



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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To:

International Commissioners and other
principal contacts of NSOs and NSAs in the
European Region

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Circular 27 2015

Exploring Scouting and Islam

Dear friends,

Following a meeting during the World Scout Jamboree in Japan with some representatives of Islam, including Dr Zuhair Hussain Ghunaim, the Secretary General of the International Union of Muslim Scouts, we decided to convene a meeting of those with an interest in Islam in Scouting, starting with those Associations that are primarily Islamic in orientation:

The Scouts Musulmans de France (FR), the Savez Izvidaca Federacije Bosne i Hercegovine (BH), the Israeli Arab Scouts Association (IL) and the now many Associations or Federations where there are sizeable numbers of adherents of Islam.

With the generous support of Türkiye İzcilik Federasyonu (TİF, TK) we have decided to convene a meeting of all interested parties in exploring how we can support the development of Scouting in Islamic communities throughout our Region.

The meeting will be held at **Umraniya**, the campsite of TİF based on the Asian side of the Bosphorus strait in **Istanbul**, over the weekend of **11-13 March 2016**. We would anticipate arrivals on the Friday, informal discussions and explorations as people arrive, the formal part of the meeting commencing on Saturday, with the anticipated close after lunch on the Sunday.

The meeting will be chaired by the Regional Chairperson, Andrea Demarmels, and we will also be joined by Dr Zuhair of IUMS.

There is no participation fee thanks to the hospitality of TİF, and TİF will also arrange pick-up and drop off from and to either of the two international airports of Istanbul – Atatürk and Sabiha Gökçen – and so you may benefit from using the extensive network of Turkish Airlines or the cut-price options of Pegasus Airlines.

We would anticipate that each participating association could make a short presentation on the current state of Islamic members in their own Association/Federation.

We are aware of some current situations where there are associations that have formed to support Islamic Scouting throughout the Region which may not be operating within current provision and where we have identified such provision I will write separately in the next few days to those associations of WOSM who may wish to invite those new entities – without providing any recognition, but to see if we can make some progress clarifying how we can be more welcoming.

Please respond to this message specifying those who will attend the meeting, their names and emails, and eventually the travel arrangements. If the cost of flights would be a major difficulty, then please ask directly for support and you will receive a quick response. We have a limited amount of such support.

We are looking forward to hearing from those interested in this meeting.

Yours sincerely,

David McKee
Regional Director