

ISGF

International Scout and Guide Fellowship
(An organization for adults)



AISG

Amitié Internationale Scoute et Guide
(Une organisation pour adultes)

EUROPE REGION/RÉGION EUROPE

Wednesday 21st August 2019

1.0 Welcome

1.1 Rainer Nalazek (Dada), member of the organizing committee, welcomed all to the Conference.

1.2 The flags of all countries present were processed through the hall and displayed at the back of the stage.

1.3. Scouts of “Stamm Lesmona (BdP Bund der Pfadfinderinnen und Pfadfinder)” from Bremen sang some Scouting songs.

1.4 The new President of the Citizenship of Bremen, Frank Imhoff, welcomed the conference to the town of Bremen. He talked about the fairy tale of “the town musicians of Bremen”: he compared them to Scouts, because they were open to all, they hiked and slept on a campsite, they preferred learning by doing and they all had an individual development plan.

1.5 After that Henning Scherf, former mayor of Bremen, welcomed all to Bremen as well. He spoke about Bremen and Gdansk (Poland) as sister cities and that this partnership had been supported by Scouts in former times.

1.6 Two representatives of the Scouting organisation BdP named Maren and Wiesel, also welcomed the Europe Conference to Bremen.

1.7 Also welcoming the Europe Conference to Bremen was Manne Bosse. He was dressed as a “Hanseat” and spoke in a northern German dialect.

1.8 Helmut Reitberger, Patron of the conference and President of VDAPG (German NSGF), added his welcome. He was proud that 180 participants from 23 countries participated in the Europe Conference.

1.9 Doris Stockmann, Chair of the Europe Committee, welcomed the participants and thanked all the conference organizing committee and the conference centre team. She talked about the history of ISGF and listed every Europe Conference that had taken place since 1990. She asked for countries to be candidates for the organisation of the 11th Europe Conference in 2022 and suggested collaboration (if needed) of two or more countries. She invited everyone to take the opportunity of talking to each other and of finding new ways of working.

1.10 The theatre group “Interaktivo” presented the fairy tale of “the town musicians of Bremen”.

1.11. Helmut Reitberger commented on the theme of the conference “Diversity”: BP’s ideas are as relevant today as they were in former times. We now understand diversity as enrichment - instead of radicalisation and national egoisms.

Nowadays we need to overcome social boundaries. We need teambuilding and tolerance. According to BP we should try to leave our world a little bit better than we found it.

Thursday, 22nd August 2019

2.0 Reflections:

2.1 Germany presented the morning reflections and a short briefing for the day. The morning reflections were about today being International Day of the Victims of Religious Persecution – including a minute of silence.

3.0 Workshops

3.1 The participants took part in workshops about “Diversity”. They discussed different questions and designed 10 different posters about:

- Coexistence of generations
- Respect for different ethnic groups, cultures and origins

- Tolerance for religions
- Tolerance for different sexual orientations
- Inclusion of handicapped people

4.0 Reception at the Bremen Town Hall

4.1 The mayor of Bremen had invited the participants of the Europe Conference to the town hall, where Henning Scherf, former mayor of Bremen, welcomed the guests. He especially welcomed Doris Stockmann, Chair of Europe Committee, Helmut Reitberger, Chair of the German NSGF (VDAPG) and Runar Bakke, member of the WCom.

4.2 Mr Scherf gave a short talk about the history of Bremen and its town hall. The historical town hall is more than 600 years old and is nowadays a World Heritage site. Bremen is a free Hanseatic city. During the 17th century Bremen's independence was fixed with a document called "Linzer Diplom".

4.3 Helmut Reitberger, Chair of VDAPG, thanked Mr Scherf for his hospitality and presented him with the official conference badge.

4.4 Dalia Taralliene, representative of Lithuania, thanked Bremen for assistance in obtaining independence. She presented a book about Lithuania to Mr Scherf.

4.5 Doris Stockmann, Chair of Europe Committee, thanked Mr Scherf as well. She presented him with several ISGF booklets and an ISGF scarf.

4.6 Finally the Europe Conference had the opportunity to visit the historical town hall. Mr Scherf explained the old paintings and frescos.

