schimmel and mosaic.

Voting result:

- **Approved unanimously.**

b. Inclusion of the Red Factor in Dominant White Lipochromes

Several technical and presentation-related questions were raised.

The risk that a similar situation could arise in the short term among melanic canaries was also discussed.

During the discussion, it was recalled that Dominant Whites and Recessive Whites were already separated into different classes. However, it was clarified to the assembly that this separation of classes was currently practised only in Modena.

Voting result:

- **Against: 11 votes**
- **In favour: 1 vote**
- **The proposal was rejected.**

4 – GERMANY / ITALY PROPOSAL

Two Proposals Concerning the All Black

a. **Germany**
Germany proposed a judging sheet similar to the one used for White Lipochromes, with 55 points allocated to the evaluation of the bird.
The proposal supports a bird without pattern and without lipochrome.

b. **Italy**
Italy proposed a judging sheet similar to the one used for Melanics with an unpigmented background, in which lipochrome is evaluated. The lipochrome should be as little visible as possible.
Both proposals were discussed. A difference exists between the two standards, particularly regarding the judging sheet to be used.

Voting result:

- **Italian standard: 7 votes**
- **German standard: 4 votes**
- **Against approval of the All Black: 1 vote**
- **The Italian proposal was approved.**
- **Decisions Following the Discussion and Vote**

It was decided:

- To launch the recognition procedure for the All Black starting with the World Championship in January 2027.
- During the next World Championship, to evaluate the birds presented in order to determine whether only melanin should be judged, in accordance with the German proposal, or whether lipochrome should also be taken into consideration and evaluated, in accordance with the Italian proposal.

PROPOSAL ON CONGRESS DECISIONS SUBMITTED BY ARGENTINA, ITALY AND THE NETHERLANDS

a. Publication of Congress Conclusions

The proposal sought to draw attention to a strongly expressed need among OMJ judges in Section D to be informed of decisions adopted during OMJ congresses, particularly those concerning amendments to the Colour Canary Standards.

Although this issue may also be of interest to colleagues from other sections, there is a clear need to receive the minutes of congress meetings so that judges specializing in the relevant categories can be informed within a short period of time.

The updated standards should be sent to the COM organizations of member countries within three months following the congress or the approval of a new mutation.

- **Voting result:**
- **Approved unanimously.**

- **OMJ Response**

The process for sending and preparing the minutes was explained.

We committed ourselves to ensuring that each set of minutes is prepared as quickly as possible and forwarded to the OMJ President and Secretary. The President will then be able to gather the minutes from all sections and forward them to the COM for subsequent publication in a coordinated and simultaneous manner.

5 – BELGIUM

a. Canaries with the Dominant White Factor

The proposal was not discussed, as it had already been examined and rejected during the consideration of the German proposal concerning Dominant Whites.

b. Agate Cobalt

During the discussion concerning Agate Cobalt, it was emphasized that the mutation must be clearly visible throughout the entire bird and not only in the lower abdomen.

The bird should therefore have a generally darker appearance and must not have an excessively white background, so that the mutation can be clearly identified.

c. Lipochrome Colour in the Flight Feathers and Tail Feathers of Intensives and Schimmels: Opals, Greywings and Jaspes

During the discussion, it was decided to maintain the current standard without modification.

d. Absence of Lipochrome in Flight Feathers and Tail Feathers

It was requested that the flight feathers and tail feathers be free of lipochrome in mosaics, intensives and schimmels, When lipochrome is present, a penalty will be applied according to its extent.

Voting result:

- **In favour: 6 votes**
- **Against: 4 votes**
- **Abstentions: 2**
- **The proposal was approved.**

e. Influence of the Ivory Factor on Melanin

The subject was discussed, and it was acknowledged that interference does indeed exist, caused by the modification of feather structure resulting from the Ivory factor.

Following discussion, it was approved to include the following clarification in the general section concerning Ivory (page 11):

"Due to the modification of feather structure, the lipochrome colour appears more diffuse and slightly reduces the tone of the melanin pigments, thereby producing the ivory appearance."

