



29th ISGF World Conference, Brussels, Belgium 2022

Circular 09 Turkey NSGF Cancellation

REPORT OF THE WORLD COMMITTEE ON THE SUSPENSION AND PROPOSITION OF CANCELLATION OF THE TURKISH NSGF

The World Committee decided during its meeting in March 2020 to suspend the membership of ASVAT (the Association of Scouting Volunteers of Turkey) and now proposes to the World Conference to transform that suspension into a cancellation in accordance with article 6.1 of the Constitution of ISGF¹.

This proposition is based on the following points: ASVAT was accepted as a NSGF during the last World Conference in Bali in 2017. Since then TIF (the Scouting Guiding Federation of Turkey, TÜRKİYE İZCİLİK FEDERASYONU) complained to WOSM about the attitude of SVAT which was against them. There were many exchanges between the ISGF legal team² and ASVAT and between the team and the European Bureau of WOSM to have a more detailed view of the situation. As many questions remained unsolved ISGF decided to send a mission to Turkey. This mission comprised Jane Wardropper and Jean-François Lévy in the name of the legal team and Doris Stockmann who was at that time the chair of the European Region of ISGF.

The mission met both TIF in Istanbul and SVAT in Ankara. Its main purpose was to understand the position of TIF better and the answer of SVAT to TIF's criticisms. There might have been in TIF a misunderstanding on what ISGF and a NSGF are but this was not the main point.

The criticisms by TIF were presented to SVAT during the last meeting of the mission. The verbal answers were not sufficient to consider that there were no major problems. There was therefore a new exchange of letters between the legal team and ASVAT and the latest answers were not at all satisfactory.

Many messages had been sent to WOSM for the acceptance of other associations and on a very negative vision of TIF; the explanations by SVAT to these messages were not satisfactory. SVAT organised several meetings of youngsters with their own flag and that of ISGF while it was not associated with TIF. One important point is that SVAT does not comply with article 3 of the Constitution of ISGF, i.e. giving support to WAGGGS and WOSM member organisations. Although SVAT provided a list of such actions, there was not sufficient evidence.

Finally the press communiqué of SVAT after their admission within ISGF stated that they were active within scouting in a way that was not coherent with their absence of relations with TIF. This was not known to the World Bureau and, at that time, ISGF had no way of knowing what was happening behind the scenes in Turkey.

¹ . *Suspension and cancellation of membership*

The World Committee may provisionally suspend the Membership of any NSGF that, in its opinion, no longer fulfils the criteria and conditions for Membership. If the World Committee maintains its suspension, the World Conference, at its next meeting, shall hear the report of the World Committee and invite the suspended Organisation to present its written or verbal comments. The World Conference has the authority to decide the appropriate course of action to be taken. A decision to cancel the Membership of an Organisation requires a two-thirds majority of the votes cast by secret ballot.

² Wahid Labidi (vice-chair of WCom, responsible for the legal team), Jane Wardropper (UK) and Jean-François LEVY (France)