



DESMOS

INTERNATIONAL LINK
OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN SCOUTS

LE LIEN INTERNATIONAL
DES SCOUTS ORTHODOXES

DESMOS COMMITTEE MEETING MADABA, JORDAN February 21-24, 2008

M I N U T E S

The DESMOS Committee Meeting was held in the premises of the Orthodox School, in Madaba, Jordan. With the blessing of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem, the host of the Meeting was Archimandrite Innokentios of the St. George's Church in Madaba, Jordan.

Present:

Christos Papageorgiou, Desmos President,
George Bahow, Desmos Vice-President
Christos Marneros, Desmos Treasurer
Georges Abboud, Desmos Committee member
Zoran M. Petrovic, Desmos Committee member
Marko Petrovic, Desmos Secretary General
Naaman Shahada, Desmos Deputy Secretary General
Maher Sahlieh, Desmos PR and Int. Relations Commissioner
Momcilo Petkovic, President of the NSO of Serbia
Zipora Iskandar, Desmos member-country representative
Vassilis Birtsas, Desmos member-country representative
Mahfouz Qahoush, Desmos member-country representative
Salim Zeidan, Desmos member-country representative
Elias Juha, Desmos member-country representative

Nasif Ziadeh, President of the Orthodox Scouts of Amman
Nabila Haddadin, Leader, Orthodox Scouts of Amman
Saeed Daoud, Leader, Orthodox Scouts of Amman
Rakan Fakes, Leader, Orthodox Scouts of Amman
Rami Salameh, Leader, Orthodox Scouts of Amman

Greece
Israel
Cyprus
Lebanon
Serbia
Serbia
Israel
Palestine
Serbia
Israel
Greece
Palestine
Palestine
Palestine

Jordan
Jordan
Jordan
Jordan
Jordan

Apologies:

Tanja Golubovic, Desmos Committee member
Lazar Apostolov, Desmos Committee member

Republic Srpska (B&H)
Macedonia (FYRO)



The Meeting Agenda:

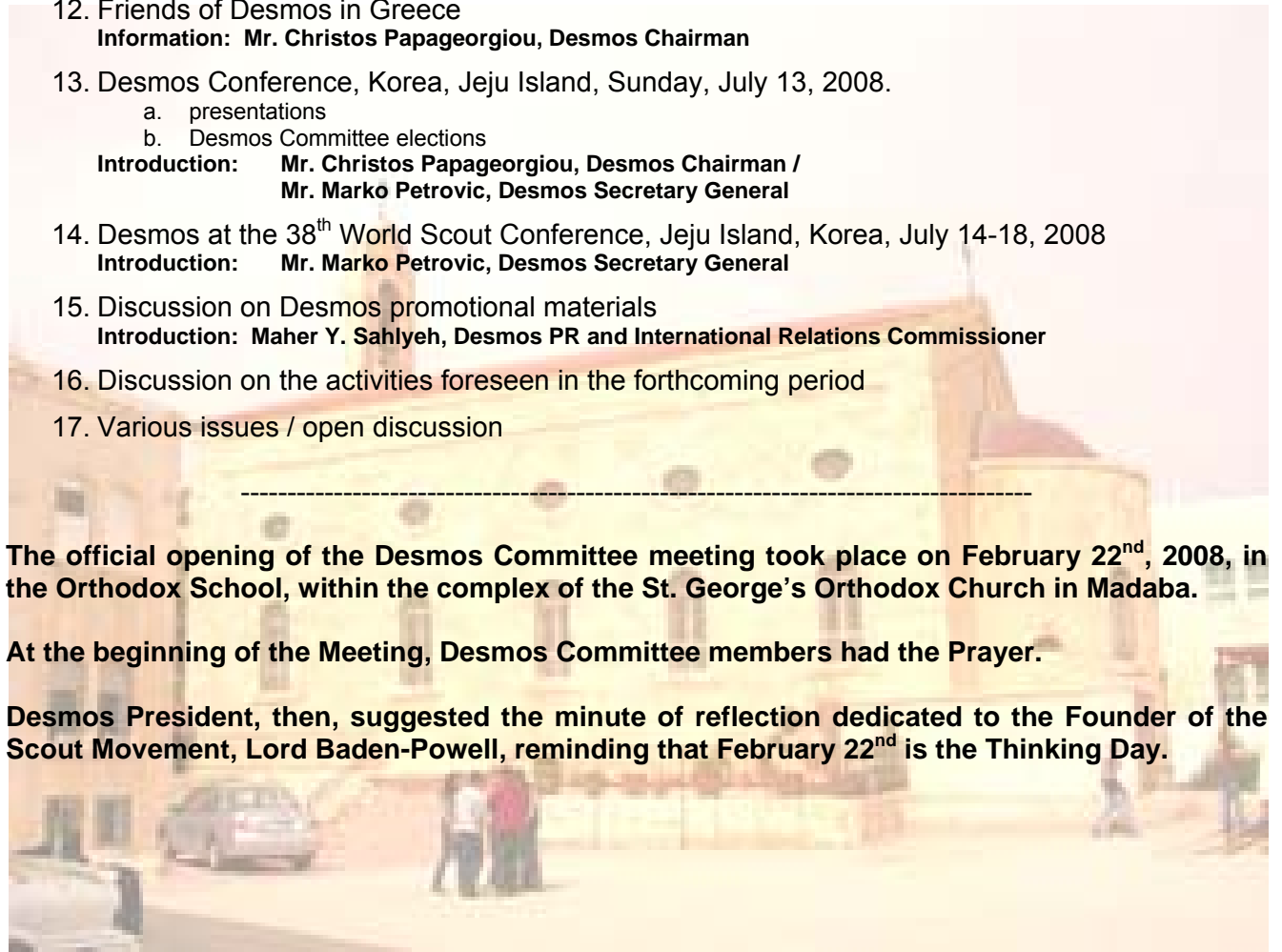
Since the Desmos Committee members had no proposal for additional items, it was decided to proceed according to the initially proposed Agenda, as follows:

1. Address of the Desmos Chairman, **Mr. Christos Papageorgiou**
2. Address of the Desmos Vice-Chairman, **Mr. George Bahow**
3. Report of the Desmos Treasurer, **Mr. Christos Marneros**
4. Report of the Secretary General, **Mr. Marko Petrovic**
5. Report - Desmos on The 19th European Scout Conference, May 2007, Slovenia
Mr. Christos Papageorgiou, Desmos Chairman / Vassilis Birtsas
6. Report - Desmos at the 21st World Scout Jamboree, UK, July/August 2007
 - a. Activities report
 - b. Financial report**Mr. Christos Papageorgiou, Desmos Chairman**
7. Report on the World Inter-religious Forum - Geneva, November 2007.
Mr. Christos Papageorgiou, Desmos Chairman
8. Report on the World Scientific Congress - Geneva, November 2007.
Mr. Christos Papageorgiou, Desmos Chairman
9. Reports on Desmos activities on a national level in particular countries
Desmos Committee members
10. Invitation to Ecumenical Seminar Encounter, Canterbury (England). 07–09 March 2008
Information: Mr. Christos Papageorgiou, Desmos Chairman
11. Meeting with the Ecumenical Patriarch, March 29, 2008
Information: Mr. Christos Papageorgiou, Desmos Chairman
12. Friends of Desmos in Greece
Information: Mr. Christos Papageorgiou, Desmos Chairman
13. Desmos Conference, Korea, Jeju Island, Sunday, July 13, 2008.
 - a. presentations
 - b. Desmos Committee elections**Introduction: Mr. Christos Papageorgiou, Desmos Chairman /
Mr. Marko Petrovic, Desmos Secretary General**
14. Desmos at the 38th World Scout Conference, Jeju Island, Korea, July 14-18, 2008
Introduction: Mr. Marko Petrovic, Desmos Secretary General
15. Discussion on Desmos promotional materials
Introduction: Maher Y. Sahlyeh, Desmos PR and International Relations Commissioner
16. Discussion on the activities foreseen in the forthcoming period
17. Various issues / open discussion

The official opening of the Desmos Committee meeting took place on February 22nd, 2008, in the Orthodox School, within the complex of the St. George's Orthodox Church in Madaba.

At the beginning of the Meeting, Desmos Committee members had the Prayer.

Desmos President, then, suggested the minute of reflection dedicated to the Founder of the Scout Movement, Lord Baden-Powell, reminding that February 22nd is the Thinking Day.





Archimandrite Innokentios welcomed the Meeting participants wishing all the success in Desmos efforts and endeavors and emphasizing that, from now on, Desmos may consider Madaba as its new home.

Father Innokentios said the fact that Desmos is acting under umbrella of Ecumenical Patriarchate is very important. He pointed out the significance of the town of Madaba for Jordan history, culture and tradition and made comparison saying it's in a way Jerusalem for the area on the eastern bank of the Jordan river.



Archimandrite Innokentios pointed out the importance of St. George's Church and its worldwide famous mosaics. He presented to the Meeting participants a brief history of the Church of Jerusalem and its particularity as a church that welcomes the pilgrims from all over the world.

