



DESMOS COMMITTEE MEETING

February 20-22, 2009
Monastery TISMANA, Romania



MINUTES

The DESMOS Committee Meeting was held in the premises of the Monastery Tismana, in Romania, with the blessing of the Patriarchate of the Romanian Orthodox Church and with a support of the Romanian NSO "Cercetasii Romaniei".

Present:

Christos Papageorgiou, Desmos President,
Nicolaos Mitsides, Desmos Committee member
Georges Abboud, Desmos Committee member
Zoran M. Petrovic, Desmos Committee member
Naaman Shahada, Desmos Committee member
Maher Sahlieh, Desmos Committee member
Marko Petrovic, Desmos Secretary General

Greece
Cyprus
Lebanon
Serbia
Israel
Palestine
Serbia

Desmos member-countries' representatives:

George Bahow, former Desmos Vice-President
Vladimir Vlas, President, National Association of Moldovian Scouts
Marianna Purcel, PR and Mass Media Commissioner
Roxana Boltasu, Desmos representative, Cercetasii Romaniei
Vassilis Birtsas, Desmos member-country representative
Fouad Abboud, General Commissioner, Scout National Orthodoxe Liban
Joseph Chami, Chef du Group, Scout National Orthodoxe Liban
Fadi Sabanekh, Leader, Amman Orthodox Scouts
Emad Bosheh, Leader, Amman Orthodox Scouts

Israel
Moldova
Moldova
Romania
Greece
Lebanon
Lebanon
Jordan
Jordan

Apologies:

Goran Jeftic, Desmos Committee member
Georges El Ghorayeb, WSC – liaison with DESMOS

Republic Srpska (B&H)
World Scout Committee



The official opening of the Desmos Committee meeting took place on February 21ST, 2009, in the premises of the Holy Monastery Tismana, in Romania. Nine countries were represented.

The participants of the meeting accepted Secretary General's proposal to have audio-recording of the Meeting.

Secretary General distributed to all participants of the Meeting the proposed Agenda and the Amendment to Desmos Constitution adopted by the 5TH Desmos Conference in the Republic of Korea.

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

The text of the Prayer was the same as used during the founding Assembly of DESMOS in the Monastery Penteli, in Greece (Appendix 1.)

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

The Meeting Agenda:

It was decided to proceed according to the initially proposed Agenda, with additionally proposed items by Georges Abboud (Presentation of the Lebanese Jamboree, within Item 12) and Vassilis Birtsas (Presentation of the Thinking Day, within Item 17), as follows:

1. Welcome and Address of the Desmos President
Christos Papageorgiou
2. 2008. Report of the Secretary General
Marko Petrovic
3. DESMOS Consultative Status with WOSM
4. Minutes of the 5th Desmos Conference / Report on the elections for Desmos Committee
Marko Petrovic
5. Elections of the new President, Vice-President and Treasurer
Appointment of the new Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General / Other administration issues
6. Address of the new Desmos President and considerations about the future of the Link
7. Honorary members of Desmos Committee
8. Visit to the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, February 2008.
Information: Maher Sahlieh / Zoran Petrovic
9. Report on the preparatory meeting related to the 3rd World Scout Inter-Religious Symposium / Meeting held in Geneva, in November 2008.
Christos Papageorgiou
10. Joint Training DESMOS-ICCS in Madaba, Jordan, July 2009
C. Papageorgiou - M. Petrovic / Representatives of Amman Orthodox Scouts
11. The 2nd Ecumenical Encounter, Greece 2010 / preparatory activities
Introduction: Christos Papageorgiou – Vassilis Birtsas
12. Reports on Desmos activities on a national level in particular countries
Desmos Committee members / representatives of member countries
13. Enlarging DESMOS / Membership growth / How to attract and retain new member-countries
Introduction: C. Papageorgiou - M. Petrovic / Open discussion
14. Friends of Desmos – Greek example of good practice
Information: Christos Papageorgiou - Vassilis Birtsas
15. Discussion on Desmos promotional materials / Desmos Newsletter
Introduction: Maher Sahlieh / Open discussion
16. Discussion on the activities foreseen in the forthcoming period / Establishing of the Task-force aiming to prepare Desmos participation on the next WSJ in Sweden, 2011
Desmos Committee members / Open discussion
17. Various issues / Hosting of the next Desmos Committee Meeting in 2010
Open discussion



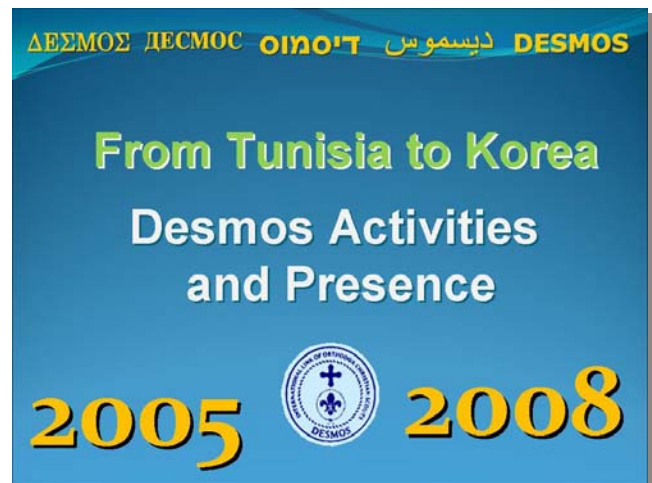
Ad. 1 – WELCOME AND ADDRESS BY THE DESMOS PRESIDENT, Mr. Christos Papageorgiou

Desmos President **Christos Papageorgiou** welcomed all the Committee members and member-countries' representatives and expressed special thanks to the Romanian NSO "Cercetasii Romaniei" for hosting the Meeting, as well as to the Romanian Orthodox Church and the Holy Monastery Tismana for supporting the Meeting and offering good conditions for work.

He said it is very good and encouraging for Desmos that we have today among us the representatives from Moldova, for the first time after founding of our Link and the representatives of Jordan, which in the meantime, became officially the member of our Link.

Christos Papageorgiou then proceeded with the PowerPoint presentation "**From Tunisia to Korea / Desmos Activities and Presence, 2005-2008**", in which he gave a complete overview of Desmos engagement in the past triennium, documented with facts and photographs. He presented Desmos Committee meetings held in the meantime, since the 4TH Desmos Conference in Tunisia, but also all the major activities our Link had in that period, including Desmos participation at most important European and World events:

- 12TH European Guide and Scout Conference in Slovenia
- 21ST World Scout Jamboree in UK, celebrating Centenary of Scouting
- 2nd Orthodox Youth Conference in Constantinople
- World Scout Inter-religious Forum in Geneva, Switzerland
- Ecumenical Encounter in Canterbury, England
- World Scout Conference in Korea
- Visit to the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, in February 2008
- Visit to the Ecumenical Partiarhate, in March 2008
- 5TH Desmos Conference in Korea, July 2008
- 38TH World Scout Conference, Korea, July 2008
- Meeting of the "Friends of Desmos in Greece" Association, December 2008, Athens, Greece



King of Sweden visited Desmos Workshop at WSJ in UK, 2007

Desmos President pointed out the importance of Desmos' active engagement and participation at major European and World events, since it contributes to the good image Desmos already has in the world of Scouting.

He emphasized the success Desmos achieved with the Workshop on Orthodox Iconography, organized within the Faith and Beliefs Zone at the World Scout Jamboree in England, UK.

He particularly stressed upon the fact that the King of Sweden, His Excellency Carl XVI Gustaf, visited Desmos Workshop on Orthodox Iconography during the World Scout Jamboree held in England, UK, in 2007, when the world of Scouting was celebrating its Centenary.

It was indeed a great honour for Desmos to welcome the King of Sweden in the Desmos tent.

Desmos President presented all the details related to the Workshop as a real example of good practice.

Christos Papageorgiou emphasized once again Desmos approach to promotion of its aims and objectives and the Christian Orthodox Faith. He said Desmos acts strictly in accordance with its Constitution and promotes the values of Orthodoxy giving the priority to art, strongly believing it is the best way to achieve the goals, yet not imposing anything to the others.

Christos said the Presentation is available for all who would like to show it to their members or their partners and can be copied.

Ad. 2 – 2008 REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL, Mr. Marko Petrovic

Desmos Secretary General, Marko Petrovic, presented to the Committee his 2008 Report, in form of the PowerPoint presentation followed by detailed explanations and comments on all the items.

Reminding that the previous committee Meeting was held in Madaba, Jordan, Secretary General presented the events Desmos participated at in the meantime:

- The 5th Desmos Conference, Republic of Korea (new desmos committee elected)
- The 38th World Scout Conference held at ICC Jeju, Republic of Korea
- Preparatory meeting for the next World Scout Symposium

Secretary General presented the detailed overview of the 5th Desmos Conference, including the elections for the new Desmos Committee.



Marko Petrovic also informed the Committee that the Conference adopted the Amendment to Desmos Constitution and pointed out interesting presentation done by the key-note speaker, Rev. Daniel NA.

He announced with great pleasure that our Link warmly welcomes the new Desmos member-country Jordan, as well as the interest expressed by Russia and the new WOSM members - Montenegro, Ukraine and Syria to join Desmos, encouraging NSO's of those countries to complete all needed formalities.

Secretary General informed that Desmos was among special guests invited to follow the 38TH World Scout Conference in Korea.

Marko briefly informed about the visit to the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, on February 25, 2008, when His Beatitude The Patriarch of Jerusalem, Theophilus III, welcomed DESMOS representatives at the Patriarchate premises and expressed His pleasure regarding the successful DESMOS Committee meeting in Madaba, Jordan, which he warmly supported.

He also gave the short info on the Preparatory meeting for the next World Scout Inter-religious Symposium, held in Geneva, at the Headquarters of the World Organization of The Scout Movement, in November 2008, with the participation of representatives of all principal faith organizations in Scouting, including DESMOS, represented by the President Christos Papageorgiou.

Desmos Secretary General presented to the Committee his perception of Desmos Highlights and Weaknesses, indicating:

Desmos' highlights

- high reputation in the world of Scouting
- renewed consultative status with WOSM
- participation at all major European and World events
- inter-religious dialogue - joint work with ICCS and IUMS
- Friends of Desmos approach – Greek model
- established and regularly updated web-site



Desmos' weaknesses

- financial problems / lack of NSO's support
- large number of inactive member-countries
- insufficient number of activities, particularlyly between Desmos countries
- lack of human resources – the need to recruit more committed people
- poor communication within the Link

The Secretary General, in his Report, also presented:

Future events

- Joint Training DESMOS-ICCS, Madaba, Jordan, July 2009
- Roverway, Island, July 20-28, 2009.
- 3rd World Scout Inter-religious Symposium, Uganda, October 21-25, 2009
- 2nd Ecumenical Encounter, Greece, 2010
- 20th European Scout Conference, Belgium, 2010
- 6th Desmos Conference, Brazil, 2011
- 39th World Scout Conference, Brazil, 2011
- 22nd World Scout Jamboree, Sweden, 2011

With particular attention to the first three events, which will be held in 2009.



Closing his Report, Secretary General indicated some of the priorities for the forthcoming period:

- conduct the preparatory activities for Desmos participation at the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden in 2011 / establishing of a task-force
- prepare and offer the model or a set of examples of good practice for celebration of the 'Thinking Day' along the borders between all country members of Desmos
- encourage efforts aiming to establish "Friends of Desmos" in as many Desmos countries as possible – offer all needed support
- find out the mode for sustainable funding of participation of Desmos' representatives in European and World events

Ad. 3 – DESMOS' CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH WOSM

Desmos President, **Christos Papageorgiou**, explained the importance of having the consultative status with WOSM, which is not the privilege of all faith organizations in Scouting.

He also informed the Committee about the e-mail message of Georges El Ghorayeb, World Scout Committee member and the WSC Liaison with DESMOS, in which he informs us that the Sub-Committee will recommend to the World Scout Committee to renew Desmos' consultative status with WOSM. As soon as we get it, the information on final decision of the World Scout Committee will be communicated to all participants of the Meeting. It will be available for all at the Desmos web site, as well.



Ad. 4 – MINUTES OF THE 5TH DESMOS CONFERENCE / REPORT ON THE ELECTIONS FOR DESMOS COMMITTEE

DESMOS Secretary General reminded the Committee members that the Minutes of the 5TH Desmos Conference were distributed to all Committee members after the Conference, and are also available at Desmos web site, in the segment “Resource Materials / Desmos documents”.

Secretary General presented brief report on the elections for the new Desmos Committee held at the 5TH Desmos Conference in Korea.

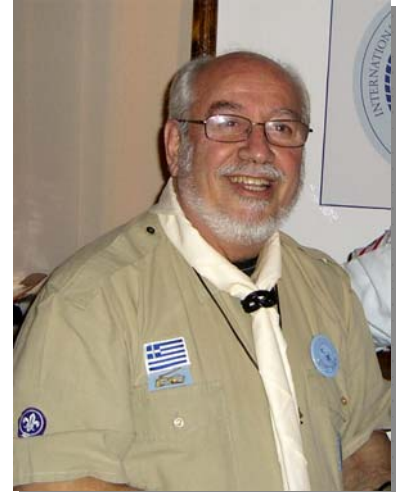
Ad. 5 – ELECTIONS FOR THE NEW PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT AND TREASURER, APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW SECRETARY GENERAL AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL / OTHER ADMINISTRATION ISSUES

Desmos Secretary General presented to the Committee his proposal for the position of Desmos President.

Pointing out the importance of having on the head position of the Link the personality well known and highly respected both in the world of Scouting and out of Scouting, indicating all the qualities such personality should have and summarizing the achievements Desmos had in the previous period as a result of high commitment of its President in previous triennium, Marko proposed to the Committee to elect as the future Desmos President Mr. Christos Papageorgiou.

There were no other proposals of candidates for the position of Desmos President.

The Committee elected by acclamation **Mr. Christos Papageorgiou** on the position of **Desmos President** for the next three-year period, in line with the term of office of this Committee.



The proposal for the position of Vice-President was presented by the Committee member Zoran Petrovic. Zoran said we need to have at this position a person who is involved in Desmos development since the founding of the Link. It must be a committed person, sincerely devoted to the cause of Desmos and ready to make all necessary efforts for further development and strengthening of the Link. Zoran proposed Mr. Maher Sahlieh for this position, claiming that he disposes of all needed qualities.

There were no other proposals of candidates for the position of Desmos Vice-President.

The Committee elected by acclamation **Mr. Maher Sahlieh** on the position of **Desmos Vice-President** for the next three-year period, in line with the term of office of this Committee.



For the position of Desmos Treasurer, Christos Papageorgiou presented his proposal to the Committee.

Christos said we all hope that, after many years, this position will mean not only the title but also a job to be done, meaning that Desmos would finally start managing its finances, which until this moment was not the case, since there was no income whatsoever.

Therefore - Christos said - we need to have at this position a person able to cope with the future challenges and the right person for such assignment is Mr. Nicolaos Mitsides.

There were no other proposals of candidates for the position of Desmos Treasurer.

The Committee elected by acclamation **Mr. Nicolaos Mitsides** on the position of **Desmos Treasurer** for the next three-year period, in line with the term of office of this Committee.



President Christos Papageorgiou informed the Committee that the former Treasurer, Mr. **Christos Marneros**, sent a short letter in which he said there is actually no ground for the Report of the Treasurer because there was no income. Marneros expressed his thanks to the Committee for cooperation in previous triennium and his expectation that Desmos financial situation would be better in future. The Committee members concluded they will certainly miss Christos Marneros in the Committee, his engaged approach, commitment and a good spirit. **The Committee expressed special thanks to C. Marneros for all he did for the development of DESMOS.**

The Committee, then, proceeded to the appointment of Secretary General.

The proposal for this position was presented to the Committee by the newly elected Desmos President, Christos Papageorgiou.

Christos pointed out that it is very important to have on this position a person skilled in communications, operational and at the same time well known in the world of Scouting.

The President reminded that Desmos success in the previous period is also due to the great contribution of our former Secretary General and suggested to the Committee to appoint on this position Mr. Marko Petrovic, who successfully performed this duty in the last triennium.

There were no other proposals of candidates for the position of Desmos Secretary General.

The Committee appointed unanimously **Mr. Marko Petrovic** on the position of **Desmos Secretary General** for the next three-year period, in line with the term of office of this Committee.



The newly appointed Secretary General, emphasizing the fact that a lot of work should be done and the need to have actively involved in this assignment someone whose assistance would be precious, pointing out the high communication qualities and a great experience in his own NSO, suggested to the Committee to appoint on the position of Assistant Secretary General Mr. Athanassios (Nassos) Efstathiou, Chief Executive of the Scouts of Greece (SHP).

There were no other proposals of candidates for the position of Assistant Secretary General of Desmos.

The Committee appointed unanimously **Mr. Athanassios (Nassos) Efstathiou** on the position of **Assistant Secretary General** of Desmos, for the next three-year period, in line with the term of office of this Committee.



Stressing upon the importance and need to develop as soon as possible the PR and Communications segment of our Link, Secretary General indicated that we need to have a person dealing with this issue in a professional manner. We need someone who will develop, with the assistance and contribution of all Committee members and desmos-countries representatives, the Desmos Newsletter as the regular tool for informing the membership and all those interested in Desmos and its activities.

Marko said there is a person that has been with us for several years already, silently working in the background, but always ready to fulfill the tasks, highly educated, skilled in communications, experienced in international relations, committed and sincerely devoted to Desmos aims and objectives – Vassilis Birtsas, Assistant International Commissioner of the Scouts of Greece (SHP).

There were no other proposals of candidates for the position of Desmos PR and Communications Commissioner.

The Committee appointed unanimously **Mr. Vassilis Birtsas** on the position of **PR and Communications Commissioner** of Desmos, for the next three-year period, in line with the term of office of this Committee.



Ad. 6 – ADDRESS OF THE NEW DESMOS PRESIDENT AND CONSIDERATIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE LINK

The newly elected **Desmos President, Mr. Christos Papageorgiou** expressed to the Committee his gratitude for granted confidence and said he will do his best in order to see Desmos further growing and progressing.

Desmos President presented his address and considerations about the future of the Link.

The newly elected Desmos President, Christos Papageorgiou, presented to the Committee members a brief history related to the birth of The Link, reminding how it all started back in 1993, during discussions with former WOSM Secretary General, Dr Jacques Moreillon, during his visit to Greece, when it was concluded that the World Scouting needs a faith organization that would help all the scouts of the Orthodox Christian faith to better develop their spirituality. Through a hard work of the Interim Committee, very useful consultations with His Holiness The Ecumenical Patriarch, followed by the presentation of the draft Statute to the World Scout Committee in Oslo, The International Link of Orthodox Christian Scouts Desmos was born in 1997, at the founding Assembly held in Monastery Penteli in Greece. There were seven countries, founding members.

The first goal was achieved, but Desmos had to struggle for growth and reputation. Today, Desmos has almost 25 member countries, high reputation both in the world of Scouting and out of Scouting and very good perspectives for further development. Desmos is respected and invited to all major European and World events. We are now ready for the second step, which is – to give our children the vision and teach our leaders how to deliver the spirituality to the scouts. Certainly, it has to be done without the fanatic approach and fundamentalism. This is my aim as the President for the next triennium – Christos said - and that's why we are preparing the two seminaries on spiritual dimension in Scouting for our leaders – one in the Middle-East and the other in the Balkans. The parts of the world we should also cover with similar activities in future are EuroAsia and Africa.

In order to be able to realize such important tasks, we need to be truly involved, all of us. We need to have a true cooperation between us, so I invite you to work together with me and we shall have success.

Ad. 7 – HONORARY MEMBERS OF DESMOS COMMITTEE

In accordance with the Amendment to Desmos Constitution adopted by the 5TH Desmos Conference in the Republic of Korea and wishing to give recognition to the people that contributed to the development of the Link, the Committee discussed the issue of the Honorary members of Desmos Committee.

Vice-President Maher Sahlieh proposed that the status of Honorary Vice-President be granted to Mr. George Bahow, given his commitment, his personal contribution to the development of the Link and great desire to continue his engagement in Desmos Committee.

All the participants of the Meeting agreed that George Bahow deserves to be granted a honorary status, however, Secretary General explained that the Amendment adopted by the 5TH Desmos Conference does not offer the possibility to grant the status of Honorary Vice-President, but the only possibility is to grant the status of the Honorary member of Desmos Committee.

The Committee unanimously decided to grant to Mr. **George Bahow**, former Desmos Committee Vice-President, the status of the Honorary Member of Desmos Committee for the period of three years, in line with the term of office of the actual DESMOS Committee.



Considering the fact that the Amendment allows granting of the honorary status to maximum two persons, and recognizing great personal contribution for the development of the Link on the Middle-East, Vice-President Maher Sahlieh, proposed that the status of Honorary Member of Desmos Committee be granted to Mr. Odeh Bishara. The proposal was seconded by the President Christos Papageorgiou and Secretary General Marko Petrovic, who both pointed out high reputation that Odeh Bishara enjoys in the Middle-East and great work done for Desmos in the first years of the Link. It was warmly welcomed by the Committee and all participants of the Meeting.

The Committee unanimously decided to grant to Mr. **Odeh Bishara**, former Desmos Committee member, the status of the Honorary Member of Desmos Committee for the period of three years, in line with the term of office of the actual DESMOS Committee.

Ad. 8 – VISIT TO THE PATRIARCHATE OF JERUSALEM / FEBRUARY 2008



The Report on the visit to the Patriarchate of Jerusalem was presented to the Committee by Committee member **Zoran Petrovic**.

After the DESMOS Committee Meeting in Madaba, Jordan, DESMOS delegation consisting of the Committee member Zoran Petrovic, Secretary General Marko Petrovic, International Relations and PR Commissioner Maher Sahlyeh and the President of the Scout Organisation of Serbia Momcilo Petkovic, accompanied by the representatives of Palestinian Orthodox Scouts, visited the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem on Monday, February 25, 2008.

The delegation was received by His Beatitude The Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilus III.

His Beatitude The Patriarch of Jerusalem welcomed DESMOS representatives at the Patriarchate premises and expressed His pleasure regarding the successful DESMOS Committee meeting in Madaba, Jordan, which he warmly supported.



DESMOS representatives informed His Beatitude about DESMOS activities and plans for the future. His Beatitude The Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilus III offered DESMOS delegation the medallion, which was issued on the occasion of 2000 years of Christianity.

After the pleasant conversation with DESMOS representatives, His Beatitude The Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilus III wished DESMOS the success and prosperity in implementing its mission.

Vice-President **Maher Sahlieh** informed the Committee that the meeting with The Patriarch of Jerusalem was scheduled several days ago, in order to discuss financial support and further development of Orthodox Scouting in Palestine, but, due to health reasons, His Beatitude was not able to receive the delegation of Palestinian Orthodox Scouts. The Secretary of the Patriarchate received the delegation instead, promised the assistance and set the new term for the Meeting in a week time. The Committee will be updated after the meeting.

Ad. 9 – REPORT ON THE PREPARATORY MEETING RELATED TO THE 3RD WORLD SCOUT INTER-RELIGIOUS SYMPOSIUM



The Report was presented to the Committee by Desmos President, Christos Papageorgiou. Christos informed about the discussions held during the preparatory meeting held in Geneva, in November 2007. He said the security reasons determined the country in which the event will be organized and the definite decision is to have The 3rd World Scout Inter-religious Symposium in Uganda, Kampala, in the period: Octobre 21-25, 2009.

Desmos President emphasized that the organizing faith organization of this Symposium, IUMS, carefully examined the conditions offered by the host country and its Government, and confirmed that the participants will be absolutely safe, with all needed facilities and conditions at their disposal, so we do believe the Symposium will be a very successful event and we warmly

recommend it to our membership.

The suggested theme:

'Solidarity, Reflection & Celebration

is interesting and inspiring and offers significant space for further developing of the inter-religious dialogue. There will be the opportunity to present the examples of good practice on the field of inter-religious work, and a number of appropriate workshops will be organized, in order to offer the participants the opportunity to have a pro-active role.

Christos invited all the participants of the Meeting to encourage their scouts of the rover section to take part at the event.

All necessary information, including application forms and hotel reservation forms will be sent to all Desmos countries soon, and all the updates will be communicated when available.

Ad. 10 – JOINT TRAINING DESMOS-ICCS IN MADABA, JORDAN, JULY 2009

As an introduction for this Item of the Agenda, Desmos President presented the general information related to the joint training DESMOS-ICCS, indicating that this idea has now come to realization, after the accord of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem and confirmation of Archimandrite Innokentios, who submitted a concrete offer to Desmos for hosting the Training in Madaba, Jordan.

Christos presented the results of the negotiations the Committee member **Naaman Shahada** had in his contacts with the Patriarchate of Jerusalem and Archimandrite Innokentios of St. George's Orthodox Centre in Madaba, Jordan, thanking Naaman for all the efforts made in order to make such an important event possible.

Desmos President said we now have the Archimandrite Innokentios' offer (The Offer was read to the Committee), which is very generous, but we still have to find the sponsorship for the amount of 1.500,- EUR requested as Desmos' participation in total cost, as well as the sponsorship for the extended programme – visit to PETRA archeological site – which includes the transportation and access Fee.



Christos said we count on full involvement and assistance of our friends The Orthodox Scouts of Amman, pointing out the importance of their presence on this Committee meeting. He invited representatives of Desmos member-country Jordan, **Emad Bosheh** and **Fadi Sabaneh**, to tell the Committee their view related to this issue.



Fadi Sabaneh confirmed the Orthodox Scouts of Amman are ready to accept the challenge and try to resolve the open issues related to the joint Training. He said they need some time in order to work on the sponsorship and find out whether it would be possible, and they will consequently inform the Committee about the results.

Besides sponsorship for covering the amount requested in the Offer and the transportation cost for the trip to Petra, they will try to get free entrance to the site. Fadi also suggested the idea to spend the night after the trip on the locality WADI RUM, which is a site in a desert, equipped with all needed facilities, enabling visitors to watch the sunset in a desert. Fadi said they will examine that option as well.

As far as the Training programme is concerned, it remains to be further discussed within the Committee, but also with our partners from ICCS. The communication and exchange on this issue will start immediately after this Committee meeting.

The optimal number of participants would be 4 participants (up to 25 years old) per country, which for 5 countries (Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestinian Authority, Syria) would be 20. With the same number from the part of ICCS, we reach the number of 40 participants. Taking into account the need to have trainers and some logistic staff, the number reaches the limit set by Archimandrite Innokentios (40-50), which is certainly in line with the capacity of the venue. The "waiting list" will be established, so if some of participating countries do not

register planned number of participants before the set deadline, the other will get the opportunity to send more participants.

