



DESMOS

THE INTERNATIONAL LINK
OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN SCOUTS

LE LIEN INTERNATIONAL
DES SCOUTS CHRETIEN ORTHODOXES

DESMOS COMMITTEE MEETING

APRIL 30, 2011.

BELGRADE

REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

MINUTES of the Committee Meeting

The COMMITTEE MEETING was held on April 30, 2011, at 20h00, in the premises of the Hotel Kasina, in Belgrade, Republic of Serbia.

The Committee meeting was held, the next day after closing of the 6th DESMOS Conference.

The Committee members present at the Meeting:

- Christos Papageorgiou, President
- Maher Sahlieh, Vice-President
- Nicolaos Mitsides, Treasurer
- Georges Abboud
- Zoran Petrović
- Marko Petrović, Secretary General
- Vassilis Birtsas, PR and Communications Commissioner (newly elected Committee member)
- George Bahow, Honorary Committee member

The newly elected Committee members - Roxana Boltasu, Romania, and Dušan Masoničić, Montenegro, also took part in work of the Committee.

The Committee agreed to follow the reduced Agenda, considering the fact that the Conference, which took part the day before, had on the Agenda the Addresses of the President and Vice President and Reports of the Treasurer and Secretary General, so there was no need to repeat the items. Also, the Conference treated other important issues, like DESMOS participation at the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden, DESMOS membership Fee / funding issue, etc.

The Committee discussed the following issues:

1. DESMOS Workshop at Faith and Belief Zone / World Scout Jamboree in Sweden 2011

Considering the importance of good preparation of DESMOS' Workshop at Faith and Belief Zone / World Scout Jamboree in Sweden 2011, Christos Papageorgiou emphasized the need to involve more people in helping DESMOS Team and invited the Committee members to offer support and recruit scout leaders from their association that could help in realization of the Workshop. Making comparison to the Workshop realized at the previous World Scout Jamboree in UK in 2007, Christos and Vassilis pointed out that this time the situation is specific, since the Workshop will be going on each day during the whole day, which means that we need more people involved.

Christos reminded that Cyprus already promised participation of 6 people, Finland announced 2 people for DESMOS Workshop, Lebanon 2 more, Palestine 2 more, and Roxana said she needs to discuss the possibility within her NSO. Thus, we shall have around 14 people ready to join DESMOS team and help in realization of the Workshop. We need the people actively involved since we expect that at least 2.000 scouts will pass through our Workshop, and we have to serve them.

Christos pointed out that DESMOS is better organized this time, since we also have gifts to offer to visitors of our Workshop – DESMOS Calendars for 2012, Wooden Crosses from Jerusalem - thanks to Georges Abboud and Maher Sahlieh. We shall also have DESMOS leaflets to offer.

2. Amendments to DESMOS Constitution

DESMOS President, Christos Papageorgiou, proposed that the new Committee prepares for the next DESMOS Conference the Amendment to DESMOS Statute, ensuring that in future we have the possibility of only one Appointment of Proxy per country, to avoid the situation of one country disposing with more than one Appointment of Proxy and in order to have fair and more democratic elections.

Since during the Conference the delegate from Finland, Jaakko Weuro, who is also the member of the World Constitutions Committee WOSM, noticed one sentence in the Article IV, Item 7, of the Statutes of DESMOS, which is not in line with the new policy of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, The Committee decided to delegate to the new Committee the task of preparing the appropriate amendment to the Statutes of DESMOS for the next Conference.

3. The Conference Resolutions

The Committee discussed the wording of the Conference Resolution proposed by Jaakko Weuro, delegate from Finland, which was, in principle, accepted by the Conference. The Committee emphasized that the spirituality, practiced through learning by doing, is and remains highly relevant element of the educational proposal of Scouting, and should be something our Link should focus on in its work in future.

The Committee agreed that the Resolution was correctly drafted (The Resolution text in the [Appendix 1](#)). The Committee members will analyze the text once again and, if there are no remarks, the text will be included in the Minutes of the Conference, as the official Conference document.

The Committee also agreed on the concept of the Resolution of Courtesy, estimating that it is important to give recognition to all those who made the event successful ([Appendix 2](#)).

4. The issue of inactive organizations in certain member-countries

The Committee discussed the issue of inactive organizations in certain member-countries, like for instance: Georgia, Bulgaria, Albania and USA. Except Bulgaria, which was active before the change of the leadership in their NSO several years ago, the other three countries never appeared at DESMOS events and did not take part in any of DESMOS activities.

The Committee estimated as especially important the need to clarify the position of USA, which is a founding member of The Link, and agreed about the need to get in touch with George Bouloukos from the Eastern Orthodox Committee in Scouting (EOCS), who was DESMOS contact person in USA, or with BSA Headquarters, and clarify the issue of USA's membership.

The Committee also agreed that DESMOS should find some contact in Australia and negotiate Australia's membership in The Link.

5. The Next DESMOS Committee meeting

The Committee agreed that the idea to offer Russia to organize the next DESMOS Committee meeting is a good proposal and instructed the Secretary General to contact the International Commissioner of member organization in Russia RAS/N and explain details related to hosting of the Committee meeting (term of the meeting, conditions, expenses, programme...). It was agreed to ask the Russians to respond whether they accept to host the Meeting before the summer holidays season, so we could have enough time to look for alternative solution in case the response is negative. As the possible terms of the Meeting, the Committee indicated all weekends in February and the first weekend in March 2012.

6. DESMOS web site

Secretary General explained his e-mail exchange with Ivan Kolovos from Bulgaria, who indicated the possibility to get for DESMOS web site the domain-name DESMOS.ORG. Thus, we could keep both the actual domain-name DESMOS.INFO and the new one, which is more appropriate, since DESMOS is an organization...

Ivan Kolovos also suggested to re-design the web site and make it more modern, with additional options like Blog, Forum, etc.

The committee agreed with the idea and instructed the Secretary General to continue communication with Ivan Kolovos and see what can be done in order to arrange the issue related to the domain-name and further improve DESMOS web site.

7. DESMOS Newsletter

The conclusion of the discussion on this issue was that, so far, we had a very weak response of member-countries in terms of providing information for the Newsletter in spite of the fact that there are lots of different scout activities worth to be mentioned and presented to all DESMOS members. Therefore, the Committee members should be more cooperative and give a good example to the others in order to improve the exchange of information and offer more interesting stories to our membership through the Newsletter.

Christos Papageorgiou invited once again the Committee members to send materials and information on scout activities in their countries and thus enable Vassilis to prepare the Newsletter No. 3, to have it ready at least for the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden.

8. Visit to the Head of the Orthodox Church of Romania

Christos informed the Committee about his contact with the representative of Romanian NSO during the World Scout Conference in Brazil and the expressed interest for the visit of DESMOS officials to the Head of the Orthodox Church in Romania.

Roxana explained that the her colleagues from NSO are in contact with the Church and that she will be working together with them in order to arrange such visit. Roxana will inform the Committee when/if the visit is agreed with the Church.

Christos said our experience from the study visit to Lebanon was excellent and will most probably have good effects for S.N.O. He expressed expectations that the visit to the Head of the Church in Romania would have positive effects as well.

The Committee had a short but very constructive and fruitful meeting, tackling currently the most actual issues.

It was the last meeting of the actual Committee. The newly elected Committee will have its meeting at the beginning of 2012, hopefully in Russia.

The Committee finished its work and the meeting was closed around 22h00.



Resolution on THE RELEVANCE OF SPIRITUALITY IN SCOUTING

The 6th DESMOS Conference

- *Mindful of the process of globalization which is bringing people of different cultures and religions ever closer to each other*
- *Acknowledging the work done during the past decade to promote Interreligious Dialogue within Scouting*
- *Committed to the Fundamental Principle of Duty to God laid down by the Founder as expressed in the Constitution of WOSM*

Considers that young people in a globalized world should be equipped with skills, knowledge and attitudes to help them see the Holy in life and to understand what is holy to others,

Finds that Scouting as a global movement, based on a vision in where every human being has a Duty to God, is in a good position to address this need,

Expresses its view that spirituality, practiced through learning by doing, is and remains highly relevant element of the educational proposal of Scouting.



Resolution of COURTESY

The 6th DESMOS Conference expresses gratitude to:

- The Scout Organization of Serbia, for hosting the Conference and for excellent organization and programme of the event
- His Holiness Irinej, The Serbian Patriarch, for reserving time to receive the Conference participants in the premises of Patriarchate of the Serbian Orthodox Church, and for Blessing given to the participants, the event and The Link
- the Mayor of Belgrade, Mr. Dragan Đilas, and Assistant Mayor Mr. Aleksandar Šapić, for the significant support in realization of part of the Conference programme, and for reception of Conference participants at the City Hall of Belgrade
- Father Gligorije Marković, for excellent key-note presentation on the topic "Orthodoxy and Young People"
- Greek NSO "Soma Hellinon Proskopon" and "Friends of DESMOS in Greece" association, for significant support, enabling DESMOS presence at European and World major scout events and other DESMOS activities
- NSO's in DESMOS member-countries - Jordan, Romania, Greece - for hosting DESMOS Committee meetings in the period between DESMOS Conference in Korea and DESMOS Conference in Belgrade
- Georges El Ghorayeb, from Lebanon, former World Scout Committee member in charge for liaison with DESMOS, for excellent cooperation in previous period, for support and advices useful for further development of The Link
- The Municipality of Indjija and the President of its Assembly, Mr. Aleksandar Kovačević, for arranging the visit of the Conference participants to Indjija and for the support in realization of the event
- Father Radiša, Priest of the local Orthodox Church of the Holy Virgin Mary, for warm welcome and the meal offered in the Church's premises, in the town of Indjija
- Tourist Organization of Serbia for appropriate tourist brochures and Tourist Organization of Belgrade for interesting brochures and for excellent, highly professional, tourist guide
- Individuals from Belgrade, friends of The Link, who supported the realization of the event, namely – Mr. Jasenko Lazović and Mr. Petar Stančić.