

DESMOS

THE INTERNATIONAL LINK OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN SCOUTS

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## DESMOS COMMITTEE MEETING March 23, 2012. KYIV, UKRAINE

# MINUTES

The Committee Meeting of The International Link of Orthodox Christian Scouts DESMOS was held in the premises of the Kyiv Pechersk Lavra hotel, in Kyiv, Ukraine, March 22-25, 2012. The Committee meeting was held with the blessing of His Beatitude The Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine Volodymyr, and with a significant support of NOSU - National Organization of Scouts of Ukraine.

Present:

Christos Papageorgiou, Desmos President Roxana Boltasu, Desmos Committee member Maher Sahlieh, Desmos Vice-President / Desmos Committee member Nicolaos Mitsides, Treasurer / member-country representative, Cyprus Marko Petrović, Secretary General / Desmos Committee member Vassilis Birtsas, Desmos Committee member Saeed Daoud, Desmos Committee member Dusan Masoničić, Desmos Committee member

George Bahow, Honorary Desmos Committee member (Proxy - Naaman Shahada)

Rakan Fakes, Jordan Georges Abboud, Desmos Committee member / member-country representative, Lebanon Claudia Ghanimeh, Lebanon Petar Stančić, Serbia Milorad Ćetković, Montenegro

Appologies:

Naaman Shahada, Desmos Committee member





The official opening of DESMOS Committee meeting took place on March 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2012, in the premises of the Holy Dormition of Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra, in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra (Kiev Cave Monastery) is a unique monastery complex, which is included in UNESCO world heritage list. It was visited by more than 43 millions of tourists from all over the world.

Kyiv-Pechersk-Lavra originates in 1051, when a monk Antoniy had settled in this place in dug out on a hill slope cave. Soon other monks joined him and started to widen the caves, later when underground space could not house all community — to construct overground buildings.

The monastery played very important role in Ukrainian culture development — the first printing-house was established there, many famous chroniclers, writers, scientists, painters, doctors lived and worked.



All seven countries having a DESMOS Committee member were represented - six countries by presence of the Committee member (Greece, Jordan, Montenegro, Palestinian Authority, Romania, Serbia) and one country (Israel) by Proxy.

Desmos Committee had the pleasure to welcome at its Meeting the guests from the Eurasia Regional Committee and National Organization of Scouts of Ukraine-NOSU:

Mr. Andriy Chesnokov, Eurasia Regional Committee member, First Vice-President of NOS Ms. Olena Halushka, International Commissioner of NOSU, Father Andriy Klyushev, Archpriest, member of NOSU Mr. Denys Bulavin, member of Lviv Regional NOSU, Mrs. Svitlana Tarapata, member of OSU, Orthodox Scouts of Ukraine

as well as

a representative of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church **Archdeacon Ioan Didenko**.



and the journalist working for the web site of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Olga Mamona.

The participants of the Meeting agreed to have audio-recording of the Meeting.

The proposed Agenda was distributed to all participants of the Meeting.

At the beginning of the Meeting, DESMOS Committee members had the Prayer. The Prayer was said by Desmos Committee member, outgoing Secretary General, Marko Petrovic.

# PRAYER

# O Lord,

Thank You for gathering us in Ukraine, in this beautiful town Kyiv, on this Holy place - Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra. We thank You for giving us the opportunity to keep on working on achieving DESMOS Mission and Vision. Please, give us strength to face all difficulties and cope with all challenges in order to have success in our work, for the benefit of our scouts, of our Orthodox youth.

# Amen!

#### THE MEETING AGENDA:

The proposed Agenda was as follows:

- 1. Welcome and Address of the Desmos President / Overview of the 15 years of DESMOS Christos Papageorgiou
- 2. Welcome and Address of the Desmos Vice-President Maher Sahlieh
- 3. Minutes of the previous Committee Meeting Marko Petrovic
- 4. Report of the Secretary General Marko Petrovic
- 5. Minutes of the 6<sup>TH</sup> Desmos Conference Marko Petrovic
- 6. Elections
  - Elections of the new President, Vice-President and Treasurer
  - Appointment of the new Secretary General
  - Appointment of the new Honorary Committee Members
  - Other administration issues
- 7. Address of the new Desmos President and considerations about the future of the Link
- Report on DESMOS participation at the 22<sup>nd</sup> World Scout Jamboree in Sweden, 2011 Christos Papageorgiou / Vassilis Birtsas
- 9. The 4<sup>TH</sup> World Scout Inter-religious Symposium WSIS Korea 2012 Christos Papageorgiou / Vassilis Birtsas / Marko Petrovic
- 10. Roverway 2012, Finland Vassilis Birtsas, Marko Petrovic
- 11. Proposal for a visit to His All Holiness The Ecumenical Patriarch, in 2012 Open discussion

