

## European Committee Report 2008

During the 2007 Committee meeting it was recognised that there was a need to stimulate recruitment in member organisations in Europe and it was planned to hold workshops during 2009. Two workshops on The Future and Foundation for Growth, were held in Cyprus and the Czech Republic and were facilitated by Liz Aveston from the UK.

The main focus of both the weekends was to promote fellowship and mutual understanding as this is surely the firmest foundation for growth. This was achieved through structured sessions and social interaction, both within the venue and whilst enjoying the excellent visits to nearby historic centres and opportunities to meet the local Guild members, kindly arranged by the host committees.

To enable full participation English, French and some Greek were the languages at the first workshop and English German and a little French at the second. The report of the second workshop is in appendix 1. Following the first workshop a European Friendship badge was launched and profits from its sale are to be used to help to enable a representative from European countries who have financial difficulties to attend the European Conference in 2010.

A very beneficial meeting was held with members of the European Team, of the World Committee, in March and it was recognised that a further meeting in the future could be useful, see appendix 2.

The Committee held two meetings during 2008, one during the World Conference and the other during the second workshop when all present were observers.

Jane Wardropper  
Chairman

## Appendix 2

### Notes of Meeting held in Brussels 8 – 9<sup>th</sup> March 2008 of World Committee European Team, Central Branch Coordinator and Members of European Region Committee

1. **Present** Bjorg Walstad, Anne Dupont, Leny Doelman, Olav Balle, Christos Loukatus, Jane Wardropper
2. **Apologies** Aleš Čerin and Werner Weilguny.
3. **Introduction** Everyone was thanked for attending and talking about their different roles, and wide ranging discussions were held. The Purpose of the meeting was:
  - To explore role of World Committee Members, European Team, and European Committee Members and prevent duplication of roles
  - To Consider development of ISGF in Non Member European countries
  - To consider ways of working with Central Branch in Europe
  - To identify additional information required to enable good communications within Europe
  - To look at the relationship between Communications Committee and Member Organisations and Regions.

#### 4. Roles and Responsibilities of Members

Members of the **World Committee team** each have responsibilities for contact with member countries in a sub region, particularly when a problem arises. One member acts as a link between the European Region and the World Committee and attends the European Region meeting.

World Committee Members with special expertise use this to help all countries within the world.

**5. Region Committee Members** represent a Sub Region and work for the benefit of the Sub Region. When there is a request for help from the World Committee the appropriate Region Committee Member acts on this.

The Region members keep other members up to date with reports. Help to encourage, fellowship and friendship within guilds whilst giving support to Scouting and Guiding in a movement based on the Guide and Scout Promise and Laws.

Members encourage networking and opportunities for members to get together. It was identified that with some activities the large age range (18 – 90+) could be detrimental to recruitment and retention of members. Guilds / Fellowships could be formed by groups of people with similar interests e.g. climbing, boating photography etc. Guilds can provide a network for peer support.

Members questioned whether we are, as an organisation, always prepared to welcome younger people in our fellowships?

It was recognised that Guild members who had a career were spending more time working because of the current economic situation.

Within the "Youth Movement" in many countries there was a shortage of leaders and therefore waiting lists for membership for both boys and girls. Guild members had a role in providing support for the leaders thus freeing the leaders to undertake Scouting and Guiding activities.

The Region Committee oversee preparations for Region Conference and delegate to sub regions preparations for sub region gatherings.

**6. Central Branch** provides a stepping stone for the individual, in a non member country, interested in membership to a country becoming a Member of ISGF. Development work is occurring world wide.

## **7. Information Gathering / Giving**

It was recognised that there was a need for members to know what was happening at World Committee level which could affect the role of the European Committee and that there should be good feed back to the World Committee.

It was realised that the Region committee does not currently receive copies of annual reports, publicity material etc sent to World Bureau.

**Action** Communications to be strengthened, Information, Minutes of meetings to go to the World Committee via the European Team Leader / World Bureau as appropriate.