Voting result: Approved unanimously.

f. Separation of OMJ Judges – Belgian Proposal

As Sections E and F have already existed for several years, Belgium and France requested the possibility of creating specialized OMJ judges for lipochrome canaries and melanic canaries, respectively.

Voting result:

- **Against: 10 votes**
- **In favour: 2 votes**
- **The proposal was rejected.**

g. Intensive and Schimmel Phaeo

It was decided that, at the beginning of exhibitions, particularly during major events, judges should be reminded of certain important points concerning judging, which will serve as a reference.

The OMJ has already been applying this practice for several years. It was decided to maintain and strengthen it.

h. Addendum to the Standard Following Expert Judges' Meetings

Belgium requested that, after each meeting of OMJ expert judges from the Colour Canary Section, a summary of the decisions taken be added to the end of the standard in the form of an addendum.

6 – SPAIN

a. Double Dilution Jaspe

OMJ Note

The Double Dilution Jaspe standard had already been approved in 2021, following a proposal submitted by Spain, France and Argentina, and the approval process had been initiated.

However, the process could not be finalized due to an insufficient number of birds presented during the evaluations.

It was decided that the process must be restarted from the beginning, with birds being presented for three consecutive years and with a sufficient number of birds to evaluate the various sections of the standard to be approved.

Spain also stated that the standard proposal presented in 2026 is practically identical to the one previously submitted.

7 – FRANCE

a. Opening Classes for Red-Eyed Lipochrome Canaries

France identified differences in the number of classes opened for Yellow Ivory Mosaics and Red Ivory Mosaics.

The request aims to correct this difference and simplify organization by opening exactly the same classes for red-eyed lipochromes as for black-eyed lipochromes.

Approved unanimously.

b. Background Colour of Intensive and Schimmel Yellow Agates

Following evaluation and discussion of the proposal, two possibilities were considered:

1-Leave the current wording unchanged.

2-Request a lighter background.

It was decided not to make any changes, to maintain the current standard and to ensure that it is correctly applied.

Voting result:

Against: 9 votes

In favour: 2 votes

The proposal was rejected.

c. Penalty for Dark Nails and Legs in Agates

It was approved to include this point under the heading **"Insufficient" (page 40)** and to draw judges' attention to this element.

Voting result:

In favour: 9 votes

The proposal was approved.

d. Artificial Colouring and Incrustations in Intensives and Schimmels: Jaspes, Opals and Greywings

This proposal is identical to Proposal No. 3 from Belgium.

Following discussion, it was decided to respect the current standard, requiring flight feathers and tail feathers to be free of lipochrome in mosaics, intensives and schimmels.

When lipochrome is present, a penalty will be applied according to its extent.

e. Specification Concerning the Coloring of Flight Feathers and Tail Feathers in Perla

Following discussion, it was clarified that no nest coloring should be used for Perla, and that the requirements in this respect should be identical to those applicable to Jaspes, Opals and Greywings.

This clarification has been incorporated into the standard, page 106.

f. Specification of Lipochrome in Melanic Mosaics

It was proposed to add, on page 29, the same sentence appearing on page 26:

"In melanic mosaic canaries, the lipochrome pigment must always be visible in the areas of election; otherwise, a penalty will be applied to the category score. The presence of melanin, either diffuse or in the form of a pattern, in the areas of election is tolerated provided that the lipochrome remains clearly visible."

- **Voting result:**
- **In favour: 9 votes**
- **Against: 3 votes**
- **The proposal was approved.**

g. Amendment to the White Wings Standard

Italy also has a proposal on this subject.

It was decided to establish a working group to analyse the matter more comprehensively, including all Lipochromes.

France / Italy Proposal

h. Amendment to the Isabel Standard

The standard was amended on pages 41 and 42:

- Melanin tone: "hazelnut" replaces "beige".

- Melanin tone of the flight feathers and tail feathers: the same tone as the stripes.

Voting result:

- **In favour of the amendement: 7 votes**
- **Against the amendment: 3 votes**

The proposal was approved.

i. Amendment to the Agate Topaz Standard

It was decided to remove the wording **"very dark brown"** and retain the wording **"sepia black."**

The wording adopted is:

"The very dark brown melanin tending towards sepia black produces sepia-black stripes."

Voting result:

- **Approved unanimously.**
- **<u>The proposal to add a preference for birds displaying a brilliant black colour was rejected.</u>**

j. Amendment to the Black Topaz Standard

Following discussion of the proposal, it was decided to maintain the standard unchanged.

Voting result:

- **Against the proposal: 8 votes**
- **In favour of the proposal: 2 votes**
- **The proposal was rejected.**

8 – ITALY

a. Isabel Standard

The proposal was also discussed jointly with the proposal submitted by France, which was approved.

b. Onyx Standard – Inclusion of Barring as a Required Characteristic

During the discussion of this proposal, the importance of including the visible presence of transverse melanic bars in the standard was highlighted and recognized, as this is one of the important characteristics of the mutation.

This characteristic therefore becomes a requirement of the standard.

The standard for all Onyx varieties, as well as the penalty criteria, has been amended. The amendment has been incorporated into the standard, pages 77 to 81.

In Onyx birds, transverse bars are associated with an irregular deposition of melanin. These bars are particularly visible on the large feathers, especially the tail feathers.

Voting result:

- **Approved unanimously**.

c. Conix Proposal

The OMJ President intervened and clarified that the standard would not be discussed, as this concerns a combination of mutations.

d. New Judging Sheet for White Lipochrome Canaries and Separation of Recessive and Dominant Unpigmented Lipochrome

The proposal was the subject of extensive discussion.

Some participants emphasised the importance of shape, size and plumage in Whites.

Others considered that our section is dedicated to colour and that the criteria relating to shape, size and plumage in the current standard are common characteristics of equal importance for all birds in Section D.

Opinions were divided, and the vote resulted in a tie.

Voting result:

- **In favour: 6 votes**
- **Against: 6 votes + 1 = 7 votes**
- **The proposal was rejected.**

As the Section D responsible held the quality vote, he decided the outcome and rejected the proposal submitted.

FRANCE / ITALY PROPOSAL

e. White Wings Standard

France also has a proposal on this subject.

It was decided to establish a working group to analyze the matter more comprehensively, including all Lipochromes.

Italy also proposed replacing the term **"mantle"** with the term **"plumage"** in the White Wings standard.

See pages 14 and 18.

Voting result:

- **Accepted unanimously.**

f. Satimax – Name Change

The OMJ President intervened on this matter and clarified that, since the mutation had already been approved in accordance with a proposal submitted by two countries in previous years under this name, the proposal would not be discussed.

g. Communication of Congress Decisions and Standards

The process for sending and preparing the minutes was explained.

We committed ourselves to ensuring that each set of minutes is prepared as quickly as possible and forwarded to the OMJ President.

The President will then be able to gather the minutes from all sections and forward them to the COM for subsequent publication in a coordinated and simultaneous manner.

9 – NETHERLANDS

a. Perla Approval at the 2026 COM Competition in Belgium

During the 2026 COM competition in Belgium, Perla was accepted.

According to certain rumours, not all Perla colour varieties would be included in the selection programme. Only those with a white background?

Is this correct? Which type was selected?

OMJ Response:

The classes had already been sent to the countries by the COM.

b. Communication Within Six Weeks of Recognition

Within six weeks of recognition, the information should be sent to all COM member countries, including the standard for the colour, variety or type.

These proposals submitted by the Netherlands were also examined. Some of them overlapped with proposals already discussed during the meeting.

The necessary clarifications were provided, and the various points were examined in this context.

CONCLUSION

The General OMJ Technical Congress in Seville made it possible to examine the various proposals submitted by member countries and to take several important decisions concerning the development and application of the standards.

The OMJ would like to thank all representatives present for their participation, technical contributions and constructive discussions, as well as the COM, and particularly **Mr. Carlos Ramôa, Bernardino Yeves and Bernardo Williamson**, for their support and cooperation during the Section D meeting.

The decisions and amendments adopted during this congress must be incorporated into the relevant standards and communicated to OMJ judges in order to ensure harmonized application during future international exhibitions and the World Championship.

They will enter into force following the 2027 World Championship.

End of Congress: 7:00 p.m.

Seville, the 08-08-2026

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