- 12. Reports on Desmos activities on a national level in particular countries Desmos Committee members / representatives of member countries
- 13. Enlarging DESMOS / Membership growth / How to attract and retain new member-countries Open discussion
- 14. Fund-raising / Friends of Desmos Greek example of good practice Information: C. Papageorgiou - V. Birtsas / Open disccussion
- 15. Discussion on Desmos promotional materials / Desmos Newsletter Introduction: Vassilis Birtsas / Open discussion
- 16. Discussion on activities foreseen in the forthcoming period / Establishing of the Task-force for preparation of Desmos participation on the next WSJ in Japan, 2015 / Hosting of the 5<sup>th</sup> World Scout Inter-Religious Symposium Christos Papageorgiou / Desmos Committee members - Open discussion
- 17. Various issues / Hosting of the next Desmos Committee Meeting in 2013 Open discussion

Due to the extended procedure related to visa issue for outgoing Desmos Vice-President, Mr. Maher Sahlieh, his arrival was postponed, so the Committee decided to change the order of Agenda items, leave the item no. 5 – Elections – for the moment when all the Committee members will be present, and proceeded as follows:

#### MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN BELGRADE ON APRIL 30, 2011.

Secretary General briefly presented the Minutes of the previous Committee Meeting held in Belgrade. The document was distributed to all Committee members earlier last year, after the Committee Meeting. DESMOS Committee members unanimously accepted the Minutes of the previous Committee Meeting held in Belgrade on April 30, 2011.

The Committee, highly appreciating the presence of Mr. Andriy Chesnokov, Eurasia Regional Committee member, asked Mr. Chesnokov to address DESMOS Committee members.

#### ADDRESS OF EURASIA REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBER, Mr. ANDRIY CHESNOKOV



**Andriy Chesnokov**, in his capacity of Eurasia Regional Committee member and the First Vice-President of the National Organization of Scouts of Ukraine NOSU, welcomed DESMOS Committee members to Ukraine and expressed his personal pleasure and the pleasure of NOSU to have the opportunity to host the Meeting of The Link in Kyiv, in Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra, the sacred place of world Orthodoxy. Andriy passed warm greetings of the Chairman of the Eurasia Regional Scout Committee, Mr. **Bagrat Yesayan**, to DESMOS Committee members and his wishes to have a good Committee Meeting.

Andriy offered the Committee members a very good and instructive presentation on the history of Ukraine, Ukrainian scouting and orthodox church in Ukraine. It was precious for DESMOS Committee members, for better understanding of the host country, its Scouting and its orthodox church, since for most of the Committee members it was the first time to visit Ukraine.

The fact that Ukraine actually has, besides the canonical one, two other orthodox churches, was especially interesting, in the context of introducing the religiosity and spirituality to scouts and parents' demands, which sometimes creates problems in practice.

Andriy informed the Committee members that the year 2012 is a special year for NOSU, since this NSO celebrates this year the Centenary of Scouting in Ukraine.

Andriy presented the history of his National Scout Organization from its founding till the present day.

Andriy also informed the Committee members about the process his NSO passed on its way towards membership in DESMOS, since the World Scout Conference in Korea, in 2008, when he himself had his first contacts with DESMOS representatives, till November 2011, when Ukraine officially joined The Link.

DESMOS President, **Christos Papageorgiou**, took the opportunity and shared with the Committee members and Ukrainian hosts the memories on the period of more than 20 years ago, when he was visiting Ukraine and the pleasure to work with Ukrainian scouts as the Trainer.

#### OVERVIEW OF THE 15 YEARS of DESMOS / DESMOS President, Christos Papageorgiou

DESMOS President **Christos Papageorgiou**, in his PowerPoint presentation, presented to the Committee the overview of the 15 years of The Link since its founding, in June 1997, when DESMOS started its fruitful life, in the holy environment of Monastery Penteli, near Athens, Greece.

The initiative to establish The Link was actually launched much earlier. The idea was born during the 33d World Baden-Powell fellowship meeting in Aghios Nicolaos - Crete, in September 1993, where as International Commissioner of Soma Hellinon Proskopon (Scouts of Greece), Constantinos "Costas" Tsantilis had the first discussion about it with Dr. Jacques Moreillon, Secretary General of WOSM.

The first concrete steps were made back in November 1994, during the International Symposium in Marrakech, when representatives of National Scout Organizations members of WOSM together with not yet recognized Scout Associations, whose membership included Scouts of the Orthodox Christian Faith, met and agreed on the creation of "DESMOS", the International Link of Orthodox Christian Scouts.