In order to create a feeling of commitment among participants, it was suggested to set up a symbolic participation Fee of, for instance, 10,-EUR. The collected money, if not used for the need of the Training, might be given to charity, as Desmos contribution to some children institution in Madaba.

The suggestion of Fadi and Emad was to have the Training in Arabic language, since the participants from all the involved countries actually speak the same language.

There was a proposal to include Cyprus as the sixth country, because of its geographical proximity to the region of Middle-East. However, There is an option to include Cyprus in the other Training planned to be organized in the Balkan area, which will be held in English anyway.

The Committee agreed and Fadi Sabanekh and Emad Bosheh accepted, that one month time would be quite sufficient for The Orthodox Scouts of Amman to examine all possibilities of sponsorship and support, so the Committee expects to get the feedback by the end of March, when it will be possible to define all the details and come out with the official Invitation to participating countries. In the meantime, President and Secretary General will have contacts with the partners from ICCS in order to get their view and suggestions.

Once all the necessary elements become available and clear, The Committee will have internal exchange by e-mail in order to agree on the final document.



Ad. 11 – THE 2ND ECUMENICAL ENCOUNTER, GREECE 2010 / PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES

President **Christos Papageorgiou** explained that the idea to have the Ecumenical Encounter as a means of dialogue between Christians of different denominations was born during the World Scout Jamboree in England, UK. Since the World of Scouting already accepted before the need to have an inter-religious dialogue, it was logical to establish a dialogue between Christians as well, so the First Ecumenical Encounter was organized by ICCS, in Canterbury, England, last year. There were five different Christian denominations represented with the total of 36 participants. It was decided that Desmos will be hosting the next Ecumenical Encounter in 2010, and Greece accepted to be the host country.



The Second Ecumenical Encounter will be organized on the Day of St. Peter and St. Paul, on June 29, 2010, in Athens, at the Heel of Democracy, which is just opposite the Accropolis, and it represents a specific symbolism, because all Christians celebrate that Day and because the venue is actually the same where St. Paule gave the Christianity to the Greeks.

Generally, the event lasts 3-4 days and represents a good opportunity for a real dialogue. The point is that the dialogue does not always come from the top, It needs to have the base. And the base are scout leaders. So, we expect a fruitful exchange and interesting results of the event. There will be a Panel on how to help the youth find their way towards spirituality in Scouting, in which the representatives of different Christian churches would take part as well as representatives of faith organizations in Scouting. It is planned to publish the book afterwards with all materials and to make it available to our leaders.

When the work on the Programme of the event is done, it will be distributed to all potential participating faith organizations, at least 8 months before.

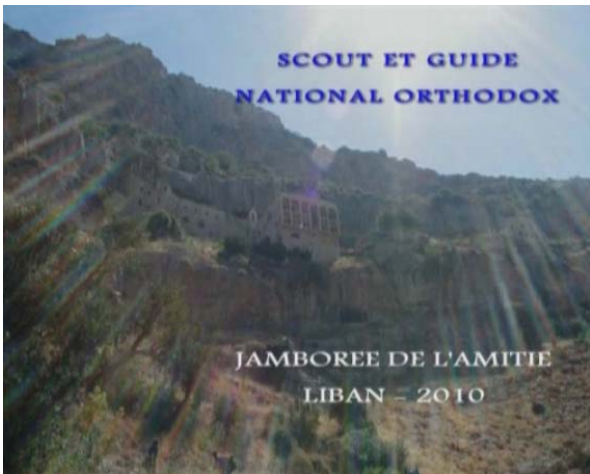
George Bahow proposed to have the Desmos Committee meeting at the same time (a day before or after) and at the same place. It could be the opportunity for the Committee meeting to attend an event like that and actually cover two events with the same transportation cost.

After checking the Desmos Constitution, it was concluded there's no obstacle to make it that way. The Committee accepted the suggestion of George Bahow and it was decided that the next Desmos Committee meeting be held in Athens, Greece, during the Second Ecumenical Encounter in 2010.

Ad. 12 – REPORTS ON DESMOS ACTIVITIES ON A NATIONAL LEVEL IN PARTICULAR COUNTRIES

LEBANON

As announced at the beginning of the Meeting, the Lebanese delegation: **Georges Abboud, Fouad Abboud** and **Joseph Chami**, presented a very nice PowerPoint presentation related to their National Jamboree in 2010.



During the year 2010 the National Orthodox Scouts Association-LEBANON will be celebrating its 40th anniversary.

For this occasion “**Jamboree de l’amitié**” will be held from the **26th of July till the 10th of August 2010** in the **Scouting Center of Smar Jbeil-North LEBANON**.

You are invited to join us in this event to celebrate our anniversary.

Program, subscription, participation fees and all related information will be communicated in the near future.

The Activities in the Jamboree: “Jamboree de l’amitié”: Big Game, Work Shop, Tourism in Lebanon, Visit to Monasteries, Water Activities, Holly Mass in four Languages, Celebration of our 40th Anniversary.

Jamboree web site: www.scoutnationalorthodoxe.org



ISRAEL

George Bahow presented The Orthodox Scout Association of Israel and the most common activities they have with scouts. George said The Orthodox Scout Association is one of the six scout organizations in Israel, forming the Federation. Last year, two new scout groups have been established in the Galilee and the total membership now reaches 2.700 Orthodox scouts. One of the regular annual activities is the summer camp, which was organized last year as well. The number of nights spent in that camp was 1650. St. George's Day is regularly celebrated, and last year there were 950 participants in the scout parade. The Patriarch of Jerusalem awarded ten of our members with a golden Holy Cross for a continuous 25-year scout service.

Ministry of education considers us as a movement and therefore we are entitled to get support from them.

The last General Assembly, elected the new leadership. Naaman and myself, we were re-elected on the same positions – Naaman for General Secretary and me for Chairman – and we shall do our best to continue our work for the benefit of our youth.

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

Maher Sahlieh presented The Palestinian Orthodox Scouts Association and the most common activities they have with scouts. Maher said The Palestinian Orthodox Scouts Association now has around 1.500 Orthodox scouts (Greek Orthodox, Syrians, Armenians, Copts, but all of the Orthodox) in 11 scout groups in all parts of Paestine (Jerusalem, West Bank, Gaza). Last year, the Association had the elections and Maher was elected to be the Association's representative at Desmos. Last year was especially rich with activities. We had regular monthly meetings, each time in another part of Palestine (with the exception of Gaza, which was a problem due to the war activities going on in that area. There was a Jamboree in Bei Jala, with 300 participants, age sections 6-25. There was also a Wood Badge course, organized for leaders. I was one of the participants myself and I got the WoodBadge there. We also had the Open Day activity, which was organized in Jerusalem, starting with a Holy Mass and continuing with different activities throughout the day. Open Day gathered some 200 scouts from all scout groups. Finally, we had a very good campaign, organized after the war in Gaza, in order to offer assistance and relief to our brothers and sisters affected by war atrocities.

