



Committee.Update

June Meeting of the European Scout Committee in Italy



Members of the European Scout Committee and Coordinators of the regional Areas of Operation during a break of the third regular meeting of the new triennium in Venice.

© WOSM Europe 2017

Highlights

For its third regular meeting in the current triennium the European Scout Committee met in Venice, Italy.

The **Coordinators of the Areas of Operation** were present, too, and joined the Committee for discussion of parts of the meeting's agenda.

During the weekend, Committee also held the first ever joint meeting with the **Board of the European Scout Foundation**, during which matters of mutual interest were addressed.

One year into the current triennium, the Committee focused on **reviewing progress** made in achieving the objectives set in the **Regional Scout Plan** and, together with the Coordinators, addressed challenges faced by the various working groups.

Committee and Coordinators reflected their collaborative way of working and agreed on a series of measures to improve internal communications and support mechanisms.

In addition, the Committee received a series of **reports** from its members, the Office, and the Treasurer.

Ahmad Alhendawi, **Secretary General of WOSM**, joined the meeting for an hour via conference call to update the Committee on developments at world level.

The Region's **budget for the fiscal year October 2017-September 2018** was discussed and approved and an update on the current financial situation received.

The meeting was concluded by reviewing the situation in the associations in the Region and the Committee's activities planned for the coming months.

During the weekend the Committee attended a special ceremony marking the **30th Anniversary of the Federazione italiana dello Scouting**. There were also informal exchanges with members of the National Councils of **AGESCI** and **CNGEI**, which bodies met during the same weekend.

Operational Framework 2016-2019

The Committee reviewed updates from the different regional working groups, mainly focused on progress

made in the first months of activity. An open call will be circulated before the end of June to recruit suitable volunteers for vacant positions in Volunteer Management (1) and for the Finance Support Group (3).

During a workshop session, the Committee and Coordinators reflected on their ways of collaborative working and identified successes and challenges and ways how best to address these.

The Committee agreed on a series of **immediate measures to further improve collaborative work**, particularly regarding the flow of information. In addition, a document will better identify the role of the collaborators within the regional operational framework.

Planning has started for the next **All Groups Meeting**, which is scheduled to take place 26-28 January 2018. It is at this meeting where the Committee and supporting staff meet with all volunteers engaged in the various regional working groups.

Major Points

Activities

Following the All Groups Meeting 20-22 January 2017, a series of regional events had taken place this spring, with **Agora 2017** (Delft, April 2017) and the **IC Network Meeting** (Gilwell Park, May 2017, hosted and organised by the UK Scout Association).

Other events included the Chief Executives' meeting in Bratislava; Spiritual Development Network meeting, Brussels; European Inter-Religious Forum meeting; Training of Trainers for Dialogue for Peace.

Office

The Brussels team of the Europe Support Centre saw significant changes this spring: **Sinziana Râșca** and **Camilla Palazzini** left to pursue their careers in new fields.

Their areas of work are now shared by **Hunor Péter**, from Romania, as Project Officer for Funding, and **Veronica Arduino**, from Italy, as Project Offer, Time to be Welcome Project. They will shortly be joined by **Samia Fitouri**, from Tunisia, as Project Officer for Communications.

Sonia Abbondio started a one-year internship in Brussels in the framework a Civic Service with Scouts et Guides de France.

World level

WOSM's new **Secretary General**, Ahmad Alhendawi, has just finished his first 100 days and has used many opportunities to reach out to staff in all support centres and many NSOs across all regions.

A **revitalisation agenda** is the outcome of his initial assessment of the World Scout Bureau's activities. It identifies main objectives and a series of proposals the Secretary General would like to focus on in the coming months.

Later in the summer delegates of Member Organizations of WOSM will gather in Azerbaijan at the **41st World Scout Conference** and the **13th World Scout Youth Forum**.

Also during the summer, more than 5000 Rovers from more than 90 countries will experience the **15th World Scout Moot** in Iceland (25 July-2 August 2017).

Finances

The Treasurer shared latest financial figures and reported that the report from the **external auditor** for the fiscal year 10.2015-09.2016 had recently been received. He had agreed with his predecessor that the consolidated accounts would be published shortly.

