



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

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Circular N°26/05.09

To: International Commissioners, National
Commissioners for External Relations and
Advocacy in the European Scout Region

20 May 2009

**For a Better World, For a Better Europe - The Purple Manifesto
What is Scouting expecting from the European Elections?**

Dear Friends

Over the last few years (2004-2009), the European Scout Region, with your support, has been working with a network of Members of the European Parliament from various countries in order to ensure that the needs and expectations of Scouting are known and met.

We have addressed a number of key issues with this network such as Volunteering, Non Formal Education, Africa and Employment of Young People. We have done this by looking from two perspectives: What the contribution of Scouting is and what Scouting is expecting from the European Parliament.

Citizens of the European Union will vote between 4 and 7 June 2009 for the next European Parliament. We believe that following the work achieved, the contribution of Scouting to Europe but also the needs of Scouting, it is time to make sure that our voice is heard. Therefore, we have launched '**For a Better World, For a Better Europe**'. Through this simple two-page Manifesto (below), we urge European policy makers to join us in working wholeheartedly to realise the following six goals in the upcoming legislative period. It addresses the following issues:

- Empower Volunteers
- Better Social Inclusion of Young People
- Strengthen Global Partnerships for Development
- Remove obstacles to Scouting
- Make employability of young people a priority in European Union (EC)
- Integrate young people in shaping Europe

The European Scout Region has addressed this Manifesto to all the current Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and received already a number of messages of support from them. To maximise the impact, I would like to **invite NSOs in the European Union to send this Manifesto to all the candidates standing for elections** in your country. This would be a useful and easy contact with the future MEPs of your country and helpful for future contacts.

Our Office in Brussels can provide you with all necessary support. Please contact, Alix Masson, amasson@scout.org. If you receive any feedback from any of the candidates, we would be also extremely grateful if you could communicate to Alix.

Yours sincerely

Craig Turpie
Chairman, European Scout Committee



For a Better World, for a Better Europe

European Scout Manifesto for European Elections 2009

Europe is experiencing a time of change. The continent is living through a period of economic turbulence causing concern among millions of young people and their families. A number of global questions, ranging from the threat to the environment to insecurity in the employment market are affecting the lives of young people across Europe. It is time to look to the future, and work for a society that is ready to face the challenges and take the opportunities that confront us.

Scouting in Europe sees that the potential, ambition and inspiration of young people are crucial in building a Europe of opportunities, and that the role of European policy makers is of great importance in this work. There are over 1.4 million Scouts across Europe, engaged in action in their local communities in 'Creating a Better World' as active European citizens.

Looking to the European Elections in June 2009 we urge European policy makers to join us in working wholeheartedly to realise the following six goals in the upcoming legislative period of the European Parliament (EP) and the European Commission (EC):

1. Empower Volunteers

The European Year of Volunteering in 2011 must become an opportunity to empower the over one hundred million volunteers who are active in their communities across Europe, giving them the recognition and means in their work for greater solidarity. The European Parliament should adopt a comprehensive European framework for the rights of the volunteer, defining the basic rights and responsibilities of volunteers and recognise the many dimensions of volunteering.

2. Better Social Inclusion of Young People

The European Union has great potential to promote greater social inclusion of young people. In order to realise this potential the EU needs to develop an ambitious agenda in partnership with youth organisations, to facilitate the access of civil society actors to EU funding programmes and to ensure co-ordination between the different Commission services managing the programmes. A mechanism that a defined proportion of the European Social Fund national resources is devoted to disadvantaged young people should be developed.

3. Strengthen Global Partnerships for Development

In today's world there is a need for our younger generations to join in building bridges of understanding and to empower young women and men to act in partnership for a world without borders in the name of justice, solidarity and peace. In order to achieve this, the EU must add a strong youth dimension in its external actions and promote and support youth partnerships between the EU and other regions of the world, involving youth organisations of all kinds.

4. Remove obstacles to Scouting

The European Parliament is regulating a variety of actions and areas that have direct impact on voluntary activities and functioning of volunteering organisations, including Scouting. Removing administrative and bureaucratic burdens to voluntary activities and functioning of volunteering organisations must become part of all EU initiatives on "better regulation". Legislation cannot be developed with only professional actors in mind; the European Union must leave space for common sense and civic activities by citizens. EU regulatory frameworks must take into account the specific nature of volunteering and voluntary organisations. European Parliament's Committees should pay attention to the impact of European policies and legislation on volunteering and EP Committees should actively involve volunteering organisations in the legislative process.



5. Make employability of young people a priority in European Union (EC)

While young people today are more educated than ever, they face huge challenges in entering the world of work. Young people's skills and competences, often gained outside of the school or other formal settings, are not recognised. In developing an ambitious post-Lisbon vision on a social and competitive Europe, the EU must work together with youth organisations to develop practical European measures to help young people to highlight their true skills and competences.

6. Integrate young people in shaping Europe

Young people have a right to participate in the shaping of the Europe of today and tomorrow. During 2009-2014 the EU should put in place and implement an effective youth strategy in partnership with youth organisations. This strategy should encompass all relevant fields of action such as education, health and autonomy. Even if confronted with challenges in their own lives in today's Europe, young people are increasingly mobilised to tackle environmental questions. Youth engagement in environmental action and concern for the future of our planet should be recognised and supported.

About Scouting in Europe

The European Scout Region is the representative of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement in Europe and the coordination body of National Scout Organisations in the 27 EU Member States and 41 European Countries. We work actively with European institutions and other youth and civil society organisations in order to shape policies to strengthen the participation and living conditions of young people as well as to guarantee a sound regulatory environment for volunteering organisations. We facilitate a Scout network in the European Parliament and are committed in cooperating with decision-makers to make policies that help young people and volunteers across Europe in Creating a Better World. Your contact person is Alix Masson, Director, External Relations and Funding.

About Scouting and the European Youth Forum



European Scouting has joined together with 100 hundred European youth organisations in the framework of European Youth Forum. European Scouting is demanding the Parliament and the Commission to put forward a New Youth Agenda for the EU. Make young people priority in 2009-2014! <http://www.youthagenda.eu>

Contact Details

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