

## EUROPE REGION / RÉGION EUROPE

# Minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> Europe Region Conference Tours, France, 12-14<sup>th</sup> September 2016

### Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September

#### 1. Welcome

- 1.1 Martine Levy, Chair of the Organising 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 All participants then stood and renewed their Scouting/Guiding promise, each in his/her own language.
- 1.4 There followed one minute's silence in honour of departed friends. We particularly remembered: Kalique *Abdul Mohammad* (Bangladesh) World Committee Member, Ricardo Della Rocca (Italy) former President of the World Committee, June Clark (UK), Solveig Hillbro (Sweden), Yves Zacchi (France), Jean-Claude Monte (France), Emile Visseaux (France), Desz'o'Somagyi (Hungary) and Marianne Bosshardt (Switzerland).
- 1.5 The Deputy Mayor, Mme Garanger, welcomed the conference to the town of Tours.
- 1.6 Mme Chevillard, representing the President of the Council of the Department, also welcomed us to Tours.
- 1.7 Jean-Jaques Gauthe, President of FAAS, added his welcome.
- 1.8 Martine thanked all the conference organising committee and the Vinci Conference Centre team.

#### 2. World Committee Greetings:

- 2.1 Nana Gentimi, vice chair of the World Committee (WCom), offered warm regards from Mida Rodrigues, WCom Chair; thanked the Deputy Mayor and other honoured guests; introduced the other two WCom members present, Runar Bakke (with overall responsibility for Europe) and Virginia Bonasegale (with responsibility for Southern Europe and PR); welcomed new friends, especially Nepal who may become a member of ISGF soon; and thanked the FAAS organising committee.
- 2.2 Runar Bakke commented that the theme of the conference, Peace, is to build bridges between all people – BP's ideas are as relevant today as they were at the first camp on Brownsea Island. Jamborees are about having fun together, talking together, and living together. The vision of a world in peace must begin with a peaceful local community. There are challenges in the world and regions of ISGF, so ideas for the Action Plan 2017-2019 needed. The major challenge is membership, so to increase influence, recruit one member each.

#### 3. Conference Opening:

- 3.1 Hans Slanec, Chair of European Committee (ECom), welcomed all to the business part of the conference and greetings from the host committee of the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference in Nordic-Baltic Sub-Region were displayed.

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- 3.2 A Roll Call was taken, with 21 countries present and 4 giving proxy votes, making a total of 100 votes. The Conference was declared quorate.
- 3.3 ECom proposed Jane Wardropper and Martine Levy to be chair and vice chair of the conference and both were elected.
- 3.4 Hans retired, and Jane and Martine took the stage.
- 3.5 ECom proposed the Secretary to ECom, Katharine Diver, as Conference Secretary. This was accepted by the Conference.
- 3.6 The Rules of Procedure had been previously circulated and were proposed and accepted as a work in progress by the Conference.
- 3.7 Three tellers were proposed by the French organising committee and were accepted, by the Conference.
- 3.8 The proposed agenda for the conference had been previously circulated, and with a few amendments relating to Action Time presentations, was approved by the Conference.
  
- 4.0 Triennial Report of the retiring ECom:**
- 4.1 The Triennial Report has been previously circulated. Sara Rocha, PR, gave a short photographic presentation about events held, and asked that everyone sends in articles for the next newsletters to their representative. The Report was approved by the Conference.
  
- 5.0 Financial Report of the retiring ECom:**
- 5.1 The Financial Report had been previously circulated. Doris Stockman, Treasurer, highlighted significant items of income and expenditure, and noted that some fees had already been received in cash. The Report was approved by the Conference.
  
- 6. Auditor's Report:**
- 6.1 The Auditor's Report had been previously circulated. Doris thanked Gjermund Austvik for all his work as Auditor. The Report was approved by the Conference.
  
- 7.0 Auditor for the next Triennium:**
- 7.1 Gjermund Austvik had indicated that he would like to stand down from this role, and a successor was requested. Two names were suggested, Mrs Ingrid Danstrup from Denmark, and Mr Hansjorg Hirt from Switzerland. After discussion, the Conference agreed that two auditors could be appointed, and both Mrs Danstrup and Mr Hirt were elected.
  
- 8.0 Greetings from World Bureau:**
- 8.1 Mrs Cecile Bellet, Secretary to WCom, had been invited to attend the conference but was unable to do so, and sent a message to the Conference. This was well received and the Conference Secretary was requested to reply.
  