Friday, 23th August 2019

Day of excursion to Bremerhaven. The following attractions could be chosen:

- House of emigrants
- House of climate
- German shipping museum
- Zoo of the sea
- Fishing harbour

Saturday, 24th August 2019

5.0 Conference Opening:

5.1 Doris Stockmann, Chair of the Europe Committee, welcomed all to the working part of the Conference.

5.2 The Roll Call was taken, with 23 countries present and 4 giving proxy votes, making a total of 108 votes. The Conference was declared quorate. The voting cards were given out.

5.3 The Europe Committee proposed Jane Wardropper and Gaby Reitberger to be Chair and Vice-Chair of the conference and both were elected.

5.4 Jane and Gaby took their seats on the stage.

5.5 The Europe Committee proposed as the secretary to the Europe Conference: Ana Rodrigues and Angela Stroeter. This was accepted by the Conference.

5.6 The Rules of Procedure had previously been circulated and were proposed and accepted by the Conference.

5.7 Three tellers, Hans Enzinger, Ralf Jäger and Andeas Schumann, - proposed by the German organizing committee - were accepted by the Conference.

5.8 A Minute of Silence was kept for those who have gone.

5.9 The proposed agenda for the conference was sent in advance and was approved by the Conference.

6. Greetings from the World Committee:

6.1 Runar Bakke greeted the Conference on behalf of the World Committee. This is a brief summary of his speech: Europe is the engine of ISGF, because most of the members of ISGF live in Europe and pay most of the fees. Of course, we need to increase membership in order to do all the projects that are needed. Nathalie Henrard, Secretary General of ISGF, is

becoming more and more familiar with the matters of ISGF. There is a lot of work to do at the World Bureau. Actually, we need two employees but it is already hard to pay one salary. That is why it is necessary for every member to pay the fee and to increase the number of paying members. Otherwise it will be necessary to increase the subscription rate. Europe has 44% of the world members; Europe must be the engine to push forward the ISGF in other regions.

John F. Kennedy said: "You should not ask what your country can do for you? You should ask what you can do for our country", we should substitute the word ISGF for country;

Runar thanked the Spanish team for being busy with preparations for the next World Conference. Even the King and the Queen of Spain have invited ISGF to come to Spain. The next World Conference will take place 17th – 22nd August in Madrid.

The motto "Diversity" of this Europe Conference is a challenge because everyone wants to change the world – but they don't want to change themselves. This is the reason for needing younger members with new ideas.

Runar thanked the European members for being a good example. He is confident Europe Region will keep up the good work of ISGF.

The Conference Chair thanked Runar for his speech and comments about the strengths of the Europe Region. Europe has been aware of the need for recruitment for the last couple of years, nevertheless she thanked Runar for the reminder and his concern towards Europe.

7.0 Triennial Report of the Europe Committee (Document 2):

7.1 The Triennial Report was sent previously. Doris Stockmann, Chair of Europe Committee, gave a short photographic presentation about events held, and asked the assembly to send in articles for the next newsletters to their representative. The Conference approved this report.

8.0 Financial Report of the retiring Europe Committee (Document 3):

8.1 The Financial Report was sent previously. Pierre Decoene, Treasurer, highlighted the main points of income and expenditure, explained the membership fees and noted that he already received some fees in cash. The Conference approved this report.

9.0 Auditor's Report (Document 4):

9.1 The Auditor's Report was sent previously. Pierre thanked Ingrid Danstrup (Denmark) and Hansjörg Hirt (Switzerland) for their work as auditors. The Conference approved this report.

10.0 Budget for the next Triennium (Document 5)

10.1 Pierre Decoene presented a suggested Budget to the Europe Conference. There was a miscalculation on the budget for 2019 ($2.000 + 25 + 100 = 2.125$ Euro), highlighted by the Norway delegation.

It was brought to the attention of the Conference that document 5 was misfiled in the document folder. Cyprus asked about the projects that had applied for grants if the countries who presented a project had been informed about the final decision; Pierre said, not yet, only when the Europe Committee get the money from the World Com. The budget for those projects will be given by the World Committee, so that the budget for 2019 is 2.500 Euro higher than suggested. The budget – including the correction of the miscalculation - was approved by the Conference.

