



# Constitution of the European Regional Scout Organization

## Preamble

Accredited representatives of national Scout associations and Federations, being members of the World Scout Conference and operating in the geographical area of Europe, as defined by the World Scout Committee, met in Altenberg in 1960 and agreed on a closer cooperation amongst themselves. The principles on which such cooperation would be based were laid down in Hove, England in 1962 in an instrument known as "The Hove Document".

At the European Scout Conference held in Baden in 1970, it was decided to establish a European Regional Scout Organization of the Scout Movement.

The present Constitution, which is based on the World Constitution, governs the operation of the European Regional Scout Organization in a spirit of world cooperation, friendship and brotherhood.

## Article I: Title and Organs

### 1. Title

The Organization of the Scout Movement at European level is governed by the World Constitution and this Constitution, under the title of "The European Regional Scout Organization", hereinafter called the "European Organization", as an independent, non-political, non-governmental organization.

### 2. Organs

The organs of the European Organization are:

- a) The European Scout Conference, comprised of national Scout organizations, members of the European Organization.
- b) The European Scout Committee, duly elected by the European Conference.
- c) The European Scout Office, directed by a Regional Executive.

## Article II: Purpose and Principles

- a) The purpose of the European Organization is to assist the World Organization in fostering the Scout Movement in Europe.
- b) The principles of the European Organization are those of the Scout Movement.

## Article III: European Scout Conference

### 1. Functions

The functions of the European Conference are:

- a) To further the Scout Movement within the Region, by promoting the spirit of world brotherhood, cooperation and mutual assistance amongst Scout Organizations within the Region.
- b) To foster the idea of an European citizenship, based on the conscience of a common heritage and destiny.
- c) To develop cooperation among European youth.
- d) To exercise other functions resulting from this Constitution and other laws governing the European Organization.
- e) To ensure the proper implementation of the decisions and policies laid down by the World Organization of the Scout Movement which affect the European Region.



## 2. Composition

- a) The European Conference shall consist of delegations of national Scout organizations from Europe, members of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement.
- b) The European Committee may invite to the Conference as observers, the representatives of the World Scout Organisation, the other Regional Organisations, The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and other youth Organizations.

## 3. Rules of Procedure

- a) There shall be an ordinary meeting of the European Conference every three years at such time and place as the Conference may decide.
- b) An extraordinary meeting may be called on the decision of the European Committee, or at the request of not less than one third of the member organizations.
- c) Delegations from not less than half of the recognised member national Scout organizations in Europe shall constitute a quorum for any meeting of the Conference.
- d) Each member organization shall have six votes and resolutions shall be taken by a simple majority of members present or represented and voting. In the event of a tie, the motion is defeated.
- e) The Conference shall hear the report of the European Committee, approve the accounts and elect members of the European Committee.
- f) The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Conference shall be appointed by the European Committee. The Chairman's ruling shall be final.
- g) When it considers the report of the European Committee, the accounts and during the elections to the Committee, the Conference shall elect one of its members actually present to take the chair.
- h) The European Conference shall adopt its own additional rules of procedure as required.

## Article IV: European Scout Committee

### 1. Functions

The function of the European Scout Committee are:

- a) To exercise such functions as are provided for in the present constitution.
- b) To put into effect the resolutions of the Conference and to fulfil any duty that the Conference may assign to it.
- c) To act as an advisory body to the World Committee.
- d) To act as an advisory body for member organizations requiring advice and assistance.

### 2. Composition

- a) The European Committee shall consist of six members who shall consider the interests of the Movement as a whole and shall neither consider themselves nor be considered as representing any particular member organization.
- b) At any ordinary meeting of the Conference, the members shall be elected for a period of three years. A retiring member shall only be eligible for re-election for one further period of three years.
- c) The European Committee shall have power to accept resignations and to fill vacancies in its membership until the next meeting of the Conference. In order to fill a vacancy on the Committee, the candidate for election with the highest number of votes who was not elected (and who has not subsequently already been co-opted) shall be co-opted as a member of the Committee.
- d) Election to the Committee is subject to the following conditions:  
in no case shall more than one member from any one country serve on the Committee in any one period;  
only members of a recognised Scout Association are eligible;  
nominations must be sent to the Secretary at least four months ahead of the Conference. They shall be made or endorsed by the National Scout Organization of which the nominee is a member.