- 9.0 History of Tours:**
- 9.1 Mr Yves Cogoluegnes gave a short talk about the history of Tours, from its origins as a Roman town; the building of the Cathedral of St Martin and subsequent expansion of the town as a place of pilgrimage; the introduction of silk to the region; and the more recent arrival of the railway in 1870. Jane offered the thanks of the Conference for the talk.

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**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September**

**10.0 Reflections:**

10.1 France presented reflections.

**11.0 Ambassadors Guild:**

11.1 Bjork Walsted advised that the Guild currently has 160 members of which 27 are present. 2018 will be the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Guild. In February 2016, the Guild had undertaken a tour of Kenya, including a 22<sup>nd</sup> February visit to BP's grave. The Guild also gave support to a Scout and Guide group in the Nairobi slum area.

**12.0 Roll Call:**

12.1 A roll call was taken and the session declared quorate.

**13.0 Motions: Motions 1-3:**

13.1 Amendment to the Constitution:

Add the following to Article 1:1

**“The members of the Central Branch in Europe are also members of the Region.”**

Add the following to Article 3.1, paragraph ‘Foster the development of the International Scout and Guide Fellowship in the Region and support the programme and activities of its Members.’

**“In particular, the Region will assist the European groups of the Central Branch to become a NSGF.”**

Amend Article 10.2 to read:

**“Each NSGF and the Central Branch shall have four votes, which they can use as they think fit, irrespective of the number of their delegates attending.”**

13.2 ECom proposed these motions, and no seconder was required. There were no questions and the motions were **carried** by a majority.

13.3 As amendments to the Constitution require ratification by WCom, the members of the WCom present retired to consider the accepted motions. They returned to announce that these amendments had been ratified, and Central Branch were invited to form a delegation with voting rights. A delegation was duly formed and took seats in the hall. This increased the number of votes to 104.

**14.0 Action Time part 1:**

14.1 Presentations were made by Nordic-Baltic Sub-Region; NSGF-UK; Twinning Co-ordinator; Harembee project; MASCI, with particular reference to their work after the recent earthquake in Italy.

**15.0 Motions: Motion 4:**

15.1 Amendment to the Constitution:

Add the following to Article 6:1

**“At no time, shall more than one elected member from any NSGF serve on the Europe Region Committee.”**

15.2 ECom proposed this motion, and no seconder was required. Following several comments, the vote was taken and the motion was **carried** by a majority.

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### 16.0 **Motions: Motion 5:**

16.1 Amendment to the Constitution:

Delete the following from Article 8:1

**“No member shall serve for more than two consecutive terms.”**

16.2 This amendment, proposed by Austria and Germany, and the sub-amendment proposed by NSGF UK was **withdrawn**.

### 17.0 **Presentation of the proposed new fee system:**

17.1 The proposed new fee system had been previously circulated, which follows World system of fee based on income rate and number of members. There were several questions and comments, and the Treasurer was available to answer individual questions until voting on Wednesday.

### 18.0 **Action Time part 2:**

18.1 Presentations were made by ISGF WCom, with reference to Our Kit; Portugal; and Nepal, with particular reference to their work after the 2015 earthquake.

### 19.0 **Scouting and Peace 100 years after World War 1**

19.1 Jean-Jacques Gauthe and Henri-Pierre Debord outlined what had been happening in French Scouting and Guiding since WW1, and showed how they had been an agent for peace throughout, as there is a spiritual dimension without being religious. Scouting brings together large numbers of young people from all over the world (World Jamborees) and young adults from all over Europe (2016 Roverway). Scouts and Guides have worked with, and are continuing to work with refugees, victims of natural disasters, and victims of war.

19.2 Members from Finland, Germany and Czech Republic also shared stories about their experiences of scouts and guides working for local, national, and international peace.

19.3 Henri-Pierre presented a message of greetings and success for the Conference from his Chairman. Martine offered the thanks of the Conference to the speakers.

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### Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September

#### 20.0 Reflections:

20.1 Reflections were presented by Italy.

#### 21.0 Roll Call:

21.1 A roll call was taken and the session declared quorate.

#### 22.0 Voting on proposed new fee system:

22.1 The Treasurer had received several comments which were discussed. ECom then proposed that the new fee system be adopted and voting took place. Votes were:

Accept: 64 votes

Reject: 40 votes

Abstain: 0 votes

The motion was **carried**.

#### 23.0 Proposed new logo:

23.1 A proposal by Austria for a new European logo had been circulated: this logo had previously been the logo of Central Europe Sub-Region. There followed several comments, the majority of which felt that the use of the European Commission flag is political and that ISGF is a non-political organisation. Several countries offered alternative suggestions for a logo.