Ad. 1 - Address by the DESMOS President, Mr. Christos Papageorgiou

Mr. **Christos Papageorgiou** expressed his thanks to the Patriarch of Jerusalem, Theophilus III, the Archimandrite Innokentios and the Orthodox Scouts of Amman for making this meeting possible and supporting Desmos.

Desmos President welcomed the Committee members and guests, emphasizing the importance of the fact that this meeting is being held in the Holy environment of the St. George's Church in Madaba.

Desmos President said we should keep in mind that we're all involved in Scouting for the sake of children and emphasized that there's no future without the youth.

Therefore - Desmos President said - we must give the vision to our young leaders. We have to bear it in mind while working of the Programme and while preparing the scout activities. We have to look forward, towards the next step. Let's act in accordance with the official scout slogan "Creating The Better World". We are open for everybody. We have to make efforts in uniting the youth.

Desmos President reminded that Desmos started with seven countries in The Link, now reaching the number of 22. He said that we would be glad to welcome, after this Committee meeting in Madaba, the 23rd member – Jordan.

Christos Papageorgiou said Desmos has the high reputation in the world of Scouting. Desmos is present at all international events and that's one of the reason that we have the newcomers, interested to join The Link.

Desmos President said our new focus should be on Africa, where we have numerous potential members like Ethiopia, Cameroon, South Africa, Egypt,... He mentioned the problems related to the Copts' eventual membership in Desmos, which should be discussed with The Ecumenical Patriarch during the next Desmos visit to his All Holiness. He said there are two groups of Orthodox scouts in Johannesburg and Durban in South Africa.

The region where Desmos have good contacts is the region of Hong-Kong, so next focus of Desmos should be on sthe far East.

Desmos President also said that we need to work in future in order to change the situation related to Orthodx scouts of USA, considering the fact that this country, although officially a Desmos member,



have been completely inactive so far. He gave the example of the World Scout Jamboree in UK, where numerous Orthodox scouts from The States visited the Desmos tent in Faith and Beliefs Zone, where Desmos run the Workshop, but they didn't even know that Desmos exists. Their problem is lack of contacts and communication among them within USA. Therefore, Desmos should do something about it, since our Link may act as the facilitator in connecting those young people that belong to the same, Orthodox faith.

Whatever we do in Scouting – Desmos President said – we do for children. Scouting is a philosophy and part of it is the spirituality. But, we need to implement in practice the Duty to God. The children come to us from their families, but we, in Scouting, do not offer them enough. We must train our leaders and teach them how to promote the spirituality and implement the Duty to God. Therefore, we need seminars for each region/sub-region (Russia, Balkans, Middle East, ...)

Desmos President pointed out the importance of training. He said the training opens our minds, urges our efforts and gives us indispensable knowledge. Christos Papageorgiou emphasized that we should have trainings at least once in two or three years, and we should organize it to cover certain areas like the Balkans, the Middle East, the ex Soviet Union territory ...

Desmos President said we need to think of the seven miracles we can offer to our children: SMILE, TOLERANCE, COOPERATION, CREATIVITY, HOPE, VISION, LOVE.

Let us remember this and let us act in order to offer those miracles to our scouts.

Ad. 2 - Address by the DESMOS Vice-President, Mr. George Bahow

Dear Chairman,
Dear Committee members,
Dear friends,

Since the date of electing me as a Vice-Chairman of Desmos, I am trying to have maximum for good relations between the Link members in our region, raising an objective of cooperation among Desmos members in Palestine, in Israel and in Jordan.

The relation between the Palestinian Orthodox Scouts and the Greek Orthodox Scouts in Israel is in a good position, regarding contacts and some common visits and efforts to have common activities in the future.

On the 28th April last year, the distinguished leaders of the Arab Orthodox Link from Jerusalem have attended the Silver Jubilee Celebration of The Greek Orthodox Scouts at Rama Village, in the Northern Galilee.

I would like to welcome the new Board members of the Orthodox Scouts in Jordan, for their cooperation and entering the family of Desmos, after several previous attempts have been done. Now, our brothers and sisters in Jordan should be able to establish their Jordanian Orthodox Association, and we are ready to offer any help, should they need one. We wish them lots of progress and success.



We all very much respect the initial efforts done by Mr. Naaman and our sister Miss Nabila, as well as all they have done so far working hard on resolving the organizational issues and good preparation of this meeting.

This meeting is being held under the patronage of His Holiness Theofilus The Third, The Patriarch of Jerusalem, and it is hosted by the St. George Church of the city of Madaba. We do appreciate and respect Archimandrite Innokendios for his personal support and help devoted for our Meeting.

Desmos, despite the lack of the financial means and numerous difficulties, is still here and alive, but Desmos must move forward and must have planning of more activities for our scouts and not only meetings. We all

have to make efforts in order to develop an action plan and promote Desmos in the countries in which there are Orthodox scouts. I had mentioned that at several meetings before and still there's no response for that.

Many members of our Link are not attending the meetings. Why? I say that they have to send at least one representative to the meeting.

We must think seriously to find the financial resources otherwise. What can our Treasurer do? We are facing some important events and activities, without having resolved certain essential issues, like the Desmos Headquarters Office, in order to create better conditions for our Link.

After eleven years since the Desmos foundation, it is the time to confirm the strategic plan for the common activities like:

- a) exchanging delegations of leaders and youth generation;
- b) organizing camps;
- c) organizing seminars;
- d) organizing training courses;
- e) organizing symposiums, etc.

We also need to:

1. Approve and to amend the Statute of the Link;
2. Develop and promote the spirit of brotherhood and understanding among scouts of the Orthodox faith;
3. Introduce Scouting in all countries, which are settled with Orthodox communities;
4. Motivate co-operation among Desmos members;
5. Give the youth a better like, more productive and more fruitful;
6. Keep in mind that the young generations are the reason for which everything is done in Scouting and we must promote the fundamental principles of Scouting

Our Association in Israel has supported His Holiness The Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem until he has achieved the Israeli Government acknowledgement. The Patriarch has promised to support the Orthodox scouts' movement and another Orthodox institutes and societies. Our Association has dedicated a new Orthodox tribe in the city of Sakhnin, a big town in the Lower Galilee. Our Association is now planning a new programme regarding the Duty to God and the spiritual dimension.

I have participated at the meeting of the Head delegation of Israeli Scouts' Federation with the German Ring in Berlin, on the month of December 2007. The partnership was established 20 years ago.

I would like to thank our dignified Chairman Mr. Christos, who had always the real performance and making efforts to represent Desmos at most of the international scout conferences and meetings all over the world, faithfully and respectfully.

My deep thanks to my good friend, Desmos Secretary General Mr. Marko Petrovic, who devotes so much for the cause of Desmos.

Thank you all for your presence and I hope to see more members at the next meeting. Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you very much for your attention. Thank you very much.

Ad. 3 - Address by the DESMOS Treasurer, Mr. Christos Marneros

Desmos Treasurer **Christos Marneros** informed the Committee that the financial situation of Desmos is unfortunately the same as before, meaning that there has been no income in the period since the previous Committee meeting. The only exception was the contribution of the "Friends of Desmos in Greece", which continued to offer a tailor-made support for different Desmos activities, especially the realization of the Desmos Workshop at the World Scout Jamboree in UK.

Christos Marneros said that he carefully examined the Statute of the "Friends of Desmos in Greece" and that he finds it quite applicable in other



countries as well. Therefore he suggested that other Desmos countries consider similar initiatives in their environment and establish The Friends of Desmos.

Christos Marneros also said that The Link needs the money in order to function normally and he invited the Committee members to act in order to assure the implementation of the Desmos Statute, which could resolve, at least to a certain extent, the financial situation of The Link.

Ad. 4 - Address by the DESMOS Secretary General, Mr. Marko Petrovic

Desmos Secretary General, **Marko Petrovic**, welcomed the guests and the Committee members. He said he would like, first of all, to express on behalf of all the gratitude to **George Bahow** and **Naaman Shahada** who took the initiative in organizing this meeting, as well as to the hosts – the Orthodox Scouts of Amman, **Mrs. Nabila Haddadin**, **Mr. Nasif Ziadeh**, **Mr. Saeed Daoud**, **Mr. Rakan Fakes** and **Mr. Rami Salameh**, who made significant efforts in order to make this meeting possible.



Desmos Secretary General expressed his thank you to the Desmos Committee members who made significant efforts and invested their own funds in this trip to Jordan, in order to come to the historic town of Madaba, being aware of their responsibility for further development of our Link.

Marko Petrovic informed the Desmos Committee members that the World Scout Committee member in charge for the liaison of WOSM with Desmos, **Mr. Georges El-Ghorayeb**, whom he met a few days ago in Jambville near Paris during the Meeting that the WSC members and NSO representatives had on the issue of WOSM Governance, asked him to bring his regrets for not being able to come and join the others in Madaba and to deliver his warm greetings and best wishes for a successful Desmos Committee meeting.

Desmos Secretary General welcomed with pleasure the President of the Scout Organization of Serbia, **Mr. Momcilo Petkovic**, who expressed strong interest to attend the Desmos Committee meeting and the Assistant International Commissioner of the Scouts of Greece, **Mr. Vassilis Birtsas**, who was supporting Desmos activities and its development throughout the last twelve months since the previous Desmos Committee Meeting in 2007, in Cyprus.

Finally, Desmos Secretary General expressed the expectations that we shall have the privilege to welcome the Orthodox scouts of Jordan in the Desmos family within the framework of future membership of the Jordanian Association for Boy Scouts and Girl Guides in our Link.

The main focus of the International Link of Orthodox Christian Scouts DESMOS in the Centenary year was the participation at the 21st World Scout Jamboree, which was held in England, July 27-August 8, 2007. Desmos Secretary General said the facts and the details regarding this event will be presented later on by the President Christos Papageorgiou, within the particular topic of the Agenda. Desmos Secretary General only stressed upon the general perception of the "Faith and Beliefs Zone" as the Jamboree programme segment, and upon the Desmos role in the great success of that programme segment. He said that Desmos was really very successful at the 21st World Scout Jamboree and that it's not just the opinion of Desmos people, but the opinion of all those who did the appraisals of the Jamboree results on different levels. Marko said that, in his capacity of the International Commissioner of the Scout Organization of Serbia, he had the opportunity to meet the colleagues from numerous countries and they all had only words of praise for Desmos engagement at the Jamboree. The kind invitation of the Scouting Ireland, which invited Desmos to take part at their National Jamboree in the summer of 2008, and to organize similar workshop within the Faith and Beliefs Zone, confirms the good image Desmos created during the 21st World Scout Jamboree. Marko said this issue will be raised later during our Meeting and the Committee should take the appropriate decision.

In the year, which is behind us – Desmos Secretary General said - Desmos took part on a number of other events, on European and World level, such as:

- The 19th European Scout Conference in Portoroz, Slovenia, May 2007
- The 2nd Orthodox Youth Conference in Istanbul, Turkey, July 2007 ([Appendix 2](#))

- The World Inter-religious Forum in Geneva, Switzerland, November 2007
- The World Scientific Congress in Geneva, Switzerland, November 2007
- The European event on Youth Programme development (including Spiritual dimension), in Kandersteg, Switzerland, December 2007 (Appendix 3)

The main focus of the International Link of Orthodox Christian Scouts DESMOS in this year – Marko Petrovic said - should be on the next **Desmos Conference** planned to be held on the eve of the 38th World Scout Conference in Korea, on Sunday, July 13th, 2008, as well as on Desmos Participation at **the 38th World Scout Conference**, that will take part on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, from Monday 14th to Friday 18th July 2008,

Participation at both events should be the priority for Desmos. But it is at the same time the big challenge, because of the financial issue, since the trip expenses are quite high and not many delegates from Desmos countries would be able to cope with it.

Desmos Secretary General emphasized the high reputation Desmos gained in previous period in the world of Scouting, working strongly in favor of the inter-religious dialogue with other faith organizations in Scouting and stressed upon the importance of continuing in that direction. Such approach confirms Desmos' devotion to the values of the Orthodox Faith and to the values of Scouting.

Therefore, the Desmos participation at the Ecumenical Seminar Encounter announced for March 7-9, 2008, in Canterbury, England, initiated by International Catholic Conference of Scouting (ICCS), is very important.

One of the very important achievements in previous period was the work on development and updating of the Desmos web site, which became operational shortly after the Committee meeting in Serbia, end of January 2006.

The web site, WWW.DESMOS.INFO, which domain is paid until 2010, is the Desmos' window for all the public, both scouts and non-scouts, interested to glance in and find out more about our Link.

Until recently, the web site was hosted by one of the Desmos friends from Serbia living in Belgium. Since the beginning of February this year, the hosting is transferred to Bulgaria, since our young friend, the Bulgarian scout, Ivan Kolovos, offered to arrange it. I suggest that the Desmos Committee expresses gratitude to both Zoran Djordjevic, who hosted the web site for the last two years, and Ivan Kolovos for hosting the Desmos web site now.



Desmos Secretary General said he needs to underline once again the importance of full involvement and contributions of all Desmos Committee members in order to make it better and offer more information. He said we need to tell openly that most of the Desmos Committee members were not enough cooperative in the period behind us, as far as the web site is concerned, and didn't react to his numerous appeals to assist by sending related materials. The web site segment, which is still empty is "ACTIVITIES", and it is actually a very important segment of our web site. Therefore, Desmos Secretary General invited once again the Committee members to be more active, make an effort, and contribute to the improvement of the Desmos web site.

Desmos Secretary General, at the end of his Report, informed the Committee members about his participation in the European Scout Region's Youth Programme working group, which had the meeting in Kandersteg International Scout Centre in Switzerland, the end of November 2007. The Working Group was working on the issue of Spiritual Development as part of the Youth Programme to be implemented in Scouting.

Marko Petrovic, prepared the PowerPoint presentation for participants of the Desmos Committee meeting ([Appendix 3](#))

Secretary General concluded by expressing his great expectations of this Desmos Committee meeting.

Ad. 5 - Report - Desmos on The 19th European Scout Conference, May 2007, Slovenia Mr. Christos Papageorgiou, Desmos President / Vassilis Birtsas

Desmos President, **Christos Papageorgiou**, gave more details on the 19th European Scout Conference, held in May 2007, in Portoroz, Slovenia, where Desmos was represented by himself and the Assistant International Commissioner of the Scouts of Greece, Vassilis Birtsas.

The 19th European Scout Conference was held at the same time as the 11th Europe Conference, WAGGGS from 05 to 11 of May in Portoroz, Slovenia.

Over 200 delegates from almost all European member countries of WOSM participated in the conference. The conference was pleased to welcome visitors from United States, Korea, Japan and Singapore and representatives of ICCS, Desmos, ISGF and members of the World Scout Committee including the Secretary General.

Following the Chairman's Report and the evaluation of the triennium, the conference received an update since the World Scout Conference from World level from Vice-Chairman of the World Scout Committee, Therese Bermingham and Eduardo Missoni, the Secretary General. This was followed by information on the Centenary and an update on the World Scout Jamboree.

The region was pleased to host the presentation of the Bronze Wolf to David Bull, International Commissioner of The Scout Association and a previous chairman of the European Scout Committee. The Treasurer's Report was received and an update from the European Scout Foundation.

Conference received a report on the Centenary Fund and approved the principle of establishing the Partnerships for Development and Growth Fund.

The presentation of the Report of the Long Term Growth Project was followed by high energy participation to emphasise the key messages and encourage participation in the soon to be launched Growth Network.

The presentation of the proposed Regional Plan raised a lot of debate and rescheduling the workshops to allow more plenary debate. The results of the workshops allowed the reduction of the Regional Plan by some 50%. The Plan was subsequently further reduced and retitled "Aiming for excellence to develop growth capacity."

The subject of External Relations was the topic of the keynote speech by George Metz of Luxemborg. Does Scouting made a difference? This was responded to by various members of the External Relations team and by the Secretary General.

Elections to the European Scout Committee resulted in a new committee comprising:

Craig Turpie – United Kingdom – Chairman
Marios Christou – Cyprus – Vice-Chairman
Paolo Fiora – Italy - Member
Joao Armando Gonçalves – Portugal – Member
Zorica Skakun – Serbia and Montenegro – Member
Henrik Soderman – Finland – Member

Participants had an opportunity to share information on The Governance Review, The Brand, Measurement and Quality. This was followed by a presentation on the World Scout Jamboree 2011 in Sweden.

Ad. 6 - Report - Desmos at the 21st World Scout Jamboree, UK, July/August 2007, Mr.Christos Papageorgiou, Desmos President

Christos Papageorgiou presented the detailed Report on Desmos participation at the 21st World Scout Jamboree, held in July/August 2007, in the United Kingdom, followed by the slide show with a number of photos documenting Desmos' success (photos available at www.desmos.info - Photo Gallery).

During the 21st World Scout Jamboree, DESMOS had an important role and significant participation in the Jamboree programme, in Faith & Beliefs Zone, with the Workshop organized with the idea to enable young people find out more about Orthodoxy and about the International Link of Orthodox Christian Scouts.

The Faith & Beliefs Zone had centrally situated location on the Jamboree site, with specially reserved space for all main faiths and religions.

DESMOS prepared in its tent the exhibition - display of icons, and the workshop of Orthodox iconography. The outside of the tent was decorated with a representation of a Byzantine church in the façade and inside the tent there was the exhibition of "Dodekaorton", twelve main celebrations of the Church giving information on our faith in four languages.

The participants of the Workshop could choose to paint with acrylic colors St. George (the Patron of Scouting), Virgin Mary or the Holy Cross, on wooden plates containing the outline design. The workshop was open from 9:00 to 17:00 with a midday break. There were eight DESMOS members from Greece, Serbia, Lebanon and Palestine, that helped organizing and smooth running of the workshop. We could facilitate 70 persons at the same time (scouts, adult leaders, IST members, day visitors). The Workshop visitors were not only Christians but people of different religions from all over the world. They could spend some time in the Desmos tent, paint their icon, which they could take with them as the souvenir, and take information concerning Orthodoxy, as well as Desmos info leaflet. During rush hours, due to increased interest for participation in the Workshop, there were even people painting outside of the tent or waiting for a free table and chair. The total number of Scouts passed through the Workshop is estimated to over 3000.

DESMOS also organized two Holy Liturgies during the Jamboree. The first one took place in DESMOS tent, on Sunday 29th of July, with Fr. Kyrillos, Archimandrite in the nearby Monastery of St. John the Baptist, in Essex, and a chorus of Nuns. The second one was on the Sunrise Day (1st of August) with HE Gregory the Archbishop of Thyatira and Great Britain. More than 650 Scouts from 21 different countries attended the Holy Liturgy. At the end, the President of DESMOS read the message from HAH the Patriarch of Constantinople Bartholomeos addressed to the participants of the Jamboree. Archbishop was offered a commemorative present from DESMOS and a silkscreen reproduction of "Scout" painting of I. Tsarouhis (famous Greek painter) on behalf of Scouts of Greece.

Part of the celebrations on the Scouting Sunrise, on 1st of August in the main arena, included wishes and prayers from different faiths and beliefs. Ten Serbian Orthodox Scouts, representing DESMOS focused their wishes on peace and environment preservation.

DESMOS promoted not only Scouting but also Christian Orthodox Faith with the leaflets, pins, stickers, and calendars. The Workshop facilitators gave interviews to the Jamboree Radio and various mass media.

Among the distinguished personalities that visited DESMOS tent were: HM The King of Sweden & Honorable President of The World Scout Foundation, Carl XVI Gustaf, HE Gregory the Archbishop of Thyatira and Great Britain, the Bishop of Sinope Athenagoras (Belgium), Secretary General of WOSM Dr. Eduardo Missoni, World Scout Committee Members, European Scout Committee Members, Heads of Contingents of many countries.

Many thanks to DESMOS members and IST members who helped running of the Workshop, namely: Jamboree IST members: Tom Peachey (United Kingdom) and Vladislav Tesarik 'Brouk' (Czech Republic) and DESMOS members: Vida Qamar (Palestine), Fouad Abboud (Lebanon), Zoran Petrovic and Marko Petrovic (Serbia), Theodore Katrougalos, Vassilis Birtsas, Maria Papageorgiou and Christos Papageorgiou (Greece). Many thanks, as well, to the 'Friends of DESMOS' in Athens, Scouts of Greece (SHP) and above all to The Ecumenical Patriarchate for the constant support.

**Ad. 7 - Report on the World Inter-religious Forum - Geneva, November 2007.
Mr.Christos Papageorgiou, Desmos President**

Desmos President **Christos Papageorgiou** informed the Desmos Committee members and other participants of the Meeting about the results of the World Scout Inter-religious Forum, held in Geneva, November 2007, in which he participated.

Christos Papageorgiou explained how it started and said that six years ago there were only three faith organisations wishing to start the inter-religious dialogue: Desmos, ICCS and IUMS (Orthodox, Catholics and Moslems). It was the Desmos initiative to extend the dialogue and involve the representatives of other denominations in order to achieve better understanding.

Desmos President proposed that the 4th Inter-religious Forum be organized by Desmos, for instance in the Middle East area, if possible in Jordan, perhaps in the historic town of Madaba. He said we should think about it seriously and identify the available resources and capacity to offer the adequate logistics. Christos Papageorgiou emphasized that Desmos needs to be a candidate for organization of the next World Scout Inter-religious Forum.

Maher Sahlyeh said that it's a big challenge, which requires a very good preparation.

The leaders of the Amman Orthodox Scouts said they will carefully analyze the possibility to organize the Forum in Jordan. They emphasized the need to discuss it internally, within their association, as well as with the local authorities, in order to have clear picture and to be certain regarding the facilities and all other conditions needed for organization of such event.

The document offering all relevant details related to the World Scout Inter-religious Forum, held in Geneva, November 2007 is given in the Appendix 1.

**Ad. 8 - Report on the World Scientific Congress - Geneva, November 2007.
Mr.Christos Papageorgiou, Desmos President**

The World Scientific Congress took place in Geneva on 16 and 17 November 2007. Over 200 contributors and participants, from more than 45 different countries debated, exchanged ideas and worked to build an agenda for change in Scouting and non-formal education.

Designed to focus on the contribution of non-formal education in the development of young people, the Congress offered a crucial opportunity to extend this reflection to the international scientific community researching the fields of pedagogy and social sciences, history of education as well as management and leadership.

Opening the event at the United Nations, was Mr. Charles Beer, Geneva's State Councillor for the Department of Education, Dr. Bernd Ebersold, CEO of the Jacobs Foundation, and Dr. Eduardo Missoni, Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM).

In his opening address, Dr. Ebersold spoke of the long running partnership between the Jacobs Foundation and World Scouting, and compared their common values.

During the Congress, a total of thirteen workshops took place, focusing on personal development on the first day, and social development on the second. There was a high quality of inputs from academics, Scouts and external partners of World Scouting, after which participants were then given the opportunity to engage in critical debate and discussion.

Professor Federico Mayor, President of the Foundation for a Culture of Peace and Former Director General of UNESCO made a special closing speech, praising the participant's contributions during the Congress and in making it such a successful event.

**Ad. 9 - Reports on Desmos activities on a national level in particular countries
Desmos Committee members / Desmos countries representatives**

Desmos Committee members and Desmos countries representatives briefly presented activities in their countries.

On behalf of **Israel** - George Bahow and Naaman Shahada said the Programme of co-existence has been established in Israel and the regular meetings six times a year, hosted each time by one of the six associations, should assure its implementation. These meetings gathered so far 300 people and it was the initiative of the Orthodox Scouts of Israel. This association has an exchange with the German association VCP. At the World Scout Jamboree in UK there were 9 members from the Orthodox Scouts of Israel.



Christos Papageorgiou said it's good to have activities, but we also need to know about it. We must have an exchange of information, not only at the Committee meetings, but throughout the year.

In Cyprus – Christos Marneros said – the scouts established the programme of support and assistance to their Greek brothers and sisters affected by the fire last summer. H

In Greece – the main focus last year was to the activities related to the huge fire that affected this country in summer.

SHP has a well developed network of Greek scouts abroad, especially those living in Egypt, in Cairo.

In Serbia – the activities were organized with the focus on common life and understanding, based on the inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue between the Orthodox Christians and the Moslems living in Serbia, especially in the South-Western part of the country.

In Palestine – they organized the scout gathering in Bejjala and the training on spiritual dimension.

One of the interested issues in Palestine is the phenomenon of mixed marriages.

Maher Sahlyeh also pointed out that the Orthodox scouts in Palestine have the habit to celebrate together.

Georges Abboud from **Lebanon**, prepared the PowerPoint presentation on scout activities in Lebanon and presented it to the participants of the Meeting.

Ad. 10 - Invitation to Ecumenical Seminar Encounter, Canterbury, 07–09 March 2008 Mr. Christos Papageorgiou, Desmos President

Desmos received the Invitation from ICCS (International Conference of Catholic Scouting) to take part at the Ecumenical Seminar Encounter, to be held in Canterbury, England, 07–09 March 2008. (Appendix 4)

In accordance with its devotion to inter-religious dialogue, Desmos accepts the Invitation and Desmos President will be representing The Link at that meeting.

At the meeting, Desmos will make some proposals in regard to the needs related to Spirituality in Scouting.

Ad. 11 - Meeting with the Ecumenical Patriarch, March 29, 2008

His All Holiness The Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch, Bartholomew, has invited Desmos President to visit The Ecumenical Patriarchate in order to brief The Ecumenical Patriarch on all Desmos activities and achievements realized so far.



Desmos President will use the opportunity to raise the issues important for Desmos, in order to get the support of The Ecumenical Patriarch.

Desmos President will visit The Ecumenical Patriarchate together with the **President of “The Friends of Desmos in Greece”**, and the visit is scheduled for March 29, 2008.

Ad. 12 - Friends of Desmos in Greece Mr. Christos Papageorgiou, Desmos President

Desmos President, **Christos Papageorgiou** introduced to the Desmos Committee members and to other participants at the Meeting the concept of “The Friends of Scouting in Greece” (FoDG). This association of scouters and people of good will, ready to support Desmos, proved to be very supportive and actually enabled a number of Desmos activities so far. FoDG’s contribution in previous period after its recent founding, was significant, so it is certainly a good example to be followed in other Desmos countries.

Desmos Statute foresees the Fee to be paid by all Desmos countries and the amount of Fee is 10% of the NSO's national fee. This is the first step to be made in order to improve Desmos financial status. The founding of friends of Desmos in Desmos countries is certainly a good way towards much better situation regarding financial means, indispensable for different Desmos activities.

FoDG has planned 8.500,-EUR budget for the next year, so it's a respectable amount of money. So, the other Desmos countries should try to do something similar. Cyprus is now in the process of establishing similar association "The Friends of Desmos in Cyprus".

The text of the Statute of "The Friends of Desmos in Greece" in English, prepared by **Christos Marneros**, is given in the Appendix 5.

Ad. 13 - Desmos Conference, Korea, Jeju Island, Sunday, July 13, 2008.

Mr. Christos Papageorgiou, Desmos President

Marko Petrovic, Desmos Secretary General

Desmos President and **Desmos Secretary General** pointed out the importance of the next Desmos Conference and emphasized the following:

The fact the Desmos Conference will be organized, as usual, prior to the World Scout Conference basically means a favorable circumstance, but only in case the NSO's participating at the World Scout Conference include in their delegations the Orthodox members, which unfortunately happens quite seldom. Therefore, we need to contact all NSOs Desmos members, as well as those that are not yet the Desmos member but have the Orthodox scouts, and ask them kindly to consider the possibility of including in their delegations the orthodox scouts.

We do need to assure as broad participation of Desmos countries as possible, which is not an easy task, but we have to make efforts.

The Desmos Conference is very important for us, since among other issues the Conference should deal with, we also have the elections for the Committee. We have to encourage the countries Desmos members to nominate their candidates for the Desmos Committee, in order to assure better selection and democratic spirit of our Conference. The Desmos Committee should have the key role in preparations of both the Desmos Conference and Desmos participation at the 38th World Scout Conference, and we have to start preparatory activities immediately after this Meeting. I suggest that we appoint the trinomial Steering Committee, which would work intensively on preparation of the Desmos Conference, certainly in close cooperation with other Desmos Committee members.

During the meeting on WOSM Governance, which was mentioned earlier, Desmos Secretary General had the opportunity to meet the International Commissioner of the Korea Scout Association, Mr. Simon Hang Bock RHEE, who is at the same time the President of the Host Committee. He gave the contact details and promised assistance in providing the space needed for the Desmos Conference. The related information will be sent to the Desmos Committee members as soon as it becomes available.

Ad. 14 - Desmos at the 38th World Scout Conference, Jeju Island, Korea, July 14-18, 2008

Mr. Marko Petrovic, Desmos Secretary General

Desmos Secretary General emphasized the importance of Desmos participation at the 38th World Scout Conference, which is to be held on Jeju Island, Korea, July 14-18, 2008.

He reminded to Desmos' successful appearance at previous world scout conferences and pointed out that it contributes a lot to the Desmos reputation in the world of Scouting. It is the opportunity to present to a huge number of delegates from all countries WOSM members the Desmos mission and



vision, Desmos philosophy, its aims and objectives.

In accordance with requirements of the organizers, Desmos should prepare for the World Scout Conference an appropriate presentation of The International Link of Orthodox Christian Scouts.

Desmos Secretary General arranged for the participants of the Meeting the PowerPoint presentation on the World Scout Conference programme, and offered a number of useful information on the event.

Related materials (Registration Kit) for the 10th World Scout Youth Forum and the 38th World Scout Conference in Korea are available at the official WOSM web site: www.scout.org

Ad. 15 - Discussion on Desmos promotional materials

Mr. Maher Y. Sahlyeh, Desmos PR and International Relations Commissioner

Desmos PR-Communications and International Relations' Commissioner, **Maher Sahlyeh**, and Desmos Committee member **Zoran Petrovic**, informed about the results achieved in previous period (Desmos small-size calendar for the Centenary year 2007, Desmos flag made for the World Scout Jamboree), and Desmos President **Christos Papageorgiou** informed about other promotional materials made for and used at the World Scout Jamboree in UK.



It was agreed that the new Desmos small-size calendar for the year 2009 be designed and printed, to be ready for distribution before the Desmos Conference and the World Scout Conference in Korea.

On behalf of The Lebanese Orthodox Scouts, Georges Abboud promised the contribution of 200,-USD for the printing of the Calendars.

It was also agreed that all the Committee members send appropriate materials/information to Maher in order to enable him prepare the Desmos NewsLetter circular. This was already agreed at the previous Desmos Committee meeting in Cyprus, but the point is that Maher needs the inputs from Desmos countries. **Christos Papageorgiou** suggested that we have a NewsLetter on a quarterly bases, every three months. The issue No.1 should be prepared for the Desmos Conference in Korea in July 2008.

Christos Papageorgiou informed the participants of the Meeting that two Desmos publications will be ready until the end of this year: "**Scouting and Orthodoxy**" and "**Scout Promise and Orthodoxy**", and it will be sponsored by "The Friends of Desmos in Greece".

Desmos Vice-president, **George Bahow**, raised the issue of the Desmos badge. He said we should decide on the appropriate size and quality material of the badge. He suggested the badge size and quality used by Christos Marneros.

The badges should be produced and ready for the Desmos Conference in Korea.

After the fruitful discussion on promotional material, **Maher Sahlyeh** summarized the conclusions regarding this item of the Agenda.

Ad. 16 - Discussion on the activities foreseen in the forthcoming period

The activities that the participants of the Meeting identified as indispensable in the forthcoming period are the **training seminars**. There will be also some events, which the scouts from Desmos countries may attend, such as:

- International Jamboree in Macedonia (FYRO) "Reach The Stars" in July 2008. www.smotra.org.mk
- Scout event in Greece, in 2010, celebrating SHP (Scouts of Greece) Centenary
- International Jamboree in Serbia, in 2011, celebrating the Centenary of Serbian scouting.

Ad. 17 - Various issues / open discussion

- ❖ Assistant Desmos Secretary General, **Naaman Shahada**, presented the Orthodox Scout Association of Israel, through the PowerPoint presentation, giving numerous details regarding the organization, membership and activities of this Association.
George Bahow informed the Meeting participants that this Association plans to have the 40 years anniversary celebration with special programme, after Easter.
- ❖ The **leaders of the Orthodox Scouts of Amman** suggested establishing of the Discussion Page on the Desmos web site, i.e. the Desmos Forum, as well as the introduction of the system for numbering of visitors of the Desmos web site.

DESMOS COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE GRATEFUL TO THE GREEK ORTHODOX
PATRIARCHATE OF JERUSALEM, TO HIS BEAUTITUDE THE PATRIARCH OF
JERUSALEM THEOPHILOS III, TO ARCHIMANDRITE INNOKENTIOS AND
TO THE ORTHODOX SCOUTS OF AMMAN
FOR EXCELLENT ORGANIZATION OF THE DESMOS COMMITTEE MEETING,
FOR WARM HOSPITALITY AND WONDERFUL TIME IN JORDAN!

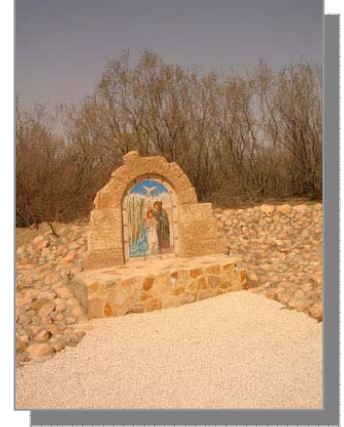
SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Besides a very good organization of the Meeting itself, the Orthodox Scouts of Amman have set up the pleasant programme of social activities.

The participants of the Meeting were highly impressed with the visit to the **Baptism Site** on the Jordan river. This trip took a good part of the day, but it was worth it, since the experience gained is extraordinary and unforgettable.

The visit to the **Orthodox Club of Amman** with a nice lunch was also organized. The participants of the Meeting had the opportunity to see how well organized is the Orthodox community in Amman and to enjoy the local food and drinks.

Those who wanted to see more of Amman had the opportunity to visit some other spots in the Jordan capital city, like the old town of Amman or the Royal Automobile Museum, or simply to walk the streets and feel the atmosphere.



The evening before the closing of the Meeting, the hosts organized a wonderful dinner in Madaba, in a nearby restaurant, with typical food and drinks and authentic live music, which the participants of the Meeting enjoyed very much.

The social activities programme was very good and offered everyone the opportunity for informal exchange and friendly discussions.

**MEETING OF THE WORLD SCOUT INTER-RELIGIOUS FORUM (WSIF)
THURSDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER 2007, GENEVA**

KEY NOTES

Informal Meeting of the WSIF and Spiritual Development Task Team (SDTT) to discuss working together:

1. The meeting began with meditation lead by Bernd Muller-Teichert (CPGS) followed by welcome and introductions by Rev. Fr. Jonathan How(SDTT) who was chairing the morning session.
2. Rev. Fr. Jean-Pascal Diame (Chairman, SDTT) provided inputs on objectives and work of Spiritual Development Task Team. Bernd Muller-Teichert made a presentation on WSIF and its work.
3. Rev. Fr. Jonathan How presented a report of activities at Faiths and Belief Zone (FAB) and Inter-religious ceremony from the 21st WSJ, UK.
Following observations were made by others:
 - The FAB was very successful in UK Jamboree compared to earlier ones, similar planning and execution is recommended for the Sweden Jamboree (2011).
 - Some felt that there was overspending of money in a few FAB tents and it was suggested that necessary changes be made in the guidelines to ensure that there is a limit on expenses and the purpose of FAB is not lost.
4. From discussions on how SDTT and WSIF can contribute to each other's work, the following points came up:
 - SDTT will produce Guidelines on Spiritual Development and it will be shared with WSIF and they can provide inputs and feedback.
 - WSIF members invited SDTT to contribute to the next Symposium.
 - To work together at the World Scout Conference on Spiritual Development, to support Scouts Own on 13th July-Sunday, 50 minutes workshop/seminar on 16th July-Wednesday, exhibitions, etc. Anne Whiteford will confirm on exact details.

Meeting of the World Scout Inter-religious Forum:

1. Bernd Muller-Teichert chaired the meeting and invited Fr. Jonathan How, representing Spiritual Development Task Team (SDTT) to conduct a meditation before starting the meeting.
2. **Update from members:**
 - **Won Buddhist Scouts** mentioned about their plans to support Korean Scout Association (KSA) in organising the 10th World Scout Youth Forum in Korea (2008). It was also mentioned that Won Buddhist Scouts are in discussion with KSA to bid for the 4th World Scout Inter-religious Symposium in 2012 to be hosted in Korea.
 - **International Union of Muslim Scouts (IUMS)** said that during their recent meeting, they decided on Cairo, Egypt to be the venue for 3rd World Scout Inter-religious Symposium in 2009. The other choice was to organise in Doha, Qatar but was considered unfeasible.
 - **International Catholic Conference of Scouting (ICCS)** reviewed their participation in the FAB at 21st WSJamboree, UK at their recent meeting in Washington DC (USA). Having seen the advantage of appointing a coordinator in advance, they wish to repeat the same to ensure success at the Sweden Jamboree (2011). It is planned to publish a book of drawing, poetry, photographs, etc. before the World Scout Conference in Korea. ICCS will organise an event in Canterbury, England (UK) from 7th to 9th March 2008 about the importance of ecumenical dialogue apart from Inter-religious dialogue, in Scouting. Invitations for this event will be sent soon. The World Council and World Seminar of ICCS will take place just before the WSConference in Korea.
 - **International Link of Orthodox Christian Scouts (DESMOS)** had a committee meeting this January (2007) with World Scout Committee member Georges El Ghorayab also participating. They have established an union, 'Friends of Desmos' in Greece to help find resources, money, etc. for supporting their activities. It was suggested that other members of WSIF could start similar support groups to help raise resources for their work. It was noted that different faiths worked together in conducting workshops at FAB in the 21st WSJ which worked well and it was expressed that this practice should continue in future WSJs. DESMOS will participate in the event at Canterbury to be organised by ICCS (March '08). The Orthodox Bishop of Belgium will be working on 3 books in March which will be ready before the Korea Conference. DESMOS will have elections for their new committee before the WSConference. WSBureau was asked about costs for hiring halls at the Conference venue in Korea.

- **World Buddhist Scout Brotherhood (WBSB)** are waiting for consultative status being granted and asked WSBureau for more information and updates, Vietnamese Scout leaders are showing interest for training courses and WBSB was willing to support in conducting these courses once Vietnam has a WOSM recognised Scout Association. WBSB has procured funds from World Health Organisation (WHO) to promote health and awareness of non-communicable diseases. 21st WSJ was a good opportunity to make contact with countries (National Scout Organizations, NSOs) who have Buddhist Scout members. In UK, there is a plan to start Buddhist Scout groups at places with strong Buddhist neighbourhood.
- **International Forum of Jewish Scouts (IFJS)** is working on establishing the history of Jewish Scout Groups. It has been identified that there are at least 10 Jewish Scout groups which has only come to light after the formation of IFJS. In 2006 it was discussed with the Jewish Committee of Prague to establish more Jewish Scout groups there, especially since there is a lack of youth bodies. IFJS is also working with NSOs to establish new Jewish Scout troupes.
- **Council of Protestants in Guiding and Scouting (CPGS)** have changed their name from the earlier 'Conference on Christianity in Guiding and Scouting (CCGS)'. With the support of 25 people who helped at the 21st WSJ, their activities at FAB were very successful. CPGS seminar was organised in Jutland, Denmark this year and the next one will be held in Prague (Czech Republic). It has been discussed to reduce the number of services in WSJs from 5 (in UK) to just one service in Sweden, hopefully in the presence of the King of Sweden.

3. Review of last Symposium and its evaluations

- It was suggested to have clear guidelines for conducting a Symposium especially about the roles of each speaker in the Symposium.
- The next Symposium could discuss supporting NSOs with practical guidelines which could help them to develop relevant tools and program materials/activities on Spiritual Development.
- It was stressed that the Symposium should facilitate and have activities, on religiousness & spirituality, using the Scout Method.
- There should be more youth participation in the Symposium and hence activities {a camp or a project) using the Scout Method could be specially organised to build interest of young participants.
- It was noted that Dr. Abdullah of IUMS has created a study on a model for bringing Rover Scouts together for inter-cultural experience, which could be used.
- After a discussion on whether Scouting should foster 'Inter-religious dialogues' as against just 'Inter-religious meetings', it was said that Scouting creates people who are capable of peaceful Inter-religious dialogue. Work done at the 21st WSJ was a good example of that and it was according to Scout Method. It was an opportunity for Scouts to meet and learn about other religions and the environment fostered moments of reflection and meditation both at the beginning and the end of day. The Symposium could hence be an opportunity where Scouts (including young participants) can meet and speak about the significance of principles and practices of various religions. The objective could be to identify those elements of Scout Method that will help Scouts by fostering such an environment that encourages them to explore their own, as well as other religions.
- The normal way in which Scouting promotes inter-religious dialogue is through regular Scouting where Scouts from different backgrounds come together, live together and do a lot of activities together and this is in line with Martin Buber's definition of 'dialogue'.
- NSOs like UK promotes adults participating in activities exactly as Scouts do, going on a hike, cooking, pioneering etc. to be able to understand Scout Method better. Something on similar lines could be planned for the Symposium.

4. Recommendations - progress to date: Key points from 'Recommendations of the 2nd World Scout Interreligious Symposium (Taiwan, 2006)' were already incorporated in the Agenda for this meeting. Ideas such as participation of younger members, stronger emphasis on educational aspects (esp. spiritual development) of Scouting in the program for the Symposium, careful choice of input speakers were also discussed in detail and summarised in point 3 above, 'Review of last Symposium and its evaluations'. Further, it was felt that recommendations referring to organisational and logistical aspects of the Symposium should be considered again in the Forum's next meeting (2008) to help the hosts in better planning & organising of the event. However, there was also a suggestion from a World Scout Committee member present in the meeting that the recommendations from the Taiwan Symposium in 2006, which are targeted at NSOs should be presented to the WSConference in Korea.

5. Planning for the Symposium in 2009 - IUMS presented more details on why Egypt was preferred over Qatar. There was a brief discussion on whether a steering committee should be set up now, to work on the Symposium. It was finally deferred to the next meeting of the WSIF, in July 2008 (Korea). A document with photographs and details on Egypt which was presented at previous Symposiums was again circulated during this meeting.

(1) Aims (& Key considerations)

- The theme is to be 'Solidarity, Reflection & Celebration'. A draft program (see below) based on the theme was prepared by the Forum ,which will form the basis to plan and organise the event.
- Encourage Scouts of the Rover age group to participate.
- Draft Program:
 - Day 1 - Arrivals
 - Day 2 - **Solidarity**
Formation of Patrols Formal evening (opening)
 - Day 3 - **Reflection**
Reflection in patrols (AM)
Reflection in large groups, Visits to holy sites (PM)
 - Day 4 - **Celebration**
Presentation of examples of inter-religious work (dialogue) Workshops

(2) Venue, **date, etc.**

- The 3rd World Scout Inter-religious Symposium will be held in Cairo, Egypt. Exact venue to be decided.
- Date of the event will be decided by IUMS after considering suitable times which will not clash with the Regional Scout Conferences in 2009. The dates will be chosen in advance of the World Scout Conference in Korea so that publicity materials can be prepared with dates and venue already mentioned in them.
- The registration fee is proposed to be € 150, which includes lunch, dinner, inland transportation and tourist visits.
- Details of hotels and accommodation facilities will be made available for participants to choose from. For convenience and better organisation it was recommended that a single facility which can accommodate everyone be selected. IUMS will look into the possibilities and get back with more information soon.
- IUMS said that Hussain Sahl will be the communication point (coordinator) for the 4th World Scout Inter-religious Symposium on behalf of the organisers.

(3) **Publicity**

- Symposium to be extensively publicised at the 10th World Scout Youth Forum and 38th World Scout Conference in Jeju Island, Korea (July 2008).
- Publicity materials will be prepared by IUMS.

Some publicity to be specially targeted at attracting younger participants. The organisers will think about making an attractive offer on the registration fee to encourage young Scouts to participate.

6. Roadmap (until the next meeting at the World Scout Conference)

- World Scout Bureau to provide:
 - Update on the consultative status of those members who have applied for it in the last triennium. (Srinath)
 - More information about the World Scout Conference, details on programmes related to Spiritual Development and clarification on roles of WSIF. (Anne Whiteford)
- IUMS to follow up on the following items for the 2009 WSISymposium:
 - draft program put together by WSIF at the November 2007 meeting in Geneva
 - decide on the exact dates and venue for 2009 World Scout Inter-religious Symposium
 - preparing material (exhibition, brochures, posters, CD's etc.) for the Symposium to be publicised at the 10th World Scout Youth Forum and 38th World Scout Conference
- preparing for Spiritual Development activities at the Conference
- preparing for the next WSIF meeting in Korea (July 2008).

