



World Organization of the Scout Movement
Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout

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To: International Commissioners

December 2004

Meeting of the World Scout Committee, Geneva, Switzerland, October 2004

Dear colleagues,

Introduction

The World Scout Committee held its latest meeting in Geneva from 29-31 October 2004. Among the main items on the agenda were:

- A report from the Secretary General, in which he outlined his vision for the future of WOSM based on his observations, discussions and visits over the first six months in his new position.
- An in-depth review of the implementation of the Strategy for Scouting, particularly the support that the world and regional bodies of WOSM are providing to NSOs and with the World Scout Conference in Tunisia (September 2005) firmly on the horizon.
- Follow-up to the recommendations from the WOSM Evaluation Group which would require amendments to the WOSM Constitution if they are to be implemented.
- Various institutional matters, including the situations in Albania, Russia and Ukraine.
- Financial matters, including the accounts for the financial year ended 30 September 2004, the budget for 2004-2005, registration fees (including suspension of membership of WOSM due to fee arrears) and reports from the Audit Committee, SCORE International and the World Scout Foundation.
- Relationships with other organizations, including WAGGGS and sister organizations which have been granted consultative status with WOSM.
- Reports on recent world events, and presentations on future events, including the 37th World Scout Conference and 9th World Scout Youth Forum in Tunisia, the 21st World Scout Jamboree in the United Kingdom and other 2007 Centenary plans.

Secretary General's report and the Strategy for Scouting

The Secretary General presented his first full report to the World Committee since he assumed office on 1 April 2004. Based on an analysis of the situation that he found, he outlined his ideas for the future growth and development of the Movement, within the context of the Strategy for Scouting. The Committee accepted the report and committed itself to supporting his efforts and those of the World Bureau staff in the Geneva Central Office and Regional Offices to implement his proposals.

The World Committee received reports on ongoing work on all of the strategic priorities. A major part of the discussion focussed on the approach to be followed up to, during and following the World Scout Conference in Tunisia. Ways will be sought to involve Conference participants in the process, making them actors and not simply spectators, and avoiding any sense of "top down" direction. The Committee recognised that, in the lead-up to Tunisia, a process of consultation to engage NSOs in the work on the strategy will be needed. The Conference should verify if the

Movement has moved forwards in meeting the needs that were identified at the previous Conference in Thessaloniki and should decide to what extent the tools WOSM is providing to help NSOs are appropriate or need to be adapted.

The Committee set up a small group to work with the key WSB staff concerned with the strategy to further develop the approach to be used up to and beyond the World Conference. The group will report to the next World Committee meeting in April 2005.

Evaluation Group recommendations

The World Committee considered those recommendations made by the WOSM Evaluation Group that would require changes to the WOSM Constitution if they were to be implemented. NSOs have been informed in a separate circular (Circular No. 31/2004) of the Committee's conclusions.

Institutional and financial matters

The World Committee agreed to extend the period of suspension of Albania until April 2005, pending further developments on restructuring Scouting in that country. The Committee approved the admission of a new NSO in Ukraine, subject to final approval of the organization's constitution by the national authorities and the WOSM Constitutions Committee; when this is completed the proposed admission will be sent to NSOs for a postal vote. The Committee also considered letters which had been received concerning the change in recognition of the National Scout Organization in Russia; full details on this subject have already been communicated to NSOs in Circular No. 29/2004.

The World Committee examined the provisional accounts for the year ended 30 September 2004; reviewed the implementation of the World Conference resolution on reimbursement of travel expenses for World Committee members; approved the budget for 2004-2005; considered the situation of NSOs with fee arrears and reaffirmed its existing policy on suspension of membership for non-payment of fees; identified a need to clarify some questions related to suspension of membership, such as the effective date of sanctions especially when rights to nominate candidates for election to committees or to host international events were concerned; and recognised that there is a problem in some NSOs which fail to meet their constitutional obligations such as submission of an annual report, accounts and annual census to WOSM, or whose membership has fallen below 1,000, or which have not held regular democratic annual meetings. These latter issues will be addressed in the coming months.

Relationships matters

The Committee designated its representatives to the next WAGGGS World Conference, and discussed the date of the next meeting of the Consultative Committee. It also heard a presentation from the Kandersteg International Scout Centre.

World Events

The World Committee received reports on recent events, including the 12th World Scout Moot hosted by Scouts of China; the positive evaluation of this event nonetheless revealed that further work must be done to ensure that the programme offered at future World Moots is appropriate to the age range concerned.

Plans for the 100th Anniversary of Scouting in 2007, and for the 21st World Scout Jamboree in the United Kingdom were reviewed. The former 2007 Task Force was reconstituted as a subcommittee of the World Committee. The fees for the World Scout Jamboree were approved; this and other related information will be communicated to NSOs separately.

Other items

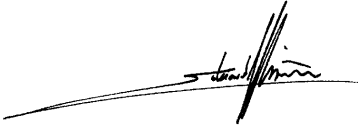
The World Committee agreed to set up a small task force to review the statutes of World Scout Bureau Incorporated, which is the body registered under Swiss law to give legal standing to WOSM's affairs.

The Committee also regretted that images of Scouts in uniform participating in "party political" activities in many countries were increasingly shown in the media. This could have a seriously negative impact on the image of Scouting presented to the public.

Staff

Finally, the World Scout Committee paid tribute to Deputy Secretary General Malek Gabr, who is taking early retirement at the end of December 2004 following a long career in the World Scout Bureau. The Committee designated Dominique Bénard, Executive Director of Educational Method, Research & Development, as a Deputy Secretary General. An updated organization chart of the World Scout Bureau will be circulated to NSOs shortly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eduardo Missoni', written over a horizontal line.

Eduardo Missoni
Secretary General