### 3. Organisation of the Committee

- a) The European Committee shall elect its own Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The Chairman may attend the meetings of the World Scout Committee in a consultative capacity. The European Committee may appoint any one of its members for a special task; it may invite any person whom it may deem useful in accomplishing its task as a consultant without vote.



- b) The European Committee shall elect an outside specialist to serve as Treasurer. The Treasurer will attend meetings of the European Committee as ex-officio member of the Committee. The Treasurer is formally appointed by the treasurer of the World Scout Committee for a 3 years period after consultation with the European Scout Committee. (Resolution 6/71, World Scout Conference).
- c) The European Committee shall meet at such time and places as it may decide. The presence of four members shall constitute a quorum. Decisions shall be taken by a simple majority of members present and voting. In the event of a tie, the motion is defeated.
- d) The European Committee may establish subsidiary organs (Sub-Committees and task forces) and adopt additional rules of procedure as required.

## Article V: European Scout Office

### 1. Functions

The functions of the European Scout Office are:

- a) To serve as secretariat of the European Scout Region.  
b) To serve as a secretariat of the World Organization in matters relating to the Region in conformity with Article XX 3 (b) of the World Constitution.

### 2. Composition

The European Scout Office shall comprise the Regional Executive and such staff as the Region may require.

### 3. Regional Executive

The European Office is directed by a Regional Executive. The Regional Executive is appointed by the World Bureau in agreement with the European Committee, is paid by the World Bureau and reports to the Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, to whom he or she is responsible, and to the European Committee. The Regional Executive shall serve as secretary to the Regional Committee.

## Article VI: Financial Provisions

### 1. Registration Fees

- a) Each member organization shall pay an annual registration fee at an agreed per capita rate to be determined from time to time by the European Conference by a two-thirds majority.  
b) Payment of the annual registration fee up to and including the end of the fiscal year preceding a European Conference, is a pre-requisite for voting at that Conference, unless remission or postponement has received prior authorisation from the European Committee.

### 2. Annual Budget

All the funds shall be deposited to the credit of the European office and shall be disbursed by the Treasurer in accordance with a budget approved and certified by the European Committee.

### 3. Financial Statement

An audited financial statement shall be submitted annually by the Treasurer to the European Committee and shall be sent to all member organizations.

### 4. Auditors

The European Committee shall appoint auditors to the European Office.



## Article VII: Other Provisions

### 1. Official Languages

The official languages of the European Organization are English and French. In the event of a conflict arising out of the interpretation of this Constitution, or any other official document of the European Organization, the English text shall prevail.

### 2. Amendments

- a) This Constitution may be amended by the European Conference at any of its meetings by a simple majority of the members present and voting. Texts of the proposed amendments shall be communicated by the European Office to all member organizations at least four months in advance of the time of the meeting.
- b) Amendments to the Constitution, however, require a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting.

### 3. Interpretation

In conformity with Article XXI of the World Constitution:

- a) This Constitution and future amendments must be approved by the World Committee before entering into force.
- b) In the event of a conflict between obligations resulting from the World Constitution of the Scout Movement and obligations resulting from this Constitution, the obligations resulting from the World Constitution shall prevail. This Constitution was approved by the European Scout Conference at Killarney, Ireland, on 18th April 1977; it was approved by the World Scout Committee on 14/15th July 1979 and was amended and approved by the European Scout Conference at Prague, Czech Republic, on 12 July 2001.

