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World Organization of the Scout Movement  
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Organización Mundial del Movimiento Scout  
المنظمة العالمية للحركة الكشفية

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To: International Commissioners

4 June 2010

**Belarusian Republican Scout Association (BRSA)**

Dear Colleagues,

The World Scout Bureau has received an application from the Belarusian Republican Scout Association for re-recognition by the World Organization.

In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution of WOSM, the World Scout Committee considered this application at its meeting on 20-21 March 2010, 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", BRSA will be declared a member, as the National Scout Organization of Belarus, of the World Organization of the Scout Movement as from 5 September 2010. Affirmative votes are not required.

Yours sincerely,

Luc Panissod  
Secretary General

**Enclosure** : information on BRSA

## BELARUSIAN REPUBLICAN SCOUT ASSOCIATION (BRSA)

The Republic of Belarus is a country located in Eastern Europe. Its neighbouring countries are Russia in the northeast, Ukraine in the south, Poland in the west, and Lithuania and Latvia in the northwest. Its capital is Minsk.

Belarus has a population of 9.85 million. More than 80% of the population are native Belarusians, with sizable minorities of Russians (11.4%), Poles (3.9%) and Ukrainians (2.4 %).

The first Belarusian Scout groups were created in 1909: however, Scouting's development stopped during the soviet regime. During its rebirth as from 1989, it benefitted from the positive impact of the Operation of Solidarity with the Children of Chernobyl launched by WOSM and UNESCO in 1990. Further contacts and exchanges in particular with Belgian, French and Luxembourg Scouts helped the creation of many Scout groups. During the following years, Scouting in Belarus, discreetly but steadily, developed and expanded throughout the territory.

In March 1998, the Belaruskaya Natsionalnaya Skautskaya Asatsiyatsia, in Belarusian, and Belarosskaya Natsionalnaya Skautskaya Assotsiatsia, in Russian, was declared a Member, as the National Scout Organization of the Republic of Belarus, of the World Organization of the Scout Movement. In May 2001, Belarus hosted the 1st Eurasia Regional Scout Conference.

In 2004, Belarus was expelled from WOSM for non compliance with its constitutional obligations. The association has, however, continued its activities since the termination of its membership.

Since then the situation has much improved. The Organization is well structured and has a clear and democratic decision-making process. It benefits from governmental support, while being fully independant, and has developed good relationships with other youth organizations, the orthodox Church and local authorities. It has kept contacts with foreign Scout associations and will, e.g., participate to the 2nd Baltic Jamboree that will take place this summer in Lithuania. Young leaders were also invited to participate to training courses of the Eurasia Region.

In term of education, BRSA has a Youth Programme, which, according to BRSA leaders, meets the need of young people in the association and in society today. It has an active strategy to recruit youth members and support youth involvement at all levels. Gender policy is facilitated by the national culture and the education system. The composition of the National board and the membership reflects these two aspects. The adult policy aims at supporting leadership and recruitment of volunteers and there is a training scheme for leaders, and training is carried out regularly.

The membership of BRSA totals 1,200 (Cub Scouts: 12%, Scouts: 44%, Rovers: 40% and Adult leaders: 4%) and is widespread across the country but predominantly in Minsk and in the Grodno area (respectively 50% and 21% of the membership).

The Constitution of the Belarusian Republican Scout Association has been checked thoroughly and approved by the Consitution Committee. Two missions to visit the association were undertaken in November 2008 and Mai 2010 to assess the situation de visu. The conclusion is that BRSA fully meets the requirements for re-admission to WOSM membership.

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