Information and Minutes/notes of meetings would go to the European Chairman for distribution to committee members.

A strong link should develop between the European Team Leader and the European Chairman.

**Proposal** that in future the European Team Leader is the World Committee Liaison person on the European Committee.

## **8. Development**

From the Central Branch report it was identified that in Europe there are a minimum of 14 countries where ISGF could develop further. At the present time the only country with Central Branch members in Europe was Israel.

The position in Israel was to be explored further.

Because of the size of Europe it was recognised that there was a need for some one to assist the Central Branch Co-ordinator with the development in Europe. It was proposed that this person was to be appointed by the European Committee in conjunction with the Central Branch Co-ordinator for a fixed term.

Development is a continuous process and is linked with continued recruitment and one area identified was how can established Guilds get in touch with those whose term as a leader in the Youth Movement is coming to an end?

## **9. WAGGGS / WOSM Co-operation at European Level**

There was a need for the European Committee Chairman to work closely with WAGGGS and WOSM Europe and to identify how ISGF can locally support the Youth movements.

It was reported that the World Committee had been working on revised agreements of recognition and co-operation with WAGGGS and WOSM. It was recognised that full reports of attendance at conferences should be circulated by both teams as this would lead to better understanding. It was recognised that the Chairman, European Committee, needs to develop stronger working relations with the Europe Officers of WAGGGS and WOSM and also attend conferences and write reports at Europe Level, **Action** need to obtain official go-ahead.

#### 10. World Committee Communications and Public Relations Team

A report was given on the work of the team and it was found that the team had worked extremely hard during the last 3 years, (See attached list of achievements) but the existence of some of the documents was not known by the European Committee members.

It was not known whether in the production of Guidelines etc consultation had taken place with the regions and other groups of consumers where decisions affect them

Progress on new web site shared with meeting

The position concerning the sale of ISGF insignia and other goods was discussed.

A new corporate logo for Regions has been developed and shown to the meeting.

During 2007 the Centenary of the Foundation of Scouting the Guide and Scout Spirit Flame Project did much to raise the profile of ISGF and all involved were congratulated. Lenny shared an excellent power point presentation of the journey of the Flame with us.

#### 11. European Committee Initiatives

- i) It is planned to have a Europe Web site which will be developed by Lucile de Henau and it is hoped to have links to new ISGF Web site.
- ii) Workshop – The first of two workshops: **The Future and the Foundation for Growth** is planned for 19 – 21 April in Cyprus the second workshop will be held in the autumn in the Central Region.
- iii) A European Challenge to be launched shortly.

#### 12. Any Other Business

- iv) The Southern Europe / Mediterranean Gathering was discussed and the potential difficulty of attendance by members of all European countries if it is held in Libya was identified. Christos to contact organisers and to confirm that all members of ISGF can attend regardless of nationality or race can attend. If necessary he is to investigate whether there is another venue which would accept all European members. Christos to report back.
- v) Everyone was reminded that the Centenary of Guiding Celebrations run from 2010 to 2012 (see WAGGGS web site for countries and years). In UK celebrations will start in 2009 and finish in October 2010.

- vi) Reports from European Conference and European Committee to be circulated

## 12. Conclusions

- i) Need to develop and strengthen links between the World Committee Europe Team and the European Region Committee.
- ii) The European Team Leader to become the liaison person with the European Committee
- iii) Need to investigate the position concerning the Regional Chairmen becoming permanent observers at World Committee Meetings
- iv) Develop good robust communication systems
- v) Consider in agreement with the Central Branch Co-ordinator the position of an assistant to help with work in Europe
- vi) Work closely with the Central Branch Co-ordinator to ensure a good exchange of information.
- vii) Develop stronger links at European level with WAGGGS and WOSM
- viii) European Chairman or Deputy Chairman to be direct link at European Level with WAGGGS and WOSM.
- ix) It was agreed that further meetings should take place and it was proposed that a meeting takes place early in 2009 with the New World Committee Europe Team.