It was agreed that the main objective of DESMOS will be in parallel to

the promotion of the principals of brotherhood and understanding among Scouts, to promote also the spiritual dimension of the Orthodox Christian Faith among its Orthodox Christian members and to establish and promote co-operation on this matter, with the Orthodox Christian Churches.



In October 1995, a circular letter was sent to all those who were present at the Marrakech meeting, together with the proposed Statutes of DESMOS as cleared by the World Scout Bureau, with the request for their views and proposals in order to finalize the procedures and announce the final dates of the Inaugural meeting.

The Inaugural meeting took place in Oslo, Norway, on July 7th 1996, before the opening of the 34th World Scout Conference and it was attended by representatives of the following National Scout Organizations members of WOSM: Cyprus, Egypt, Finland, Greece, Romania, USA, and Yugoslavia.

There, after presenting the particular formalities and legalities involved, the procedures were finalized establishing this new

body which would bring the Orthodox Church closer to the World Scouting affairs and it was agreed to accept in principle the Statutes, appoint an Interim Executive Committee, authorize the Committee to organize within the next 12 months the first Conference and finally to accept the invitation of Soma Hellinon Proskopon to host the 1st (Constituent) Conference.



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The five appointed members of the of the Interim Executive Committee were: Christos Papageorgiou Greece, Tony Papantoniou Cyprus, George Bouloukos USA, Nikola Petrovic Yugoslavia, and Adina Dabou Romania.

The World Scout Committee in its meeting of July 10th 1996 in Oslo, appointed Christos Papageorgiou as Link with DESMOS and authorized Christos to represent the Committee at all DESMOS meetings, and activities.

The Interim Committee had its first meeting in Athens on November 23, 1996, when **Christos Papageorgiou** was ellected **Chairman**. The Interim Committee discussed all the necessary steps towards the Constituent Conference.

**His All Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I**, through His secretary **Bishop Meliton**, sent to George Hourdakis, IC of the Scouts of Greece, His blessing together with His remarks on the Statutes, which was immediately adopted by the Interim Executive Committee.

The Constituent Conference was held on June 7-8, 1997, in The Inter-Orthodox Centre in Monastery Pentely, Athens, Greece. Since then DESMOS is continuously making progress.

DESMOS President, explained in details the development road map of The Link, emphasizing all DESMOS milestones, important events and activities throughout past years, since 1997 to the present day.

Christos pointed out great DESMOS achievements in participation at world scout jamborees, especially in UK in 2007 and in Sweden in 2011, when DESMOS had very successful workshops on Orthodox Iconography, with several thousands of children, scouts from many countries, who actively took part in DESMOS workshops.





Christos emphasized the importance of excellent relations that DESMOS has with **His All Holiness The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I**, who supported our Link in numerous occasions.





DESMOS President pointed out a number of DESMOS activities like:

- Participation and active engagement in all major world events:
  - World Scout Conference in Durban, South Africa, 1999
  - World Scout Conference in Thessaloniki, Greece, 2002
  - World Scout Jamboree, Thailand, 2002/2003
  - World Scout Conference in Tunisia, 2005
  - World Scout Jamboree, United Kingdom, 2007
  - World Scout Conference in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, 2008
  - World Scout Conference in Curitiba, Brazil, 2011
  - World Scout Jamboree in Sweden, 2011
  - Participation at several Regional European Scout Conferences (Czech Republic 2001, Slovenia 2007, Belgium 2010)
- Joint events between DESMOS countries, in the borders, on The Founder's Day, on February 22.
- Active participation in the Inter-Religious Forum and advocacy in favour of inter-religious dialogue
- > Participation in all three World Scout Inter-Religious Symposiums in Valencia, Taiwan and Uganda



- Engagement with ICCS in establishing and maintaining the Ecumenical Encounters on a regular basis, every two years (1<sup>st</sup> -Canterbury, England 2008 / 2<sup>nd</sup> -Athens, Greece 2010 / the next one Assisi, Italy, 2012)
- Orthodox Leaders' trainings organized for scout leaders in the Middle East (Madaba, Jordan) and in the Balkans (Soko Grad, Serbia) and readiness to invest efforts in order to organize such events in other parts of the world, where DESMOS has its members and where such event would be welcome.
- $\triangleright$ Contribution to completion of the WOSM publication "Guidelines on Spiritual&Religious Development Scouting", which is an in important resource material. which aims boost to the confidence of Scout leaders by enabling them to identify the ways in which good application of the Scout Method supports spiritual development. while indicating ways to ensure that a wide range





DESMOS President and young leaders during the Training in Madaba, