

DESMOS COMMITTEE MEETING BEIRUT, LEBANON February 27-28, 2015.



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The regular annual meeting of the Executive Committee of The International Link of Orthodox Christian Scouts 'DESMOS' was held in **Jounieh**, a small town north of **Beirut**, in **Lebanon**, February 27-28, 2015.

Being the first Committee Meeting after the 7th DESMOS Conference held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on August 10, 2014, where the new Committee was elected, it was at the same time a constitutive meeting, so the new Committee elected its President, Vice-President and Treasurer, who will perform their duties during the next triennium.

Marko Petrovic, nominated for the Committee by the Scout Organization of Serbia, was elected **President** of DESMOS, for the triennium 2015, 2016, 2017.

Georges Abboud, nominated for the Committee by the Lebanese association Scout National Orthodox, was elected **Vice-President** of DESMOS, for the triennium 2015, 2016, 2017.

Saeed Daoud, nominated for the Committee by the Jordanian Amman Orthodox Scouts, was elected **Treasurer** of DESMOS, for the triennium 2015, 2016, 2017.

Besides President, Vice-President and Treasurer, DESMOS Committee has also the following members: **Ioannis Dimitriadis** from Greece, **Andriy Chesnokov** from Ukraine, **Nicolaos Mitsides** from Cyprus, and **Thomas Eliopoulos** from U.S.A.

Maher Sahlieh, who belongs to Orthodox Scouts Organization of Palestine, was appointed **Secretary General** of DESMOS.

The Secretariat of DESMOS is now strengthened with three young persons, one girl and two young men – Assistants to Secretary General – Ms. **Amal Doumit** from Lebanon, **Rakan Fakes** from Jordan, and **Joseph Chami** from Lebanon.

The Meeting was also attended by one of the founders of DESMOS, the Honorary President, **Christos Papageorgiou** from Greece.

At the beginning of the working part of the event, the Committee had a Minute of Silence, in memory of the former Committee member, late **Zoran Petrovic**, who passed away on the last day of the year 2014.

The Minute of Silence was followed by a short video "In Memory of Chief Zoran Petrovic", prepared upon initiative of SNO-GNO, by young leader Ms. Amal Doumit.



The Meeting was held in the premises of Hotel Reston, in Jounieh, some 15 km north of Beirut. On behalf of the host association, The President of the Lebanese association **Scout National Orthodox**, Mr. **Elie Abdallah**, welcomed the Committee members, wishing an enjoyable stay in Lebanon and a fruitful meeting.

The Committee had a demanding Agenda and discussed, among other, the reports on activities in previous one-year period, DESMOS participation at the forthcoming World Scout Jamboree in Japan, the issue of sustainable funding of the Committee's activities, improving of the Link's internet presentation, establishing of DESMOS FaceBook page, etc.

The host association invested significant efforts in preparation of the event and offered excellent conditions for work of the Executive Committee of DESMOS.

The host association also prepared a rich and interesting programme, including a number of social activities – visits, encounters, sight-seeing and acquaintance with historical and cultural heritage, enjoying in Lebanese traditional food, etc.



The Committee members had encounters and friendly exchange with Members of the Board, as well as with national commissioners of SNO-GNO, followed by an appropriate program prepared and performed by the scouts and scout leaders.



DESMOS delegation was received and welcomed in the Headquarters Office of the Lebanese Scout Federation, which is the NSO WOSM member.

The President of The Lebanese Scout Federation, **Joseph Khalil**, addressed DESMOS delegation on behalf of LSF and expressed welcome and best wishes for the successful DESMOS event in Lebanon. President Khalil said DESMOS visit is a sign of good communication between us and through the unity of our global values, since we're all working in the best interest and service of the Scouting community.

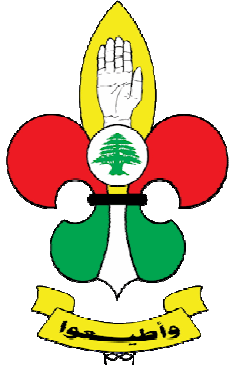


President Khalil briefly presented The Lebanese Scout Federation, indicating that it consists of 33 member-associations belonging to several religions, communities and Lebanese categories, and emphasizing that they all meet on one goal and one principle and that this cultural pluralism is enrichment to the Lebanese society, which makes them an example to be followed.

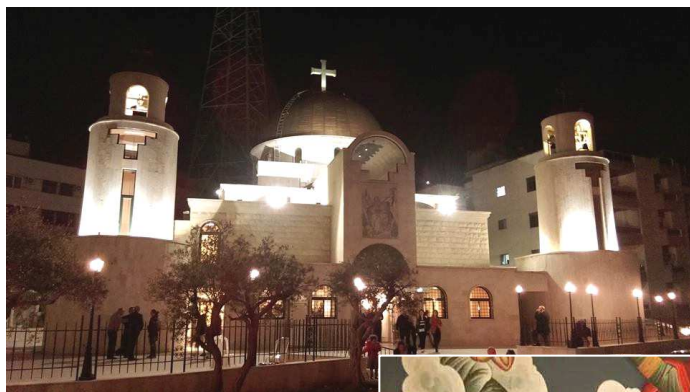
The Lebanese Scout Federation invited DESMOS delegation to have lunch together, in a beautiful environment of the Lebanese restaurant in **Assaha Village** in Beirut, designed by architect Jamal Makki.

