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World Organization of the Scout Movement
Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout
Всемирная Организация Скаутского Движения
Organización Mundial del Movimiento Scout
المنظمة العالمية للحركة الكشفية

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To: International Commissioners

31 March 2008

National Organization of Scouts of Ukraine (NOSU)

Dear colleagues,

The World Scout Bureau has received an application for membership of the World Organization from the National Organization of Scouts of Ukraine (NOSU).

In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution of WOSM, the World Scout Committee considered this application at its meeting on 29 February-2 March 2008, and recommended that it be accepted.

Under the terms of Article VI.2 of the WOSM Constitution, "if within three months the recommendation is unopposed or opposed by less than five per cent of the Member Organizations", NOSU will be declared a Member, as the National Scout Organization of Ukraine, of the World Organization of the Scout Movement as from 1 July 2008. Affirmative votes are not required.

Yours sincerely,

Luc Panissod
Acting Secretary General

Encl.: Information on NOSU

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF SCOUTS OF UKRAINE

A word about Ukraine

Ukraine is a country in Eastern Europe. It borders Russia to the east, Belarus to the north, Poland, Slovakia and Hungary to the west, Romania and Moldova to the southwest, and the Black Sea and Sea of Azov to the south. The city of Kiev is Ukraine's capital.

Ukraine has a population of 46.3 million with a literacy rate of 99%. Major ethnic groups are Ethnic Ukrainians and Russians who make respectively 77.8% and 17.3% of the population.

In 1922 Ukraine emerged as one of the founding republics of the Soviet Union. The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic's territory was enlarged westward shortly before and after the Second World War, and again in 1954 with the Crimea transfer. In 1945, the Ukrainian SSR became one of the co-founding members of the United Nations. Ukraine became independent again after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. This began a transition period to a market economy. Since about the turn of the century, the economy has been experiencing a stable increase after eight straight years of economic decline. Ukraine's GNI per capita is US\$ 1,950 (2006).

Ukraine is a unitary state composed of 24 oblasts (provinces), one autonomous republic (Crimea), and two cities (Kiev and Sevastopol) with special status.

Ukraine is a republic under a semi-presidential system with separate legislative, executive and judicial branches. At the end of 2004, the country underwent an extensive constitutional reform that has changed the balance of power among the parliament, the prime minister (Yuliya Tymoshenko), and the cabinet, as well as their relationship with the president (Viktor Yushchenko).

More on Ukraine at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ukraine> or <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/up.html>

National Organization of Scouts of Ukraine (NOSU)

Following the recommendations of Resolution 2/05 adopted by the 37th World Scout Conference in Tunisia, the constitutive congress of the National Organization of Scouts of Ukraine (NOSU) was held on 27 March 2007. The congress, which gathered Scout representatives from most regions of Ukraine, approved the Constitution of NOSU and elected its governing bodies. This event was made possible thanks to efforts of three Scout associations (PLAST, SPOK and SICH) to work towards unification of Scouting in Ukraine in a new single NSO so as to be able to join WOSM.

The Constitution of NOSU was officially registered by the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine in November 2007, thus confirming the creation of a single NSO in Ukraine. An amended version of this Constitution was received on 4 February 2008 and has now been formally approved by the Constitutions Committee and the World Scout Committee.

The WOSM Acting Secretary General visited NOSU in mid-March 2008. He had the opportunity to meet and talk with various groups of young people (candidates to join, patrol leaders, summer camp young leaders) and adult leaders responsible of local Scout groups. He also met with the Deputy Minister of Family, Youth and Sports, one of the founding members of one of the Scout associations, who confirmed full support of the authorities to NOSU. He also had several working sessions with leaders of NOSU to assess the level of development of the organization.

NOSU has a clearly articulated mission. Its vision was discussed at the first congress and its formulation should be adopted by the next congress. Mission and vision are the basis for long-term goals and objectives. The five years strategic plan, regularly monitored, will focus on membership and institutional developments.

Policies in various sectors (human resources, finances, youth leadership development, gender and reaching out) are being developed. Youth leadership development is facilitated by a national legislation imposing that the total number of persons over 35 years may not exceed one third of the total membership of the organization or of the composition of its elected governing bodies. Gender policy is facilitated by the national culture and the education system, which sensitizes young people right from school. An effective membership registration system exists.

The Organization is well structured and has a clear and democratic decision-making process through committees. It has also a fairly well developed information and communication system with its constituency, the authorities and the public at large, as well as public relations strategy and good media coverage. It has developed good relationships with other youth organizations, the Government and local authorities, and funding partners, and is well anchored in the community though more progress should be made. It has a headquarters (loaned) and several campsites.

Management-wise, NOSU demonstrates financial sustainability though it is not a particularly wealthy organization. It is in the process of developing its own accounting system and budgeting procedures and is aiming at implementing a unified financial reporting system.

In terms of education, NOSU has a Youth Programme, which, according to NOSU leaders, meets the needs of young people in the association and in society today. Provisions exist to regularly review the Youth Programme. Elements of a progressive scheme include merit badges, which are illustrated in their handbook and are obtained on a progressive basis. It has an active strategy to recruit youth members and supports youth involvement at all levels. The adult policy clearly aims at supporting leadership and recruitment of volunteers and there is a training scheme for leaders, and training is carried out regularly.

At present, NOSU is a small organization and has only one professional staff regularly employed in application of existing legislation. Being a new organization, NOSU still has to develop an efficient working organization.

NOSU membership is open to girls and boys, women and men, in three age sections: cubs (6-10), Scouts (11-16) and Rovers (16-24). As at 31 December 2007, NOSU comprised 2,475 members including 718 female youth members, 1,546 male youth members, plus some 200 adult leaders and Council members.

NOSU membership is made approximately of 40% from PLAST, 40% from SPOK and 20% from SICH. The same percentages are reflected at the National Council level. While double membership still exists (one can be member of NOSU and member of one of the three above associations), direct membership for new members is strongly encouraged. It is the objective of NOSU's leadership that NOSU will be successful enough to attract more members from the three associations who are not yet members of NOSU. Further unification of Scouting through integration of other Scout groups in Ukraine is envisaged through the chartering system.

Globally speaking, and because of the history of Scouting in Ukraine, NOSU has a good understanding of the fundamental principles of the Movement. NOSU will undoubtedly benefit from being part of the regional and world structures of WOSM to recruit more members from its component associations and to further develop international Scouting partnerships which already exist.

The Chairman of the National Council is Mr. Lev Zakharchishin, the Deputy Chairman of the National Council is Mr. Valeriy Tantsiura and the International Commissioner is Mr. Andreiy Chesnokov.

In becoming a member of WOSM, NOSU will become, as it so desires, a member of the Eurasia Scout Region.