



9th Europe Conference/ 9e Conférence européenne Tours, France 12-15.09.2016

Welcome letter

Dear participants in the 9th Europe Conference,
Dear brothers and sisters in adult scouting and guiding,
Dear friends all over Europe and beyond.

A heartily welcome to all of you, meeting in Tours, the heart of the Loire Valley, the heart of France. We will be together on the one hand to do the necessary work to push our region forward, to make it strong for all the coming challenges in our organisation, and on the other hand, to renew friendship or to start new friendship between our European member countries and all our sisters and brothers involved.

A specific welcome to the participants from other parts of the world.

All the people in Europe have cruel experiences in wars, dictatorship and terrorism. But there is only one thing all the people are strongly asking for: PEACE IN OUR TIME!

After what had happened in Paris, in Brussels, in Pakistan, in Nigeria ..., you might continue the list on your own, SOLIDARITY is a very strong word in Scouting and Guiding of all ages. In Europe we have to show solidarity between us and the others as we show it between ourselves. Part of the Scout Law is: "Scouting serves the friendship between all human beings" and we are going to live it with all of our heart.

So let us start in a PEACE CONFERENCE following the last message of our founder Baden-Powell: "Let us leave the world a bit better than we found it!"

And going back home after the conference, let us be sure that we have taken a big step into the right direction.

All the best and BE PREPARED,
Hans Slanec
Chairman Europe Region

Message from the organisers:

We French people were particularly scared after the attacks which took place in Paris during January and November 2015 and the murders in Brussels last March added to the shock. On the very evening of the events in Brussels, some of us were at an interconvictional gathering in Paris Town Hall under the title "les Voix de la Paix – Voices for Peace" held in a particular mood.

It is not these events which led to the choice of the panel which will take place during the conference but it seems very opportune today.

As the President of our Region writes, all this highlights if anything that the final words of our Founder must remain in the minds of adult scouts and guides ("Let us leave the world a bit better than we found it!") and let us keep solidarity.

Come with us and work for peace.

On behalf of the organising committee, the International secretary for France

Jean-François Lévy