



Explanations to help you read the text

This text indicates the various proposals of draft modifications submitted for approval to the European Scout Conference at an extra-ordinary meeting on 29 March 2019.

There are **four types of proposals of draft modifications**:

- **Proposals for simple linguistic and common usage of phrasing to bring the Constitution of the European Scout Region in alignment with the Constitution of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (hereafter World Scout Constitution). These proposals of modifications are highlighted in yellow.**
- **Proposals for the removal of elements that refer specifically to draft Rules of Procedure of the 23rd European Scout Conference which will be assembled into one document for approval in advance of the Regional Conference and which remove some of the causes of confusion between the current Constitution of the European Scout Region and the Additional Rules of Procedure. These proposals of modifications are highlighted in blue.**
- **Proposals for introduction of new elements or removal of text based on updates of the World Scout Constitution. These proposals of modifications are highlighted in green.**
- **Proposals for clarification of some elements of the current Constitution of the European Scout Region to ensure that they are in the correct area within the text. These proposals of modifications are also highlighted in green.**

The colour coding will be removed in the final version.

Text in red ink gives additional explanations and will obviously not be part of the final version.

Constitution of the European Scout Region

Preamble

Accredited representatives of National Scout Organizations, 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 the European Scout Region of the Scout Movement.

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

Article I: Title and Organs

1. Title

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



2. Organs

The organs of the European Region are:

- a) The European Scout Conference; comprising Member Organizations national Scout organizations of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement located in the European Region.
- b) The European Scout Committee, duly elected by the European Scout Conference.
- c) The European Regional Office, directed by a Regional Director.

Article II: Purpose and Principles

- a) The purpose of the European Region is to assist the World Organization in fostering the Scout Movement in Europe.
- b) The principles of the European Region are those of the Scout Movement.
- c) The European Region accepts and promotes work according to the Scout Method as set out on the Constitution of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement.
- d) In particular, the European Region values transparency in all its operations, reporting regularly and comprehensively to the member organizations, opening up committee and other meetings to participation on request, while respecting the confidentiality required by a membership organization.

Article III: European Scout Conference

1. Functions

The functions of the European Scout Conference are:

- a) To further the development of the Scout Movement within the Region, by promoting the kindred spirit of cooperation and mutual assistance amongst Member Organizations Scout Organizations within the Region.
- b) To foster the idea of European citizenship, based on the consciousness 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 Region.
- 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.
- f) The Conference shall hear the report of the European Committee, approve the report of the Regional Treasurer and elect members of the European Committee.
(=>previously art III 3e)

2. Meetings

- a) Meetings of the European Scout Conference shall consist of delegations of Member Organizations national Scout organizations defined in Article II.2.a above. from Europe, members of the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

The European Committee may invite others to the Conference as observers, the representatives of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, the other Regional Organizations, The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and other youth Organizations. —(=>transfer to Rules of Procedure, ROP 4b)

- b) There shall be an ordinary meeting of the European Conference every three years at such time and place as the Conference may decide.



- c) 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.

3. Quorum

- a) Delegations from not less than half of the recognised **Member Organizations national Scout organizations** in Europe shall constitute a quorum for any meeting of the Conference.

4. Voting

- a) 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.

- b) **In appropriate circumstances determined by the European Scout Committee there may be a referendum by post or electronic communication to Member Organizations between meetings of the European Scout Conference when the same rules as to voting are applicable as set out in Article III.4.a.**

~~The Conference shall hear the report of the European Committee, approve the report of the Regional Treasurer and elect members of the European Committee.~~
(=>transfer as new art III 1f)

~~The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Conference shall be appointed by the European Committee. The Chairperson's ruling shall be final. (=>ROP 3a)~~

~~When it considers the reports of the European Committee and the Regional Treasurer and during the elections to the Committee, the Conference shall elect one of its members actually present to take the chair. (=delete, as no longer required with appointment of independent Chairperson and Vice-chairperson)~~

5. Rules of Procedure

- a) The European Conference shall adopt its own **additional** Rules of Procedure as required.

Article IV: European Scout Committee

1. Functions

The functions 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 until the next ordinary Conference. 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.



In the event of there being no further candidates, the European Committee can choose additional members as required.

- 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 recognized Member Organization 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.
 - On election, and following discussion with fellow committee members, all elected members must declare any possible conflicts of interest arising from positions held in their own or other Scout associations, which would lead to permanent conflicts of interest concerning their perceived impartiality. Positions on the national board and that of International Commissioner, would automatically be conflicts of interest, and such positions would require to be resigned within four months of election.
 - A conflict of interest register will be established so that members may declare, at any time, issues and interests they may have institutionally and personally that impact on their contribution to decision making or influence by the Committee.

3. Organisation of the Committee

- a) The European Committee shall elect its own Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. The Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson, on election, becomes an ex-officio non-voting member of the World Scout Committee without right to vote. 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 external outside specialist to serve as Treasurer. The Treasurer will attend meetings of the European Committee as ex-officio non-voting member of the Committee without right to vote. The Treasurer is formally appointed by the Treasurer of the World Scout Committee for a three-year 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 European Committee adopts its own rules of procedure and other operating processes which are contained in the Standing Orders of the European Committee which are adopted or amended by each new incoming committee at its first meeting. These Standing Orders shall be made available to members. The participation, in person or otherwise, as defined in the Standing Orders, of four members shall constitute a quorum.
- d) The European Committee may establish subsidiary organs (Sub-Committees and task forces) and adopt additional rules of procedure as required.
- e) The European Committee may meet and vote using virtual techniques specified in the Standing Orders of the Committee.