7. Electronic communication: It was discussed that an e-group (email group) can be created especially to ensure that no one gets left out of the electronic communications. This can be worked out in coordination with the World Scout Bureau.

8. Meetings before the World Scout Conference in Korea (July 2008): Most members of WSIF will have their annual conference and/or seminar just before the World Scout Conference, and probably at the same venue as the Conference. Members are keen to initiate contact with the Conference organisers to start discussing costs for booking halls for these meetings.

9. Other matters:

- Bernd Muller-Tiechert volunteered to initiate contact with the Jamboree organising team in Sweden about their preparations for 2011. He will also discuss with them to plan for a joint meeting with WSIF to start preparations for the Jamboree.

- Regarding the WSConference resolution (2005) to reduce plenary sessions and accommodate more interactive workshops, Christos Papageorgiou of DESMOS said that it was important that WSIF gets a chance to present in the plenary at the Conference.
10. **Next Meeting:** Bernd Muller-Teichert of CPGS has agreed to coordinate the next meeting to be organised during the World Scout Conference in Korea, July 2008. He will work with World Scout Bureau and the Conference organisers to prepare for the meeting, Won Buddhist Scouts proposed to host and support the next World Scout Inter-religious Forum's meeting in Korea, especially if the forum could plan to meet prior to the Conference. The meeting will discuss in detail further planning for the 2009 World Scout Inter-religious Symposium to be held in Egypt. Thoughts and discussions on 2012 Symposium, possible venues and bidders will also be on the agenda of this meeting.

Meeting Evaluation

Meeting of the World Scout Inter-religious Forum (WSIF) Thursday,
15th November 2007, Geneva

What went well?

- Meetings were well Chaired
- Good attendance
- Materials being sent beforehand was useful
- Meeting facilities at the WSB were fit for purpose
- Good progress on the Symposium 2009 (3rd WSISymposium, Egypt)
- Good timing (before World Scientific Congress)
- Keeping the meeting short has brought focus
- Good opportunity for representatives of Spiritual Development Task Team (SDTT), WSIF, World Scout Committee & Educational Methods Committee to meet and learn about the work being done
- Everyone being involved in the Faiths & Beliefs Zone at the World Scout Jamboree in UK has led to a good group spirit and has continued to grow, with this meeting
- Good solidarity in WSIF
- Good communication and responses from WSIF members which helped in better organising of the meeting
- WSIF is being realistic about what is achievable

What can be improved?

- Better representation: Hindus, Mormons, Sikhs, etc.
- Better follow up & implementation of meeting and decisions taken
- We don't like getting bad news
- A future meeting where we can discuss what religious differences divide young people (Scouts)

**The 2nd Orthodox Youth Conference in Istanbul, Turkey, July 2007
“MEMBERS OF CHURCH - CITIZENS OF WORLD”****THE REPORT**

The Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople organised from 11th - 16th July 2007 the 2nd Orthodox Youth Conference titled “Members of the Church - Citizens of the World”.

In the conference 800 young participants from 18 until 30 years old represented the Patriarchates of Antioch, Jerusalem and Alexandria, the Metropolis of Greece and the countries abroad that belong to the Patriarchate of Constantinople, students of theological faculties and various associations and organisations. Also, ‘DESMOS’, the International Link of Christian Orthodox Scouts, was invited to participate, since scouting constitutes the biggest youth movement worldwide. As in the 1st Conference that had been organised with success in 2000, clergymen, professors and scientists from the entire world were reported in vital subjects regarding the relation of youth and church. Objective of the conference was on one hand to gather all youths that their Metropolis belong in the Patriarchate and on the other hand to meet each other and to exchange opinions and theories on subjects that concern the young people nowadays.

During the sessions the speakers with thorough proposals on subjects of general interest for the young people, regarding faith, religion, church and modern society, discussed with the youths encouraging them to express freely their opinion, to place their questions in the speakers but also to exchange opinions among each other.



As representative of ‘DESMOS’ I had the opportunity to converse in private with His All Holiness about the activities of ‘DESMOS’ but also to thank him in private for the help and the support regarding the action of ‘DESMOS’, by giving him a commemorative album of Scouts of Greece. He also expressed his wish and interest for a closer relation of the Patriarchate with the Orthodox Scouts, inviting us to visit Constantinople and the Ecumenical Patriarchate, but also to use if we wish their locations and facilities for our activities.

As the biggest movement of youths worldwide many times during the conference I was asked to give my opinion on various subjects concerning youths, while after the completion of the meetings the participants were led to

conclusions in regard of the subjects that were discussed, in the syntax of which I had a quite active role making our presence particularly perceptible. These conclusions are attached below.

Beyond the sessions that lasted five days, we had the opportunity on Saturday 14th July to visit the Theological Faculty and the Holy Monastery of Holy Trinity of Halki, and on Sunday 15th July to attend the Divine Liturgy of the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. George in the Phanar, presided by His All Holiness The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, with the presence of the Greek General Consul of Constantinople Mr Alexios Alexandris, who expressed his joy for the presence of the Orthodox Scouts to the conference. Also the same day we had the chance to visit St. Sophia and the Monastery of Chora.

Maria Vaxevanopoulou
Representative of DESMOS
Scouts of Greece

NOTE: *“The Conclusions of the 2nd Orthodox Youth Conference” document will be available at the Desmos web site*

SPIRITUAL DIMENSION IN SCOUTING ENHANCING YOUTH PROGRAMME

MISSION

- ❖ To strengthen spiritual development in the Youth Programmes of European scouting.
- ❖ To strengthen the understanding of spiritual development as integral to the development of the whole human person within scouting, and complementary to the character, physical, intellectual, emotional and social aspects of personal development.



GOALS

- ❖ To contribute to the development of the spiritual dimension in European Scout Associations' youth programmes.
- ❖ To build a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect between European Scout Associations in their work on spiritual development in youth programme.
- ❖ To strengthen scouting as a family in which everybody can live their religion or spirituality openly.

PRINCIPLES

- ❖ Spirituality and religion are terms which have a wide variety of usage and meaning even within Europe and European Scouting.
- ❖ In scouting "Spiritual Development" may well be better understood through its practices than a single theory.
- ❖ Good practice is more likely to be fostered by showing examples than by imposing a single framework.
- ❖ The presence of inter-confessional, confessional and non-confessional associations are an expression of the diversity of European scouting which must be worked with.

ACTIONS

- ❖ Maintain an effective team to put this plan into action.
- ❖ Prepare a statement of basic principles for European Regional level work on spiritual development (Charter).
- ❖ Prepare guidelines on spiritual development in scout youth programmes in the European Region.
- ❖ Prepare guidelines on spiritual development in scout youth programmes at European Region events.
- ❖ To prepare and deliver a training course on spiritual development for interested NSO/A's.
- ❖ Develop tools to support the presence of religious traditions within scouting (how to understand and to meet their needs).
- ❖ Develop area within Web-site Resource centre, to include examples of good practice.
- ❖ Plan and deliver a seminar every two or three years for NSO/As to share good practice and update on spiritual development.
- ❖ Support the spiritual animation of RoverWay 2009 and the European Scout and Guide Conference in 2010.
- ❖ To consider specific future work on interreligious dialogue.

**THE VIEW OF CHRISTIANS IN SCOUTING: DUTY TO GOD - DUTY TO OTHERS
ECUMENICAL SEMINAR ENCOUNTER**

Canterbury (England) 07 – 09 March 2008

Dear friends,

The International Catholic Conference of Scouting (ICCS) expresses its great interest to meet friends in scouting from the orthodox and protestant churches who will discuss and closely reflect with us the reality, the mission and the challenges of Christian communities in the scout movement. We are aware that - after we started the inter religious dialogue activities - we had never met inside scouting on an ecumenical platform. This although we have to detect that by the tendency of secularisation the spiritual influence of the Christian communities has been weakened in our societies (and in scouting too ?).

We have invited our friend Rev. Jonathan How (GB), priest and professor of theology, to be the key speaker for an introduction. You know him from the inter religious activities and from his responsibility for the "Faith and Believe Zone" in the World Scout Jamboree 2007 in England.

We have sent also an invitation to the Community of TAIZE to hear about their experiences with young people of different Christian background since many years.

Finally we invite you to take part in this ecumenical encounter with participants who have a good profile in educational and pastoral practise, spiritual experience with young people and theological interest.

We had to limit the number of participants around 25 and we hope that a sufficient number of all relevant Christian communities in scouting will be there. When we have the final overview on participation we will send out the detailed program and more helpful information.

DESMOS and the Christian Conference will be asked like ICCS to give a statement.

As we mentioned in our first announcement we will include into the program : ways of cooperation in the future, exchange of experiences with practical issues, our positioning in the Scout Movement.