Having lunch together with leadership of LSF was an opportunity for further, informal exchange, and a wonderful experience for DESMOS Committee members.

The programme of the stay in Lebanon included the visit to one of the LSF member-associations - **Imam Al-Mahdi Scouts**. DESMOS delegation was presented a promotional video, explainin their work with scouts, which was also an interesting experience.



DESMOS Committee members had encounters with the officials of the Orthodox Church in Lebanon and the opportunity to visit the newly constructed Orthodox Church - "**Saint Elias - Mtayleb**", where DESMOS delegation participated at the evening service - the 1st salutations of Virgin Mary first Friday week of Lent.



After Evening Service, Head of the Saint Elias Church presented to the believers the members of DESMOS delegation. The President of DESMOS addressed faithful people and informed them about The Link, its aims and objectives, its Mission and Vision.

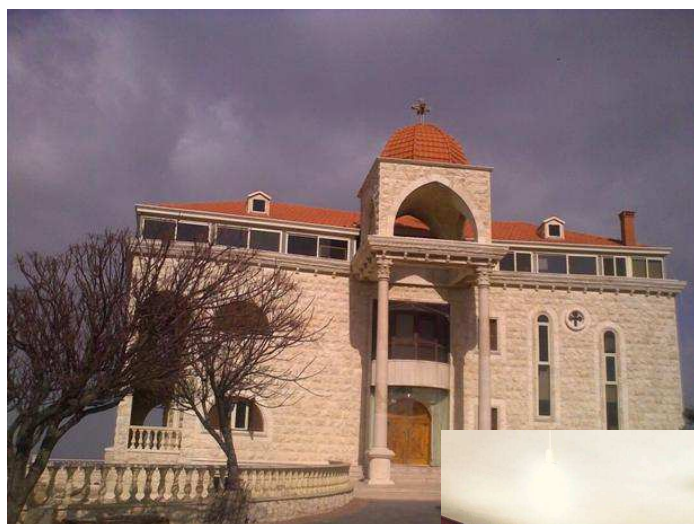


The Lebanese hosts also organized a sight-seeing of the historical and cultural landmarks of Beirut, as well as a visit to the location of **Jounieh - Harissa**, which is dominated by the monumental statue of the Virgin Mary - **Our Lady of Lebanon** - situated on a hill, at the altitude of 650 m, reachable by Téléphérique (Gondola Lift) that runs a 1,5 km distance for 9 minutes. A wonderful spot, very spiritual, and with a beautiful view on the Junieh bay, offered DESMOS Committee members a unique opportunity to relax and enjoy in magnificent nature of Lebanon.



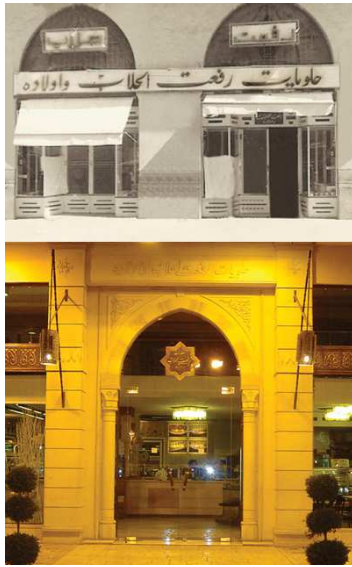
The last day of DESMOS Committee members' stay in Lebanon was reserved for the visit to **Tripoli**, a town in the northern part of Lebanon.

On the way to Tripoli, DESMOS delegation visited female **Orthodox Monastery of Saint Simeon Stylites**, which makes part of the bigger **Monastery of Our Lady of Nourieh**.



DESMOS Committee members were received and welcomed in the Monastery premises by Prioress **Porphyria** and Father **Antonios El Bitar**, where they had an exchange on how our Orthodox Faith can help young people – our members – to further develop their spirituality and religiosity and get closer to fulfilling the three basic principles of Scouting .

In Tripoli, DESMOS delegation visited the famous producer of Lebanese mediterranean and oriental sweets - **Abdul Rahman Hallab & Sons**, and had the opportunity to taste the sweets that really represent a true Lebanese brand.



The programme of the stay in Lebanon continued by the visit to one of the SNO scout groups, in a small coastal village **Enfex**, situated 65 km north of Beirut, on the Mediterranean sea, populated mainly by Orthodox Christians. The local scout group, under leadership of **Joseph Chami**, is very succesful and has a support of the local Orthodox Church.



On Sunday evening, February 28, former World Scout Committee member and actual Treasurer of ICCS, Mr. **Georges El Ghorayeb**, invited DESMOS Committee members for a dinner.

It was a nice and relaxing evening, spent with a friend and again – with lots of excelent traditional Lebanese food...





DESMOS COMMITTEE EXPRESSES GRATITUDE

**To the Lebanese Association SNO-GNO
To The President Elie Abdallah and Vice-President Pierre Salloum**

**To the Lebanese Scout Federation
To the President of the Lebanese Scout Federation, Joseph Khalil**

To Georges El Ghorayeb

To Georges Abboud and Fady Shoucair

To all scouts and leaders of SNO-GNO

**FOR WARM HOSPITALITY AND WONDERFUL TIME IN LEBANON,
AND FOR EXCELLENT ORGANIZATION OF THE DESMOS COMMITTEE MEETING!**