Article V: European Regional Office

1. Functions

The functions of the European Regional 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.



2. Composition

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

3. Regional Director

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

Article VII: Other Provisions

1. Official Languages

The official languages of the European Region 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 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.

4. Dissolution of the Region

The European Scout Region may be dissolved by a resolution adopted at a Regional Conference by a minimum of four-fifths of the votes cast by Member Organizations defined in the Article III.2.a.

Such a proposal for dissolution shall follow the same procedure set out in Article VII.2 for Constitutional amendments.

In the event of the dissolution of the European Scout Region, or of any of its bodies established by this Constitution, the totality of their assets shall become the property of the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

If at the time of the dissolution, the World Organization of the Scout Movement, or the legal entity under which it legally operates, is not operational or is incapable of receiving the assets of the European Scout Region or of any of its bodies, then such assets shall be placed at the disposal of one or more organizations which operate exclusively for charitable, educational or scientific purposes, as deemed appropriate by the Regional Conference which approves the dissolution.

5. Transitional Articles

Transitional Article 1:

The Regional triennium starting after the ordinary 2019 Regional Scout Conference will exceptionally last only 2 years, with the next ordinary Regional Conference therefore taking place in 2021

Transitional Article 2:

Candidates elected to serve for a mandate as Member of the Regional Scout Committee at the 2019 Regional Scout Conference will exceptionally only serve until the 2021 Regional Scout Conference. Those eligible for re-election at the 2021 Regional Conference will if elected serve a mandate until the next ordinary meeting of the Regional Conference foreseen in 2024.

This Constitution was adopted by the European Scout Conference at Killarney, Ireland, on 18 April 1977; it was approved by the World Scout Committee on 14/15 July 1979 and was amended by the European Scout Conference at Prague, Czech Republic, on 12 July 2001 and approved by the World Scout Committee on 30 September – 1 October 2001. It was further amended at the European Scout Conference at Berlin, Germany, on 16 August 2013 and approved by the World Scout Committee on 21-23 September 2013. Further amendments were proposed and agreed by the European Scout Conference at Melsomvik, Norway on 21 June 2016 and approved by the World Scout Committee on 5 September 2016.





(=> delete entire following section)

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
- Amended by the 20th European Conference at Brussels, 2010
- Amended by the 21st European Conference at Berlin, 2013
- Amended by the 22nd European Conference at Melsomvik, 2016

Preamble

Referring to article III point 3 (h) of the Constitution of the European Scout Region 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: (=>all contained in the new draft Rules of Procedure, ROP)

1. Chairperson

It is the responsibility of the European Scout Committee to organize the European Scout Conference, to prepare the agenda and to execute the agenda adopted by the Conference. The Committee appoints the Chairperson of the Conference. The Chairperson's ruling is final. (=>ROP 1a, 2a, 3a)

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 Chairperson. Speakers are required to give their name and the name of their country every time they speak. (=>ROP 10a, b)

3. Reports

These will be circulated and questions on any item may be raised at the appropriate session. (=>Constitution Art III, 1)

4. Resolutions Committee

At the opening of the Conference the Committee shall recommend to the Conference the names of a Resolutions 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 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. (=>Annex 2A to the ROP)

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.

During the Conference no amendments to proposals submitted dealing with constitutional changes may be accepted, except those which either

- Remove ambiguities or otherwise clarify the draft that has been circulated, or
- In the opinion of the Resolutions Committee represent an intermediate position between the proposal circulated and the status quo.

(=>ROP 6)

6. Voting

In accordance with article III point 3 (d) of this 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.

(=>ROP 6.4)

- 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. (=>ROP 3d)
- b) Where voting is undertaken by electronic means, the three tellers will monitor the processes and, in the event of problems occurring as identified or acknowledged by the Conference Chairman, they will replace the electronic process with manual procedures as detailed in 6 a) above. (=>ROP 3d)
- c) 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. (=>ROP 6.4b)
- d) If an equal number of votes are given for and against a resolution or an amendment, the Chairperson shall not be entitled to give a casting vote and the resolution or amendment shall be deemed to not have been carried. (=>ROP 6.4i)

7. Elections

- a) Under article IV point 2 (b) of this 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. (=>ROP 7a)
- b) Voting shall be conducted in one single round. All nominated candidates shall be listed on the voting paper. Voting shall be by secret ballot and nothing may be entered on the voting paper except the number of votes. The leader of each delegation is given a voting paper on which each delegation must record a total of 36 votes and no more than six votes for any one candidate. If the vote is divided between the component associations of any national delegation, each Member Organization shall determine the proportion of the total votes allocated to each association. (=>ROP 7c)
- c) After the announcement of the result of the 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 recorded. (=>ROP 7c)



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. (=>ROP 11)

9. Official Languages

The official languages of the Conference are English and French. (=>Constitution Art VII,1)