A visit to the Cathedral of Canterbury is foreseen!

The program will start on the 7th of March at 18.00 h and will end on the 9th after lunch.

We need your registration up to the end of DECEMBER 2007.

We will be hosted by the: **Friars Aylesford, Kent ME20 7BX, Tel. 01622.717272 – Fax 01622.715575**
<http://www.thefriars.org.uk>

The Fee (including accommodation, food, transport from and to next station and trip to Canterbury Cathedral) will be **150 EURO**.

Please send your Registration, completely filled, to Francesca by our office in Rome at the following:

Post: ICCS World – Rome Headquarters
Piazza Pasquale Paoli, 18
00186 – Roma – ITALY

or

Fax: +.39.06.6865211

or

e-mail: cics-iccs@cics.org

Looking forward to meeting you in Canterbury. With best Scout regards,

Baldur Hermans
ICCS Secretary General

**EXAMPLE OF THE STATUTE
FOR FRIENDS OF DESMOS ASSOCIATIONS**

Article 1: Establishment - Base

- (1) An Association is established under the name "FRIENDS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LINK OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN SCOUTS".
- (2) The base of the Association is set to be (specify the city).
- (3) The Association can set up offices in other parts of the same country.

Article 2: Aim

The aim of the Association is the material, moral and economic support of the work of Desmos, that is the INTERNATIONAL LINK OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN SCOUTS.

Article 3: Means of achieving the aim

Using every legal means:

- (1) Economic strengthening of DESMOS Scouts Association over the world.
- (2) Strengths the relationship between DESMOS and the Orthodox Church. It acts as an intermediate in strengthening the relationship between the Universal Scouting and the Orthodox Church.
- (3) Organizes discussion forums, lectures and recreational activities, publishes informational magazines and projects the interests of DESMOS. It creates all the necessary co operations with other Associations and State Authorities for the promotion of the interests of its members. Special attention should be paid upon the co operation with the Scouts Body.

Article 4: Members

The members of the Association are distinguished between:

- (1) Ordinary: These are the founding members and any other members that the Board of Directors of the Association decides to register.
- (2) Extraordinary: The members of the Board of Directors of the Orthodox Scouts, if they so wish, and the team of the membership is the duration of their service.
- (3) Honorary: These members are proposed by the Board of Directors of the Association or the 1/5 of the ordinary members of the Association and approved by the General Assembly of the Association. These members can participate in the meetings of the General Assembly, they state their opinion but without the right of voting. They cannot vote and they cannot be elected.

Article 5: Members Rights

- (1) All members are equally participating in the General Assemblies as long as they have **fulfilled** all their economic obligations.
- (2) Express their opinions with voting rights.
- (3) They can leave the Association at any point and they can be re-registered as long as the Association's Board of Directors approves it.

Article 6: Members Obligations

- (1) Participate in the fulfillment of the Association's aim.
- (2) Attend the meetings, they are actively involved **in** the activities and actions of the Association and any other planning that the Association decides.

Article 7: Disciplinary Control

Exercised by the Board of Directors and /or the General Assembly of the Association. The decisions involving the exercise of disciplinary control should be taken after secret ballot.

Article 8: Members Cancellation

The Board of Directors for any serious reason as described in the Articles of Association and in the relevant legislation governing all Associations can decide to cancel the membership of an existing member.

The Board of Directors can re-register a member that has previously been deregistered as long as the reasons for its de-registration are no longer valid.

Article 9: Association's Resources

- (1) Annual member's subscriptions and any other extraordinary subscriptions.
- (2) Any income resulting from the Association's own property.
- (3) Donations, inheritance and any other allotments to the Association.
- (4) Revenue from any other activities organized by the Association.

Article 10: Financial Management

The Association's financial management is based upon the Income and Expenses budget prepared by the Board of Directors and approved by the General Assembly.

All revenues are collected after a duplicate receipt has been issued bearing the Association's seal and the Treasurer's signature and /or the signature of the President of the Board of Directors.

The Financial Report, the Profit and Loss Account and the Balance Sheet as well as the Audit Committee Report are submitted for approval to the General Assembly within 3 months of the closing of the accounting year.

(Each Association can include any other clauses that they feel appropriate).

Article 11: General Assembly

This is the highest and prevailing instrument of the Association. It is called regulatory once a year and extraordinarily when the Board of Directors decides it.

The ordinary members of the Association can call for a General Assembly through a written petition as long as it is signed by at least 1/5 of the ordinary members. General Assembly can be called by the Audit Committee in case of management irregularities. The petition to call a General Assembly is addressed to the Association's Board of Directors.

(Each Association can add its own provisions which will contribute in improving the Association's operations)

Article 12: Meeting of the General Assembly

The **members** of the Association can take part in the General Assembly either in person or through representatives (if the Association so wishes).

The General Assembly is in quorum when **at least** 1/3 of the members that have the right to attend the General Assembly are present.

If the General Assembly is not in quorum, then a repeating General Assembly is called and at that point the Assembly is in quorum whatever the number of the present members is.

Any decisions of the General Assembly that concern election of Associations instalments, mailers of trust or any other personal matters must be taken under secret ballot.

Minutes of the General Assembly are written and signed by the President and the Secretary of the Association.

(Each Association can add its own provisions)

Article 13: General Assembly Jurisdictions

Matters discussed primarily by the General Assembly are:

- (1) Approval of the Financial Report, the Profit and Loss Account and the Balance Sheet.
- (2) Account of the Board of Directors work following the closing of the accounting year.
- (3) Election of a Supervisory Committee when elections will take part.
- (4) Election of the Board of Directors and the Audit Committee.
- (5) Amendment that the Association decides to discuss.

In the case of amending the Articles of Association, approval of regulations, suspension of the Association's operations or dissolution of the Association, then the number of the attending members must be 50% plus 1 and with a majority 75%.

Article 14: Board of Directors

The Association is governed by the Board of Directors which consists of nine (9) members and are all gratis (without pay). Six (6) out of the nine (9) members are elected by the General Assembly among the ordinary members, for a term of 3 years. The other three (3) members are , appointed by the Board of Directors of the Orthodox Christian Scouts for the same term as the other six members.

Three (3) more supplementary members of the Board of Directors are elected by the General Assembly.

The Board of Directors is formed to a body with a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer and five (5) Consultants.

The members of the Board of Directors are not allowed to be employees of the Association, nor transact with any exchanges or rewards or profit from it.

(The Association can add any other provisions it feels necessary according to the country it operates and the conditions prevailing).

Article 15: Board of Directors Jurisdictions

It governs the Association, exercise a disciplinary control of the members, decides for the registration of new members and the cancellation of the membership of existing members, calls the General Assemblies and execute the decisions of the General Assemblies. It manages the resources of the Association and all other matters that are necessary for the smooth operations of the Association, employs the Association's employees and generally administer any other **matters** that concerns the Association.

Article 16: President, Vice - President, General Secretary and Treasurer's Jurisdictions

Each Association determines the jurisdictions of each one of the above taking into consideration what is usually provided by other Associations and according to what the Association wants to charge its officers.

However, **for** the Treasurer it is stressed that:

- (1) He / she has to administer the Association's financials and makes payments and receipts according to warrants signed by the President and himself/ herself.
- (2) All the payments are made through cheques. He / she is jointly responsible with the President for the Association's Financial Statement and keeps all the accounting books set by the Law and the Article of Association.
- (3) Each quarter, the Treasurer must submit a brief summary of the Association's Financial

Statement.

- (4) The Treasurer sets to the disposal of the Board of Directors, the Audit Committee, the General Assembly and the President whatever is requested and whatever evidence concerning the financial statement of the Association.

Article 17: Election of the members of the Board of Directors and the Audit Committee

Those who are interested to be elected either to the Board of Directors or the Audit Committee submit their application to the Board of Directors within the time limits set by the Board as long as they have fulfilled their obligations to the Association.

Candidacy applications are submitted only by the ordinary members. The election is done via a secret ballot. **Article 18: Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee is elected from the General Assembly and consists of two (2) or three (3) members. It audits the financial management of the Association and prepares its report which it submits to the General Assembly within three (3) months after the closing of the accounting year.

Article 19: Amendment of the Articles of Association

The Articles of Association is amended with the majorities required according to the provisions of Article 13.

Article 20: Internal Regulations

Matters that concern the internal functions of the Association are requested through internal regulations. The Internal Regulations following decision of the Board of Directors are submitted to the General Assembly for approval.

Article 21: Dissolution of the Association

Dissolution of the Association is decided by the General Assembly with a constitutional majority. **Article**

22: Association's Property

In case of the dissolution of the Association its property comes under the management of the Board of Directors of the Orthodox Scouts.

Article 23: Seal / Sign

The Association has a sign and a seal. Change of the Association's sign can only be made with an articles of Association amendment.

Article 24: Books kept by the Association

The following books are obligatory kept by the Association:

- (1) Members registered.
- (2) Minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors.
- (3) Minutes of the General Assemblies.
- (4) Receipts - Payments records.
- (5) Book with the Association's history.

The Association can optionally keep any other books than the above.