## • Additional Rules of Procedure

- Adopted by the 4th European Conference at Vichy, 1966
- Amended by the 9th European Conference at Killarney, 1977
- Amended by the 12th European Conference at Ofir, 1986
- Amended by the 17th European Conference at Prague, 2001
- Amended by the 18th European Conference at Reykjavik, 2004

## Preamble

Referring to article III point 3 (h) of the Constitution of the European Scout Conference and in order that the business of the Conference may be dealt with expeditiously and that there may be no misunderstanding as to the methods adopted, the following rules are published for guidance:

### 1. Chairman

It is the responsibility of the European Scout Committee to organise the European Scout Conference, to prepare the agenda and to execute the agenda adopted by the Conference. The Chairman for the Conference is appointed by the Committee. The Chairman's ruling is final.

### 2. Speeches

In order to give ample opportunity to all who wish to speak on any specific subject, speeches (apart from the introductory papers) will be limited to TEN MINUTES for each speaker, inclusive of the time for translation. This limit may be varied at the discretion of the Chairman. Speakers are required to give their name and the name of their country every time they speak.

### 3. Reports

These will be circulated in printed form and questions on any item may be raised at the appropriate session.



#### 4. Resolutions Committee

At the opening of the Conference the Committee shall recommend to the Conference the names of a Resolutions Sub-Committee, consisting of three members of different countries. All resolutions which it is desired to present to the full Conference, shall, in the first place, be handed to the Resolutions Sub-Committee who will arrange for their drafting in proper form and for their translation and will present them at the appropriate session of the Conference.

#### 5. Moving of Resolutions and Amendments

Before any resolution or amendment can be put to the Conference it must be formally proposed and seconded by different national delegations or proposed by the European Scout Committee. Following the normal practice in most countries, where an amendment is made to a resolution, it is the amendment which is first put to the Conference for vote, before the original resolution.

If the amendment is lost, the resolution is then put. If the amendment is carried, then the resolution is amended accordingly before it is put to the Conference.

It is hoped that some resolutions will emerge naturally as a result of the discussions of the Conference on the subjects contained in the agenda. It will be the task of the Resolutions Committee to frame such resolutions (if required) according to the general sense of discussion. Resolutions of courtesy, congratulations and condolence will be initiated by the Resolutions Committee.

#### 6. Voting

In accordance with article III point 3 (d) of the Constitution, voting procedure shall be that adopted by the World Scout Conference. Owing to that, voting at any meeting of the Conference shall be by countries, each country having six votes. It is hoped that national delegations will vote collectively, but they are at liberty to divide the votes if they so wish.

a) Three tellers will be appointed to count the number of votes recorded and to announce the result of any vote taken. All voting papers must be returned to the tellers. If a country wishes to abstain from voting, the papers shall have no significance either for or against in determining the result of the ballot.

b) A resolution shall be declared carried if a simple majority of the votes cast are given in favour of the resolution. The numbers of votes will be announced.

c) If an equal number of votes are give for and against a resolution or an amendment, the Chairman shall not be entitled to give a casting vote and the resolution or amendment shall be deemed to have been not carried.

#### 7. Elections

a) Under article IV point 2 (b) of the Constitution all elected members of the Committee will retire at each ordinary meeting of the Conference. The members shall be elected for a period of three years. A retiring member shall only be eligible for re-election for one further period of three years and will not be eligible for re-election until the following European Scout Conference. In all cases, only one member of any one country may serve on the Committee at any one time.

b) Voting shall be by secret ballot and NOTHING may be entered on the voting paper except the number of votes cast for each candidate. The papers must not be signed. The leader of each delegation may record a maximum of six votes for any one candidate. If the total number of votes given on the voting papers exceeds 36, the paper is not valid. If the vote is split between the component associations of any national Scout organization, each association will enter only its due proportion of votes.

c) After the announcement of all elections the ballot papers shall be destroyed by the tellers (who are bound to secrecy) and the numbers of votes cast for each candidate will be announced.

#### 8. Open Session

All subjects for discussion at the Open Session must be handed in to the Conference secretariat not later than 24 hours before the Open Session is due to start.

#### 9. Official Languages

The official languages of the Conference are English and French.