SERBIA

Zoran Petrovic presented Scout Organization of Serbia and the most common activities they have with scouts. Zoran said the activity that take the most of our attention, in spite of the fact that it's in more than two year time, is the future National Jamboree, which is planned for 2011.

Last year, besides usual scout group's activities and regular summer camps, we have organized the Training of Trainers as a sub-regional event, since we invited participants from some neighbouring countries (Montenegro, FYROM, Bosnia-Herzegovina). It was at the same time a multi-cultural event, since it was organized in our Northern Province of Vojvodina, which is known as a big multi-cultural community. We have done a good work in gaining new membership in the area of western Serbia, where we have numerous Moslem population, and we're proud of our achievements in their integration in our scout units. We have organized a seminar "Learn to Live Together", offering our scouts the opportunity to develop the sense of tolerance and cohabitation. Finally, by the end of September, we always organize the event for the cub-scouts section and it was quite successful, since it brought us almost 500 new members of the youngest category.

ROMANIA



Roxana Boltasu said it is a very good for her NSO that Desmos Committee meeting is organized in Romania; she enjoyed the opportunity of organizing this event as it was an interesting and challenging opportunity for her. This is the occasion to clarify things in her country regarding Desmos mission. She said she didn't attend Desmos Committee meetings since 2004 and she now sees that Desmos made huge steps in the meantime in the sense of developping from planning to concrete actions and activities in the domain. Roxana said the following steps for her NSO to make are to build a concrete strategy for the years to come in what the religious and spiritual dimension is concerned in Romanian scouting by establishing a working group, a Team, in order to start introducing Desmos philosophy in phases, with concrete objectives and activities.

What needs to be done is to explain to the entire NSO and especially to the people working at the national level what Desmos is and what it is doing and in what way it can support the association develop the spiritual and religious dimension in Scouting.

Afterwards Desmos will be promoted among all scouts by initiating diverse activities that they can join. Roxana stated that in Romanian scouting there are more activities related to the spiritual dimension in comparison to the religious dimension. This should be balanced in the near future in order to have an equal approach. She added she has to promote Desmos and its approach, since it's not visible enough in Romania. Christos Papageorgiou and Marko Petrovic offered all needed assistance and said all the Committee will be available for whatever Roxana might need in fulfilling the important task she accepted.

GREECE

Vassilis Birtsas presented the Scouts of Greece and the most common activities they have with scouts. Speaking about the activities in 2008, Vassilis pointed out the importance of the visit to the Ecumenical Patriarch made by the Desmos President and the President of "Friends of Desmos in Greece", in which he participated on behalf of the Scouts of Greece.

Vassilis said that scouts of Greece organized a Memorial visit in June paying tribute to the scouts and leaders of two villages near Izmir, in Turkey, who were killed because they did not accept to change their religion, in 1919. In Izmir, they participated to the Holy Liturgy and had a meeting with The Ecumenical Patriarch.

There was a meeting in Jerusalem, between Palestinian and Greek scouts, who were in there to follow the holy light from Jerusalem to Athens, Greece.

The Thinking Day, this year, will be devoted to a campaign, aiming to collect things for children affected by the war, with the focus on children of the Gaza Strip, who recently passed a horrible war experience.

Vassilis said Scouts of Greece have a Scout Magazine, as well as an on-line newsletter of International Department, which regularly covers all Desmos activities and spiritual activities in general.

Scouts of Greece are in preparations for the National Jamboree in 2010, which will be the opportunity to invite participants from Desmos countries. All details will be communicated later this year.

CYPRUS

Nicolaos Mitsides presented the Scouts of Cyprus and some of the activities they have with scouts. Nicolaos said he brings the greetings of the General Commissioner of the Scouts of Cyprus and his readiness to welcome Desmos in Cyprus for whatever activity needed, whether it is the Committee meeting or something else. Nicolaos said he also brings greetings from former Desmos Treasurer, Mr. Christos Marneros, who called him by phone and asked to deliver his best wishes to the Committee.

Scouts of Cyprus are facing the elections in a few months, so Nicolaos was not ready to speak about future activities, but he presented one interesting activity, which is organized in Cyprus on a regular bases – the celebration of St. Georges Day, for which occasion they produce each year a scout badge with St. Georges, but each time they change some details of the background and graphic elements indicating the scout District. The celebration of St. George's Day is very well attended in Cyprus, with participation of both State and Church officials.

MOLDOVA

Vladimir Vlas and **Marianna Purcel** presented National Association of Moldovian Scouts and the most common activities they have with scouts.



President Vladimir Vlas expressed thanks to Roxana and the NSO of Romania for the invitation to come to Desmos Committee meeting.

He said, unfortunately, the scouts in Moldova are not informed at all about Desmos and he and Marianna will be the first ones to spread the information about the Link. Vladimir also said that it is more or less the situation with the entire EuroAsia scout region.

Vladimir said they are making efforts to improve spiritual and religious dimension in all scout activities they have in Moldova. Indeed, we do not have direct relations between the Church Headquarters and our scout groups. They even do not recognize our

organization. But we do have good connections between our scout groups and local churches, since the priests give their blessing for our activities and quite often take part at our camps. A week ago, seven priests came to our NSO and expressed desire to establish their own scout group with their children and children of others working for the Church.

President Vladimir said he hopes the relation of his NSO and Desmos would improve and become stronger. Furthermore – President Vladimir Vlas said – Moldavian scouts would be happy to be a sort of Desmos bridge towards the rest of EuroAsia scout region.

Regarding establishing of new groups, Desmos President said the most important thing is to be sure the new groups would be, first of all, scout groups, not just the religious ones.

Regarding Moldavian offer to be a Desmos bridge towards other NSO's in EuroAsia scout region, Christos Papageorgiou said it's a very good news from Moldavia. Christos expressed thanks to President Vladimir Vlas for his initiative and said Desmos is ready to be present at the Scout Conference of EuroAsia if being invited, as well as to offer any assistance needed.

Ad. 13 – ENLARGING DESMOS / MEMBERSHIP GROWTH / HOW TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN NEW MEMBER-COUNTRIES

Secretary General, **Marko Petrovic**, said this item was suggested for the Agenda of the Meeting, because of the extreme importance of the issue, since the policy of Desmos is to retain the existing membership and furthermore - to move forward and assure the membership growth. Of course, it is not likely that anything concrete can be concluded during this meeting, but it should be the permanent task of the entire Committee.

It was mentioned during the Meeting by Roxana and Vladimir that there is a lack of information about Desmos in their countries and it is obviously the case with many other countries.

Therefore, we firstly need to make a more aggressive approach in terms of distributing the info about our Link and then we need to find the way how to retain the existing members. The best way would be by keeping them busy with particular tasks. We must bring some of our member-countries from passive to active mode.