23.2 Voting took place for the proposed logo only with the votes being:

Accept: 8 votes

Reject: 88 votes

Abstain: 8 votes

The proposal was **rejected**.

23.3 The Conference Chair offered thanks to CESR for offering to donate their former logo.

#### 24.0 Plans for the next three years:

24.1 The proposed plans for the next three years had been previously circulated. A summary was presented by ECom and the Conference accepted this as a basis for the next ECom's works.

24.2 ECom invited all to attend the 7<sup>th</sup> European Workshop, which would take place at Smolenice Palace, Slovakia, from Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017. The theme will be 'Route 2020- Step s By Step to the future'. Anne Dupont, Belgium, offered thanks to Jane Wardropper for initiating the workshop series, and Nana Gentimi, Greece, encouraged at least one person from each NSGF to attend.

24.3 Future budget: this had been previously circulated, and the Treasurer was available to answer questions on the potential deficit budget. There were none, and the Conference accepted the Plans and budget for the next three years.

#### 25.0 Presentations by countries offering to host the 2019 European Region Conference:

25.1 Two countries made presentations, Germany and Cyprus.

25.1.1 Germany proposed a conference based in Bremen, for 5 days/4 nights in late August, with a cost of €500 per person in a twin room/€620 per person in a single room in the Hotel Maritime, although cheaper accommodation would be possible in nearby youth hostels.

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- 25.1.2 Cyprus proposed a conference based in Paphos, in early November, for 5 days/4 nights in a 4\* hotel, with cheaper accommodation also possible.
- 25.1.3 Camping nearby was not an option at either venue.

### **26.0 Action time part 3:**

- 26.1 Presentations were made by Finland and Czech Republic.

### **27.0 Routes of St Martin**

- 27.1 Father Pierre Lambert, a Benedictine priest and local historian, gave an in-depth talk about the life and times of St Martin, bishop of Tours. St Martin was born in 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, in the district of Pannonhalma, Hungary, and moved across Europe with the Roman Legions. In 356AD, he was baptised in Amiens and moved to Tours in 361AD, being proclaimed Bishop in 371AD. His major achievement as Bishop was the creation of parishes, literally a gathering of Christians together in an area. The parish was a big success as it created social structure, and was a collaboration of political and religious power, which continued for over a thousand years! After St Martin's death in 397AD, Tours became a place of pilgrimage for Christians on the way to Santiago de Compostela in Spain.
- 27.2 Jane offered the thanks of the Conference to Father Pierre.

### **28.0 Roll Call:**

- 28.1 A roll call was taken and the session declared quorate.

### **29.0 Voting for host of next Conference:**

- 29.1 Voting papers were handed out to each country, and counting and scrutinizing the results took place in private with the tellers overseen by WCom member Runnar Bakke.
- 29.2 The votes cast were:
  - Cyprus - 36 votes
  - Germany - 68 votes.**Germany** was elected to host the next European Conference.

### **30.0 Suggestion to include weekends in all Regional/Sub-Regional events:**

- 30.1 The suggestion of Nordic-Baltic Sub-Region had been previously circulated and following discussion. The recommendation that, where possible, events include a weekend, was accepted by the Conference.

### **31.0 Action Time part 4:**

- 31.1 A presentation was made by Nana on behalf of WCom regarding ISGF Global Project – Haiti.

### **32.0 Presentation of Sub-regional events 2018:**

- 32.1 Western-Europe Sub-Region Gathering, in Eastbourne UK, 8-12 October.
- 32.2 Nordic-Baltic Sub-Region Gathering, in Gothenburg Sweden, 24-28 August.
- 32.3 Southern Europe Sub-Region/MED Gathering, in Athens Greece, 19-27 October.
- 32.4 Central Europe Sub-Region Conference in Poznan, Poland, 5-9 September.

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### **33.0 New European Committee:**

- 33.1 Hans thanked the retiring committee, who each introduced their successor to the stage.
- 33.2 The new Europe Committee will be:
  - Doris Stockmann (NBSR) – Chair
  - Angela Dernbach (CESR) – Secretary
  - Pierre Decoene (WESR) – Treasurer
  - Ana Rodrigues (SESR) – WAGGGS/WOSM liaison and PR

### **34.0 Thanks and Conference Close:**

- 34.1 Jane thanked Martine as Vice-Chair, and Jean-Francois as translator.
- 34.2 Martine thanked the Organising Committee and the Vinci Conference Centre Staff.
- 34.3 Jane closed the Conference, and wished all safe travels.

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Jane Wardropper  
Conference Chairman

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Martine Levy  
Conference Vice-Chairman