



DESMOS COMMITTEE MEETING LARNACA, CYPRUS, FEBRUARY 14-17, 2013.

The annual DESMOS Committee Meeting was held in Larnaca, Cyprus, February 14-17, 2013.

The working part of the Meeting took part in the premises of Onissilos Hotel, in Larnaca. The Committee worked following the items of the proposed and adopted Agenda and the relevant Minutes will be available as a separate document.

The host NSO, the **Cyprus Scouts Association**, celebrates this year the great anniversary, the Centenary of Scouting in Cyprus.

Besides the working part of the Meeting, DESMOS Committee members had the opportunity to enjoy in a rich additional programme prepared by the host NSO.



The hosts arranged and organized the visit to the Holy Archbishopric in Lefcosia (Nicosia), where the delegation of DESMOS Committee members was received by **His Beatitude Chrysostomos II**, Archbishop of Nea Justiniana and All Cyprus. His Beatitude Cypriot Archbishop had a long cordial conversation with President of DESMOS and members of the Executive Committee and expressed his full support to DESMOS in achieving its aims and objectives and in fulfilling its Mission.



During the visit to the Holy Archbishopric, the Committee members were also enabled to visit the special part of the complex with the premises and personal belongings used by **MAKARIOS III**, the former Cypriot Archbishop and the first President of the Republic of Cyprus

This museum-part of the complex is normally open to visitors only once a year, but the members of the Executive Committee of DESMOS, as distinguished guests, were offered the opportunity to make an extraordinary visit.

Within the same complex DESMOS Committee members also visited the Byzantine Museum with the impressive collection of beautiful Orthodox icons painted on different materials and with different techniques, originating from all periods of the history of Cyprus. It was a guided visit, so DESMOS Committee members heard lots of information and details about the Exhibition.

The second visit to Nicosia was planned and organized with the idea to offer DESMOS Committee members the opportunity to be part of a series of festive events related to celebration of the Centenary of Scouting in Cyprus. On Saturday, March 16, 2013, Nicosia was full of scouts of all age sections, in colorful uniforms, who performed a rich and divers programme



The Cubs and Brownies, Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts, Scout Leaders and Scout Veterans, all of them very proud and very enthusiastic about the great anniversary of The Movement in their country, enjoyed in sharing their enthusiasm with the people of Nicosia, singing, playing different games and performing music, on a beautiful sunny day, which was embracing the capital of Cyprus.

On that sunny Saturday the old part of the town of Nicosia was indeed marked with a Scouting label. For DESMOS Committee members it was a real pleasure and a privilege to be there, amongst those young people and to share with them the wonderful moments.

Songs, dances and scout parades through the streets of the old part of Nicosia were an excellent introduction to the final event, which gathered all categories of Nicosia scouts who, in accordance with the tradition that their NSO carries on each year, renewed their Scout Promise



On that very special occasion, DESMOS President was offered the opportunity to address the scouts and scout leaders, to extend them warm greetings of The International Link of Orthodox Christian Scouts DESMOS and to wish them lots of pleasure, joy and new friendships in their scout life.



DESMOS President addressed the audience and used the opportunity to offer the appropriate memo-plaque to the Scout Commissioner of Nicosia, **Mr. Panayiotis Kinigos** and to **His Grace, the Bishop of Mesaorias, Gregorios**, who also addressed the scouts and scout leaders and expressed his admiration and support to DESMOS.

After the ceremony of renewal of the Scout Promise, His Grace The Bishop of Mesaorias, Gregorios, invited DESMOS Committee members for a coffee and conversation, at nearby restaurant on the square where the ceremony took part.

That was the opportunity to inform His Grace about DESMOS activities and to have an exchange on the issue of spirituality and religiosity in Scouting.

During the stay in Cyprus, DESMOS Committee members had a meeting and friendly exchange with Chief Commissioner of the Cyprus Scouts Association, **Mr Andreas Lambrou**, in the premises of the Club of Nicosia Scout and Guide Fellowship. Chief Commissioner informed DESMOS delegation about the activities they have regarding the celebration of the Centenary of Scouting in Cyprus, and on behalf of all members of The Link, DESMOS President extended congratulations for the great NSO's anniversary.



DESMOS Committee members were offered a nice lunch, hosted by President of Cyprus SGF **Mr. Photis Mamides** and President of Nicosia SGF **Mr. Yiannakis Xenides**. The encounter was held in a very open and friendly atmosphere.

DESMOS delegation also visited the Club of Larnaca Scout and Guide Fellowship, had a very nice diner offered by President of Larnaca SGF **Mr. George Antoniou** and members of Larnaca SGF, and spent a very pleasant evening.

During the visit to Nicosia, DESMOS delegation was received in the City Hall by His Excellency the Mayor of Nicosia, **Mr. Costantinos Yiorkadjis**.



The Mayor of Nicosia presented to DESMOS Committee members the short history of the capital of the Republic of Cyprus and pointed out some major points in development plans for this city.

Mr. Yiorkadjis pointed out the fact that a large number of young people lives in Nicosia and amongst them lots of scouts.

The Mayor joined large number of citizens who were following events and activities on the streets and squares of old part of Nicosia and shared with them the joy expressed by boys and girls, scouts and leaders of the Cyprus Scouts Association.



DESMOS Committee members will certainly keep wonderful memories of their stay in Cyprus and of all events and activities in which they had the opportunity to take part, of all meetings with the Church and NSO officials, and especially of the encounters with young people, scouts of all age sections and their leaders.

Finally, warm impressions remain even warmer because of the beautiful weather in this sunny and hospitable Mediterranean country.