Desmos President, **Christos Papageorgiou**, added that the problem is mostly with the countries that do not take part at World events (world scout conferences, world scout jamborees...). Those are mainly the countries from Africa and EuroAsia. If the countries that come to such events would be present there just one day earlier, they would be able to attend Desmos Conference as well and thus be informed what was happening the previous three years. We should keep insisting on as better as possible attendance for our conferences and on the other hand, by organizing interesting activities during great world events, we create a good basis for lots of our friends that show for the first time to appear again, knowing that Desmos means not only conferences and meetings, but also concrete activities for scouts.

President of Moldovian Scouts, **Vladimir Vlas**, said he will use the opportunity of the Regional EuroAsia Committee Meeting, which is in April, to inform them about Desmos and its efforts in helping development of the spiritual dimension in Scouting.

Ad. 14 – FRIENDS OF DESMOS – GREEK EXAMPLE OF GOOD PRACTICE

Desmos Secretary General made a short introduction, pointing out the example of good practice done in Greece, which should certainly be followed by other Desmos countries. Establishing of the “Friends of Desmos in Greece” association proved to be an excellent solution for resolving at least one part of the financial problems we are facing, and it is really something we should all think about.



Desmos President, Christos Papageorgiou, explained how the “Friends of Desmos in Greece” was born. He said it was obvious that sporadic individual contributions were not enough to resolve financial problems of Desmos, so it was necessary to find the way of regular and sustainable financing. “Friends of Desmos in Greece” was established as a legal entity, with its Constitution and, of course, with its membership, which at the moment is 50 persons. They pay the annual Fee of 50,-EUR, which already makes the amount of 2.500,-EUR, as a permanent annual income. Furthermore, we get the sponsorship from some banks. For instance, last year, we got the sponsorship of 2.000,-EUR from ALPHA Bank. Then, we get the income by Offers. The habit in Greece is to give some money for a specific cause when someone dies, instead of sending flowers, etc. This way, we got last year the amount of 1450,-EUR. Then, we organize nice gala-diners twice a year with a lottery, and we got 2.550,-EUR on such occasions. So, step by step, the “Friends of Desmos in Greece” is managing to provide certain amount of money, which is of great help for Desmos. The total income last year was 6.382,35 EUR, and the expenditures were around 5.800,-EUR. The estimation of budget for 2009 extends to 10.000, -EUR, so it is a serious amount of money we are dealing with in the “Friends of Desmos in Greece”. How are we going to achieve it. We ask all our members to bring three new members till the end of the year. Thus, we shall have 200 members instead of 50. And it means more money.

This is just an example, and you can try to establish something similar in your countries, adapting the idea to your local conditions. There is something, which can be helpful to you, and it is the translation into English of the Statute of the "Friends of Desmos in Greece" association, done by former Desmos Treasurer Mr. Christos Marneros. Certainly, the law is not the same in all countries, but this can at least give you the idea how it can be organized. The document is in hard-copy form, but it will be scanned and sent to all the participants of the Meeting.

You are all encouraged to try to do something similar in your countries. It will certainly be of great help for realization of your activities.

Ad. 15 – DISCUSSION ON DESMOS PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS / DESMOS NEWSLETTER

In the introduction to this item, Desmos President and Desmos Secretary General pointed out the importance of having an appropriate promotional material, especially the NewsLetter, as a regular info-tool, which we have been trying to establish already for quite some time. The first and indispensable step in that direction is the information coming from Desmos member countries and it is actually something that we did not have in the previous period.

Desmos President, **Christos Papageorgiou**, reminded that the activities we shall present in the NewsLetter will be the best promotion of our Link and of what we are doing. It means new potential members. It means recognition for our efforts. That's why it is so important.

He also said that we should try to influence people in charge for scout info's in our NSO's to include in their editions some of the news related to Desmos activities. This is something usual in Greece and Cyprus, for instance. It may be so in other countries as well.

Desmos Vice-President, Maher Sahlieh, who was in charge of setting up the NewsLetter in the previous period, emphasized this element too. He said, he never got any single material and thus was not able to do anything about it. Maher invited all the Committee members and representatives of member-countries to accept the fact that communication is essential, to make efforts and send materials about activities in their associations, so we could finally establish the NewsLetter.

Fadi SabaneKh from Jordan proposed to think about introducing different languages in our NewsLetter, since it can make it more interesting and at the same time easier for young people that speak only the language of their own country. For instance, some articles may be in Arabic, some in Greek, some in Serbian... It could be useful for learning a foreign language, it may incite our children to do so. On the other hand, it would certainly reflect the diversity we have in our Link.

Desmos Secretary General, **Marko Petrovic**, emphasized once again the importance of Communications within the Link and invited all to cooperate in this matter.

Marko reminded that lots of what was previously said also refers to the web site. Web site also needs updating, it needs the information coming from member-countries, especially those about activities, which is still the only empty segment. It is important to have a good, regularly updated web site – it's an easy opportunity to quickly access a number of useful materials and information, and it is at the same time our window towards the others, a window without curtains and always open...

Ad. 16 – The activities foreseen in the forthcoming period / Establishing of the Task-force Aiming to prepare Desmos participation on the next WSJ in Sweden, 2011

The focus was on the activities foreseen in 2009. The first one – the Joint Training DESMOS-ICCS in Madaba was discussed in details within the particular item of the Agenda.

The other Training, planned to be organized in Serbia for Desmos member-countries from the Balkan region, will be held in September 2009, and all the details will be communicated by the Committee member Zoran Petrovic, until the end of March 2009.

The RoverWay 2009, remains an unclear issue, since the organizers did not make any specific programme proposal for the spiritual dimension at that event. Desmos Secretary General will try to find out what is happening through e-mail communication and the Committee will be updated, so we could agree about eventual Desmos participation.

The 3rd World Scout Inter-religious Symposium in Uganda was also discussed within the specific item of the Agenda. It was also said that the Committee members and Desmos member-countries' representatives will get the WSYS materials after this Meeting, by e-mail, in order to be able to make proper planning.

The Committee decided to establish a Task Force for preparatory activities for the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden. The Task Force will consist of Christos Papageorgiou, Marko Petrovic and Vassilis Birtsas and the other Committee members will give their contribution in accordance with the need.

Ad. 17 – VARIOUS ISSUES

Within this Agenda item, Vassilis Birtsas presented to the Committee a very nice PowerPoint presentation on Founder's life, as Desmos Contribution to celebration of the tomorrow's Thinking Day.



The participants of the Meeting also used the opportunity to wish **MANY HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY** to the Desmos Treasurer, Mr. Nicolaos Mitsides, whose birthday was on that Saturday, February 21.

