

**Welcome Address**  
**To the participants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ecumenical Encounter,**  
**Athens, Greece, October 15-17, 2010**



**George Hourdakis**  
**Vice Chairman, Soma Hellinon Proskopon (Scouts of Greece)**

Your Excellencies, dear Professor, distinguish guests  
Dear brothers and sisters in Scouting,

On behalf of Soma Hellinon Proskopon, I would like to welcome you to Greece and to the hospitable grounds of the InterOrthodox Centre of the Church of Greece, a familiar place to a lot of us, bringing back fond memories as 13 years ago we held the 1<sup>st</sup> Constitutional Conference of DESMOS.

Since then we went a long way, both in distance as well as in deeds. Thanks to the hard work of all the people that worked in the Committee, under the leadership of the chairman of DESMOS Mr. Christos Papageorgiou and the Secretary General Marko Petrovic, we now have 27 members in all 6 Regions of WOSM.

A few years ago we celebrated 100 years of Scouting. It was created and still exists because it fulfilled a need in the society. The big question is whether 100 years later the society, still needs Scouting.

The last few years we are all facing a global financial crises with huge consequences in many countries affecting the lives of millions of people.

Today with the clouds of the crises still hanging on the sky, more and more people, leaders of the world, intellectuals, businessmen, journalists declare that the problem is not only financial or economic, but it is more an issue of values and attitudes.

Scouting as a value based Educational Movement with about 32 million members has a lot to offer the world, and DESMOS together with our brothers and sisters from ICCS and the other faith organizations of WOSM has a key role to play.

I wish every success to the 2 Ecumenical Encounter.

Your Excellencies and dear Professor, I would like to thank you for your presence here as well as your blessing.

Thank you.

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