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To National Scout Organisations and National Scout Associations as well as Member Organisations and Component Associations in the European Regions of WOSM and WAGGGS

Geneva and Brussels, 3 February 2015

June 2016: 15th European Guide and Scout Conference

“Velkommen til Oslofjorden”

This is how you will probably be greeted some sixteen months from now when we will gather on the shores of the Oslofjord, in Norway, in June 2016 for the 15th European Guide and Scout Conference and the concurrently held 22nd European Scout Conference and the 15th European Guide Conference.

Our hosts, **Speidernes Fellesorganisasjon** (the Guides and Scouts of Norway) have already been busy in preparing an excellent set-up, which will no doubt allow you and some 400 other participants, as representatives of more than 2 million Guides and Scouts across Europe, to receive reports on action undertaken in the European Regions of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) and the World Associations of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) since the previous European Conferences in Berlin in August 2013.

Background

The concurrently held **European Guide Conference** and **European Scout Conference** are the general assemblies of the European Regions of WAGGGS and WOSM with clearly defined mandates. Delegates of all member organisations of the two Regions come together to discuss and adopt Regional policies, strategies and general orientations for the coming years. They receive reports on past and current activities and also elect the members of the Regions' governing bodies, the European Scout Committee of WOSM and the Europe Committee WAGGGS. During the **European Guide and Scout Conference**, all delegations will discuss matters of mutual interest and approve joint plans of action, which are also part of the Regional Plans agreed by the respective separate conferences.

Dates

The Conferences are scheduled to last from **Friday, 17 June 2016 till Tuesday, 21 June 2016**, with arrivals and departures foreseen for the previous and following days, respectively.

Venue

The meetings of the conferences will take place at the **Oslofjord Convention Centre**, where participants and accompanying persons will also be accommodated. It is situated some 110km south of Norway's capital Oslo, with Oslo International Airport (OSL) some 160km to the north and Oslo-Torp Airport (TRF) just 20km to the south. The **Oslofjord** is an inlet in the southeast of Norway, stretching from the Skagerrak to Oslo, and well known for water-based recreational activities. Some 2.2 million of Norway's total of 5 million inhabitants live in the area.



Conference Theme

During their joint meeting held in November 2014, the members of the Europe Committee WAGGGS and the European Scout Committee of WOSM fixed the **theme of the 15th European Guide and Scout Conference:**

Volunteering

Both Scouting and Guiding are volunteer-driven youth movements and questions related to volunteering remain part of the Regions' priorities. To underline the importance of volunteering, the Conferences' programmes will include workshops and sessions to address related matters.

Further details

More information about the 15th European Guide and Scout Conference will be provided in due course, but we wanted you to know these dates as soon as possible so that you can begin your preparations in good time.

In the meantime, the attached first issue of the **Host Information Letter** already provides you with some logistical details.

We are all looking forward to welcoming you in Norway and to our European Conferences next summer where we will set out the future direction of Guiding and Scouting in Europe.

Yours in Scouting and Guiding,



Andrea Demarmels
Chairperson,
European Scout Committee



Corinna Hauri
Chair,
Europe Committee WAGGGS

Annex

Host Information Letter 1