10.2 The system for calculating the membership fees was suggested to remain the same as the system for the period before. This was approved by the Conference.

11.0 Plans for the next three years 2019 – 2021 (Document 6)

11.1 Ana Rodrigues presented the plans for the next triennium. There were some questions about contacts with WOSM and WAGGGS. On the website of ISGF you can find a kit called "activities". There are some ideas and suggestions for increasing the membership and for getting into contact with younger Scouts / Guides. Some countries did take the floor:

Denmark said "we need the sparkle, inspiration from the Europe Committee"; Germany asked for contacts with WAGGGS and WOSM; France : Jean-François said that we are living with the "missing generation" in ISGF and that contacts with WAGGGS and WOSM should be done firstly nationally; Spain asked how "is it possible that there are no contacts between

ISGF/WAGGGS/WOSM when the Europe Committee has someone assigned for it”; France: Martine reminded us about the document “Step by step”, which allows NSGF’s to find activities with youth organizations;
After a brief discussion the plans were approved by the Conference.

12.0 World Committee Presentation:

12.1 Mario Bertagnolio, member of the World Committee, spoke about global warming. He appealed to all of us to take our responsibility for the planet seriously, especially to save it for the next generations. (please see speech attached)

13.0 Ambassadors Guild (IAG):

13.1 Nana Gentimi introduced the Ambassadors Guild, explained how to be a member and advised that the Guild currently has more than 160 members.

Nana remembers the loss of Jean Vandervelden, founder of the IAG, who died this past July. The new members were presented as well as the new Board.

13.2 In 2018 the 20th anniversary of the formation of the Guild was celebrated in Belgium (Brussels and Gent).

13.3 During the period 2017 / 2018 two projects were supported. On one hand support was given to the group of the Nairobi slum. On the other hand, a grant was given for continuing the construction of Kimo N’Guessan Centre in Agboville, Ivory Coast.

13.4 For the period 2018 / 2019 the General Assembly has decided to support Scout and Guide groups working on environmental projects. The first application came from Romania for a training course for adult leaders in Guiding and Scouting according to the motto: 100% green. Another project is a Norwegian environment project with African partners. The support is to pay for the travelling expenses of the African participants.

13.5 Every member of the Ambassadors Guild is asked to recruit new members in order to increase the Ambassadors Guild. The more money IAG has the more worthwhile projects can be supported.

14.0 Country Presentations:

14.1 Presentations were made by Austria, Czech Republic, Finland, Denmark, France, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Netherlands (Central Branch), Norway, Portugal, Romania and Spain. They showed very different projects that prove the diversity of ISGF. E.g. there are projects of social engagement, environment projects and more. Portugal invited the European members to a workshop from 27th to 31st March 2020 at Porto city. Spain updated the information about the WConf 17th – 22nd August 2020 in Madrid.

15.0 Roll Call:

15.1 A roll call was made, and the session declared quorate.

16.0 Amendment to the Constitution:

16.1 Amendment to the Constitution proposed by the European Committee:

16.1.1 Add the following to Article 8.1

“A retiring member shall be eligible for re-election after a lapse of one triennium.”

The amendment was carried by 2/3 majority.

16.1.2 Add the following to Article 12.1

“A proposal can only be submitted by a Europe Region member country and it has the requirement that it must be seconded by another Europe region member country.”

Europe Committee proposed these motions, and no seconder was required. There were no questions and this motion was carried by a 2/3 majority as well.

16.2 Amendment to the Constitution proposed by Spain and seconded by Turkey

- Change Article 6.1 into:

“The European region committee is the executive body. Its membership consist of 6 members, each with voting rights, and at no time shall more than one elected member from any NSGF serve on the European Region Committee. The procedure to elect the members on the European Region Committee is the same as the one to elect the members of the ISGF World Committee”

This amendment was rejected; there was no 2/3 majority.

- Add a new Article:

“Two substitute members of the European Region Committee elected by the European Region Conference should be available to cover any possible vacancies due to resignation, long illness or death of any of the members of the European Region Committee in case that the vacancy period is longer than one year.”

This amendment was rejected; there was no 2/3 majority.

- Change Article 7.1 into:

“The European Region Committee shall designate the following main responsibilities among its members:

- Chairman
- Vice Chairman
- Secretary and communication Manager
- Treasurer
- Projects and membership development
- Strategic partnership and Training”

This amendment was rejected; there was no 2/3 majority.

17.0 Proposal for a new letter head (Document 8):

17.1 A proposal by the Europe Committee for a new letterhead was very similar to the logo of ISGF. Czech Republic offered three different proposals. The idea was to include the silhouette of Europe, four stars according to the four sub regions and the logo of IGSF. The preferred proposal of the Czech Republic was proposal no.1

There were several comments on the proposed logos.

17.2 Voting took place:

Proposal of Europe Committee: high majority

Proposal of Czech Republic: no votes

The Europe Committee proposal passed by majority.

18.0 Auditor for the next Triennium:

18.1 Ingrid Danstrup had indicated that she would like to stand down from this role and a successor was requested. Hansjörg Hirt from Switzerland would remain as an Auditor. Three names (Juan Davila, Lucienne Chapron and Willy Limbosch were suggested. Juan Davila and Lucienne Chapron withdrew).

Willy Limbosch was elected to be the new auditor of the European Region by a majority.

19.0 Motions:

19.1 Motions by Spain

- Motion 1: Policy making:

Spain propose that NGSFs can bring to the table policy making proposals, release of declarations and statements referring to some important point of interest: support of Scouting and Guiding, membership growth and development path, social engagement – including immigration culture, education, solidarity etc. – and any other important subject related to the mission and vision of ISGF in Europe and worldwide.

- Motion 2: European network of national/international museums, camping sites and training centres:

Considering that any NSGF have founded over the years museums, camping sites and training centres across the continent, we propose to create a network that encourages and stimulates us to strongly support each other by exchanging good practices, joint activities and projects with the aim to increase our visibility and to promote our organisation not only at local or national level, but European level.

- Motion 3: European network of NSGF shops:

Considering that many NSGFs produce locally/nationally merchandising products that often compete in quality and variety with those ones sold at the ISGF World Bureau, we propose a European network of shops in order to reduce costs and production times, simplify distribution and delivery, and increase visibility not only in our countries, but also at European level and in support of ISGF worldwide. The Spanish delegation withdrew these three proposals.

20.0 Presentations by countries offering to host the 2022 European Region Conference:

20.1 Denmark invited European Region for the next Conference in 2022.

21.0 Voting for host of next Conference:

21.1 Denmark was elected to host the next European Conference by a great majority.

22.0 Further presentations:

22.1 Central Europe Sub-Region: Gathering 5 – 12 June 2020 in Gdansk (Poland)

23.0 New European Committee:

23.1 Doris Stockmann thanked the organizing committee, all supporters of the Europe Conference and the retiring members of the committee.

23.2 The new European Committee is:

Pierre Decoene (WESR) – Chair and Treasurer

Hans Slanec (CESR) – Vice Chair and contacts with youth organisations

Ana Rodrigues (SESR) - PR

Lena Claesson (NESR) - Secretary

24.0 Thanks and Conference Close:

24.1 Pierre Decoene thanked Doris Stockmann and Angela Dernbach as retiring committee members; and he looked forward to the collaboration with the new Europe Committee members.

24.2 Jane Wardropper thanked the German organizing committee, Doris Stockmann and her team and everybody who supported the conference.

24.3 The Finnish delegation thanked Doris Stockmann and the German team.

24.4. The French delegation thanked Doris Stockmann and the German team as well.

24.5. The delegate of Lithuania thanked Doris Stockmann, Jane Wardropper, Pierre Decoene and Angela Dernbach for their very good work.

24.6 Helmut Reitberger, Chair of the German NSGF, thanked all participants for their respectful and appreciative dealing with each other. He is lucky because it was a great meeting. He thanked the translators for their very good work.

24.7 The picture of the town musicians of Bremen was auctioned.

24.8 Jane Wardropper closed the conference and wished the participants a safe journey home.

25.0 Closing Ceremony

The German delegation passed the ISGF flag to the Danish delegation who will host the next European Conference in 2022.

Jane H. Wardropper

Jane Wardropper
Conference Chairman

Gaby Reitberger

Gaby Reitberger
Vice Conference Chairman