



Committee.Update

Spring Meeting 2013 in Berlin



© Andrea Demarmels / WSB-ERO 2013

Highlights

Preparations of this summer's **21st European Scout Conference** and the concurrent 14th European Guide and Scout Conference were at the centre of the discussions of the European Scout Committee when it met in Berlin at the Conference hotel for its penultimate meeting in the current triennium.

The Committee welcomed Letizia Gambini, the Office's **new Director, External Relations and Funding**, who takes up appointment, effective on 1 April 2013, following the resignation during the contractual trial period of her immediate predecessor.

Reports from the Region's Working Groups and Core Groups allowed the Committee to note that most of the objectives and actions set out in the **Regional Scout Plan** had already been or were in the process of being met.

Nearly halfway through the present fiscal year, the Committee reviewed the current **financial situation** and started establishing next year's budget. With the future Regional working structure likely to be known at the beginning of the new fiscal year, which starts in October 2013, some operational elements will be based on estimates.

The Chairman of the Committee, in his capacity as non-voting member of the World Scout Committee, gave an update on matters currently discussed at **world level**.

Regional Scout Plan: Progress, Reporting and Transition

With only six months left in the current triennium the Committee noted a certain level of fatigue in the different **Working Groups and Core Groups**. It was now necessary to focus on delivering those actions and objectives, which still remained to be achieved.

However, it noted with gratitude the huge commitment already made to the work of the Region by the volunteer team, formal and informal.

The Committee has started to gather material for the Triennial Report, which is due to be presented at the Conference in August and which would reflect the outcomes of the work undertaken in the Region since the previous

Conference in 2010. It was acknowledged that it might be more difficult to measure the true impact of the Region's work on the development of NSOs but this nevertheless is an important aim for the reporting.

The Committee also looked at how best to plan the continuity of provision of core services and the recruitment of volunteers willing to contribute to achieving the next Regional Scout Plan. It was hoped to handle the transition better than in previous times.

21st European Scout Conference

The Committee received a progress report reflecting the current status of planning and discussed various aspects related to the organisation of the working sessions of the Conference.

Some time was also spent in discussing matters, which were on the agenda of the Joint Committee as well as on that of a **meeting between the Joint Committee and the Conference Organising Team**. These encounters helped to clarify some issues relating to finances and communications.

The Committee noted with satisfaction the level of **registrations** already confirmed, largely due to a successful campaign on facebook during the days prior to the deadline set for the early bird fee. Some 250 observers and delegates were listed on 28 February for the Conferences, with roughly 60% going to attend the WOSM Conference and 40% the WAGGGS Conference.

As a result of the exchanges, a tripartite **Memorandum of Understanding** had been drafted, which complements the existing Guidelines for the Organisation of the 14th European Guide and Scout Conference. This document was finalised during the weekend of the Committee meeting and was signed by the two Regional Directors and the Conference Organising Team. A **Communications Cooperation Agreement** forms an integral part of this Memorandum.

Major Points

Activities	In view of this year's European Regional Conferences, the ICs' Forum in December 2012 presented a welcome opportunity for networking and exchanges for International Commissioners from associations in the European Regions of WOSM and WAGGGS.
World level	The World Scout Committee is likely to make important decisions related to the reorganisation and relocation of the World Scout Bureau's Central Office. The Chairman, as a non-voting member, will be present at the meeting and will contribute to the discussion, raising concerns identified by the European Scout Committee.
Staff changes	Letizia Gambini, from Italy, will join the staff at the Brussels Office as Director for External Relations and Funding in April.

Regional Events

The Committee briefly reviewed the recent “**International Commissioners’ Forum**” held in Greece in December and spend some time to finalise the programme of the upcoming **5th European Scout Symposium**, which will take place in Dublin, Ireland, in April 2013.