A series of meetings of the Treasurer over the past months with members of the staff of the Office, the Committee, the European Scout Foundation as well as the previous Regional Treasurer had contributed to a smooth **transition period** which the Committee now considered successfully closed.

Background graphics prepared by the Treasurer (based on the figures of 2015-2016) illustrated the Region's major income and expenditure positions and helped Committee members to better understand the **financial framework** in which the Region operated.

The Treasurer presented the draft **budget for the period 2017-2018** for consideration, which had been put together based on elements submitted by the Coordinators of the different Areas of Operation and the Office. The initial draft version had already been reviewed by the respective Areas of Operation and the teams which had led to a few adjustments to better accommodate needs.

In the absence of requests for further significant adjustments, the Committee **approved** the proposal and recognised the valuable preparatory work and involvement of the coordinators and their teams in the drafting process.

Regional Events in 2017

The Committee reviewed a list of events planned for the remainder of 2017 (see **Circular 20 2016**).

Regular network meetings, project-linked **trainings and workshops** (Diversity & Inclusion, Peace Education & Inter-Religious Dialogue & Spiritual Development, Youth Spokespersons) and **The Academy 2017** (in Hungary in Autumn 2017) will again provide a great variety of sharing and training opportunities for participants from National Scout Organisations across Europe.

Messengers of Peace (MoP)

An open-call encouraging National Scout Organisations and National Scout Associations to submit applications for **Mini Grant Projects** will be published before the end of June, building on very positive experiences gained with this kind of MoP Project Funding in the European Region in previous years.

To be able to better cope with the growing complexity and expected additional workload, **Sofia Savonen**, from Finland, had joined the European Regional Decision Committee, which now had three volunteer members, supported by regional staff.

European Scout Foundation

For the first time ever, the Committee held a **joint meeting** with the Board of the European Scout Foundation.

The Committee welcomed the Foundation's **new action plan**, which the new chairperson of the Foundation, Henrik Söderman, from Finland, who had succeeded Jørgen Rasmussen in January, had introduced and which identified priorities the Foundation planned to focus on in the coming years.

Ways how to further improve **collaborative work** of the two entities were also discussed.

The Committee later attended a ceremony of the Italian chapter of the **Friends of Scouting in Europe (FOSE)** which welcomed a number of new members.

World Level

The preparations of the **41st World Scout Conference** and the **13th World Scout Youth Forum** in Azerbaijan in August are nearing completion. Statutory reports, background documents and draft resolutions have all been shared and will help the delegates make informed decisions when setting the framework for the next three years of WOSM. The changes to the rules of procedure will assist in ensuring that WOSM moves forward in its democratic processes.

Also during the summer, more than 5000 Rovers from more than 90 countries will experience the **15th World Scout Moot** in Iceland (25 July-2 August 2017).

The Committee's Chairperson and Secretary attended the **World Scout Committee** April Meeting in Malaysia, which was largely dedicated to preparations of the upcoming World Scout Conference.

WOSM's new **Secretary General Ahmad Alhendawi** has now finished his first 100 days in office and has most recently presented his revitalisation agenda in which he has summarised objectives and priorities he had identified for the coming months. His analysis had also included a review of the World Scout Bureau's presence in **Geneva**, which he could see a strengthened role in strategic partnerships and external relations.



Major Upcoming Events



25 July-5 August 2017 – 15th World Scout Moot in Iceland.

Find out more about this global event of WOSM on the **Internet** and on **Facebook**:

worldscoutmoot.is/en/ | www.facebook.com/15thWorldScoutMootIceland/



7-10 & 14-18 August 2017 – 13th World Scout Youth Forum & 41st World Scout Conference in Azerbaijan.

Find out more about these two major global governance events of WOSM on the **Internet** and on **Facebook**:

www.wsc2017.az/ | www.facebook.com/wsc2017



31 October – 5 November 2017 – 10th Academy in Hungary.

Find out more about this major training and networking event of the European Regions of WOSM and WAGGGS on the **Internet** and on **Facebook**:

www.thesgacademy.eu/ | www.facebook.com/ScoutGuideAcademy/



23 July – 2 August 2018 – Roverway 2018 in the Netherlands.

Find out more about this major event for members of the senior age section in the European Regions of WOSM and WAGGGS on the **Internet** and on **Facebook**:

www.roverway2018.nl/ | www.facebook.com/roverway2018/