



SCOUTS[®]
Creating a Better World

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

**Regional Scout Committee, European Region
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To:

- International Commissioners
- Participants at the Open Meeting

17 February 2008

Invitation to 'Moving Forward – A European Conversation'

Dear Friends

You will be aware from recent communications and from the Open Meeting in Paris that the times we are living through at the moment are some of the most challenging in the recent history of the World Organization of the Scout Movement. These times should also be some of the most exciting as we try to do our best to develop and grow in these early years of our second century.

Over the past few months the European Scout Committee has been following the governance review process, noting at the same time the institutional problems that have arisen at world level. Most recently the European Scout Committee further explored these topics when it met over the weekend of 8-10 February.

During the Open Meeting that was held over the weekend of 15-17 February an informal gathering of European NSOs was convened on the Sunday morning. From those discussions it was made clear that there is strong interest amongst European NSOs that a meeting should be held in advance of the World Scout Conference. Responding to this request, the European Scout Committee has agreed to organise a special gathering entitled 'Moving Forward – A European Conversation'.

The gathering is not seen as an opportunity to try and find one common European view on these complex issues. Rather, we know that one of our many strengths in Europe is our considerable tolerance, and we believe that it is possible to meet, present, explore and debate different positions and concerns and, importantly, look to the future and be well prepared for the World Scout Conference in Korea.

I can confirm that the gathering will take place in Frankfurt, Germany over the weekend of 4-6 April 2008. We are working with the German Federation to find the most advantageous location and will advise this very soon. The gathering will start on Saturday morning at 09:00 and will end in time for lunch on Sunday afternoon at 13:00. Members of the European Scout Committee will facilitate the discussions. It is envisaged that most of the dialogue will take place on Saturday, with Sunday being reserved for those NSOs that want to have bilateral and multilateral discussions for proposals to the World Scout Conference.

The aim and objectives for the meeting are as follows:

Aim

To provide an opportunity to exchange ideas and information on the current situation of WOSM as we move towards the World Scout Conference in July 2008.

Objectives

By the end of the meeting, participants will have had the opportunity to:

- Be updated from the Open Meeting held in Paris
- Further examine the proposed new registration fee structure
- Consider the programme of the World Scout Conference
- Discuss with others concerns which may remain
- Work with others to propose ways of dealing with governance of the movement

Methods

The meeting will use a range of methods from plenary sessions, to small group working, and bilateral and multi-lateral meetings. Plenary input will be kept to a minimum.

Participants are responsible for their own travel. Accommodation, if required, will be made available for one or two nights depending on travel arrangements. This is likely to be in a nearby youth hostel. Participants are free to book alternative accommodation at their own expense. The European Scout Region will cover the cost of accommodation and meals for the first nominated representative from each National Scout Organisation. The remaining costs will be charged to individuals as a participation fee.

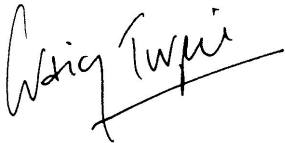
If your NSO is able to attend please ensure that the attached Application Form is completed and returned to the World Scout Bureau – European Regional Office by emailing europa@scout.org as soon as possible, but no later than 14 March 2008. This deadline is important.

We are aware that this invitation is being sent at short notice but hope that NSOs will respond positively given the level of interest expressed at the recent Open Meeting. The current situation merits this opportunity for us to gather and look to the future constructively.

A programme for the day will be made available shortly. In the meantime, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact David McKee, Regional Director at dmckee@scout.org

I look forward to seeing you in Frankfurt in April.

Yours sincerely



Craig Turpie
Chairman, European Scout Committee

Enc: 'Moving Forward – A European Conversation' – Application Form