Both events are important milestones on the road from “Brussels 2010” to “Berlin 2013”, the **21st European Scout Conference** and the concurrent 14th European Guide and Scout Conference. It is at these meetings, where representatives from European National Scout Organisations have an opportunity to exchange feedback on current Regional work as well as their visions for the “Future Path” of the European Scout Region.

Between now and the Conference, there will also be a number of **other Regional events**, including the Partnerships Event in March in Zürich, Agora in Kandersteg in April, RoverNet & VentureNet in May on Malta, the Training Commissioners’ Network Meeting in Rome in May, the Diversity Training in Bratislava in June and the 10th Euro Arab Meeting in Rome in June. Details about these and other events are available in the events section of Europak.

Finances and Budgeting

The Treasurer presented **financial figures** for the first months of the current fiscal year. He was happy to report that almost all members had now paid their annual fees, with some EUR 30 000 still due in the Region. The situation is similar for payment discipline of world fees.

The **auditor’s report** for the fiscal year 10.2011-09.2012 was expected in the coming days. The auditing by the new auditors had been smoother than in previous years.

The **budgeting process** has now started and the Committee noted that expenses related to future work areas would only be rough estimates, as the new Regional Scout Plan would only be adopted after the approval of next year’s budget. These estimates would be calculated based on the outcome of the Symposium.

Regional Fee Policy

The Committee discussed the situation of regional fees and the difficulties when the fee level is denominated in one currency and charged in another. A proposal will be elaborated to minimise the impact on the income generated from fees.

European Scout Foundation (ESF)

The Vice Chairman of the European Scout Committee introduced the **revised investment policy** most recently adopted by the European Scout Foundation, which now better reflected the different nature of the funds entrusted to the ESF.

The Foundation’s **annual report and audited accounts** will be circulated within the coming days. The substantial increase compared to the previous year is due to new assets (European Leadership Training Fund, some CHF 1 Million) and the income generated from the investments, which had also compensated for losses suffered during previous exercises. On 30 September 2012 **net assets** amounted to CHF 4,4 Million.

Partnership Fund

The Committee reviewed a number of interim and final reports of projects supported by the Region’s Partnership Fund. Subsequently, a total of EUR 28 325 was paid out to associations, which had realised their commitments in nine different projects in all parts of Europe. Two new applications were also reviewed.

Reflecting on the future of the Partnership Fund, the Committee commissioned its Treasurer to prepare a comprehensive analysis.

Messengers of Peace (MoP)

The Messengers of Peace project is in its second full operational year and the Committee noted with interest the growing number of applications received from associations in the European Region. In 2012, twenty projects had been supported in Europe, with grants totalling USD 200 000. Providing a sufficient number of new applications, a similar amount will be allocated in 2013.

The Committee noted the establishment of the MoP Network to encourage young people to share and gain sustenance from contact through the platform.

World level

The Chairman shared most recent developments in relation to **matters currently discussed at world level**. Among these are questions of reorganisation and potential relocation of the World Scout Bureau’s Central Office.

The Committee expressed its concern on progress and spent some time discussing the so-called **global issues**. It was agreed to allocate sufficient time during the Symposium to allow exchanges with and among representatives from European NSOs and NSAs.

Upcoming Meetings

5-7 April 2013	5 th European Scout Symposium, in Dublin (IE) The second major event for NSOs and NSAs in preparation of the Conference. http://symposium2013/europeak-online.net
14-16 June 2013	Summer Meeting of the European Scout Committee in Geneva (CH), the last meeting prior to the Conference and elections of the new Committee.
16-21 August 2013	21 st European Scout Conference & 14 th European Guide and Scout Conference in Berlin (DE) The statutory event where European NSOs and NSAs elect the new European Scout Committee and approve the Regional Scout Plan for the coming years. http://14egsc.europak-online.net (programme, documents) http://europeanconference.de (venue, travel, registration, side events) https://www.facebook.com/14egsc?ref=hl
18 August 2013	First meeting of the new European Scout Meeting, during which the new Chairperson and Vice Chairperson will be elected.