The Meeting was closed around 19h00.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Upon Arrival to Bucharest, the participants of the Meeting were met at the airport and on the train station and brought to the Romanian NSO's Headquarters Office, where the hosts offered sandwiches, coffee, tea and soft drinks. There, we could meet the representatives of the "Cercetasii Romaniei", who were very kind and ready to offer details on their organization. Later on, a walk around the central Buccarest was organized, before going to the reception in the Romanian Orthodox Church Patriarchate.



In the Patriarchate building, Desmos delegation first met the President of the Romanian National Scout Organization, **Mr. Alexandru Moldovan**, with whom we had a friendly talk about Scouting in Romania and about Desmos as The Link with consultative status with WOSM. Desmos President Christos Papageorgiou offered to President Alexandru Moldovan a small gift, as a souvenir to the Desmos Committee Meeting in Romania and asked him kindly to keep on supporting Desmos efforts in Romania.



Desmos delegation was then received by Bishop Vicar of The Romanian Patriarchy, **Ciprian Campineanu**, who warmly welcomed Desmos representatives to Romania and said His Beatitude The Patriarch Daniel was busy and not able to receive the delegation Himself.

Bishop Vicar Ciprian Campineanu presented the short history of the Romanian Orthodox Church, pointing out the main aspects and challenges this institution is facing nowadays.

Desmos President presented to Bishop Vicar Ciprian Campineanu The International link of Orthodox Christian Scouts and explained the aims and objectives of Desmos, our Mission and Vision, as well as the activities we are conducting on national, regional and international level.



After visiting The Patriarchate, participants of Desmos Committee Meeting started the trip to Monastery Tismana. The trip was long but it enabled Desmos Committee members and guests from Desmos member countries to watch the landscapes and get acquainted with the interior of Romania. The group arrived to the destination in the evening.



The next day, short time available for free activities was used for looking around the Monastery land and facilities and after the Meeting, in the evening, the Group visited the Monastery complex and the Church, and was presented the facts about that extraordinary Monastery, which was built back in XIV century. One of the nuns was explaining in details the history and responded to various questions of the Meeting participants. Desmos representatives expressed to the **Mother Superiour Ierusalima** the gratitude for hosting the event and offered her some presents.

The Monastery complex is very nice and in perfect harmony with the surrounding nature.

The winter time gives the entire environment a special atmosphere, which everybody was fond of, in spite of the fact that it was very cold.



On Saturday evening, after visiting the Monastery complex, the Desmos group visited the village **Topesti** and the Community Center for Local Traditional Activities, where we had the opportunity to see the results of children art-work. It was amazing what those children were able to create, so the participants of Desmos Committee meeting really enjoyed.

The end of the evening was marked by a fascinating folkloric dances and songs performed by children of the village.

On Sunday morning, Desmos group left Monastery Tismana. Before heading towards Buccuresti, the participants of Desmos Committee meeting visited the Town Hall in TARGU-JIU, where the Vice-Mayor, **Roman Bărbuți Ion**, received the delegation.



DESMOS EXPRESSES GRATITUDE TO THE ROMANIAN NSO "CERCETASII ROMANIEI" FOR SUPPORTING THE MEETING, TO ROXANA BOLTASU FOR ORGANIZING EVERYTHING AND TO MOTHER SUPERIOR IERUSALIMA AND SISTERHOOD OF THE MONASTERY TISMANA FOR HOSTING THE MEETING.

PRAYER

Lord,

Through the dim light that the sundown spreads, give us across praying Your opening to dream and hope.

Life is a fierce waterfall and we are slopped in the same mass of human material, fortunately not impersonally, for we react in our own way.

Give us the strength to imprint the world with our own ability and to make our times Your times, by giving the struggle in the same arena.

We can see in Your face our generation and the generations to come, for you live eternally.

Give us the strength to begin a dialogue with You. To castigate our mistaken paces and to place our luggage in the vehicle of hope.

We lift on our shoulders the historical responsibilities and on the blank book of the third millennium we will write the first lines. Help so that they will be carved with Your inspirations and the never setting light of Your cross.

We are bound to You. We commence in life our own march and we bind our hands and soul to your bonds, thus creating earthly links of solidarity.

We travel far, we search for the origins of the problems of this era, that have passed through the chain of generations, and we are making efforts to find the causes of our century's crisis.

Our ideological content has not been defined.

Help us O Lord to provide to the ideological stigma of our generation Your Name, to speak and to express ourselves about the great bulk of our problems. To confide in You the changes we are aiming to come in the future. To dispute the traditional transcriptions of the error's practice and to deliver the despair to the emptiness and the darkness of chaos.

With the rush of an immature child we have vanished the goods of our planet, and now with the senility of a decadent old person we try to derive the agony of the survival from the bowels of the earth.

We have exaggerated O Lord, and we have turned our fleshy machines into machinery of steal, discrediting Your residence. We have created consuming ideals and we have sent the messages to all latitudes. This seclusion from your Name we will re-establish with Your help, drawing from the channels of the spiritual creation, we, the Scouts of the good and human goals, for Your Sacred Name.

The instigators of the generations' madness are succeeded by the cunning ones of our personal numbness. We are going to oppose the vigorous affirmation to the mystery of life. As we are already filled with hope, we cease to fear the confrontation between life and death.

We renounce in Your Name the political ideologies, which were formed not by the standards of love on the human relation and existence, but by the interest and the expediency. They will never succeed in penetrating our hearts which are armoured with Your spirit.

We are roused by the yearning for the search of the truth and it takes us to the port of tranquillity.

We have met and felt sorry for the hungry in the valley of the earthly death. They occupy the 2/3 (two thirds) of the earth's Crust. They are the bitterness in the mouthful of our bread. Your justice inflicts another deal of the bread of the people. It will derive from the right division of labour to Your children. This is what we are looking for, Lord, and we are anguishing to organize our life within the light of your teachings.

With naivety and hidden hope we accepted the Message. Scouts of honour and Your innocent children, we, seek the ways to turn around the struggle of the weak and to help our brothers and Your children to escape from the hulks of poverty and degradation. Help us to make the leap from corruption to quality.

Every day we accumulate dead material in the ocean of consumption, which we see, we take pride in it and we fix our attention on it. Help us to see through your spirit and your breath the racket of production and consumption, to harness our aims to the improvement of our brothers' life. Help us to illuminate the system so as to stop functioning conventionally and mechanically. We know well that systems cannot cover up the human absence and it's not only in Your name that we gain the ability to immobilize Evil. Make it so that we get stronger and allow to the silenced voices of truth to speak, instigating the disappointed consciences of Your children. Call us up to the camp of Peace. Help us to bear the bulk of guilt and to stop the massive carriage of people towards the shadow of death. Your truth is the harsh critic on the devastating fury of the grand of this earth.

Arm us with the word of Your love.

Through our scout principals, which remain the same throughout the ages and transmit their own intellectual dimension, let our move to be the link of unity between the young in all of the world. Your voice Lord is a voice of guidance through the centuries.

AMEN.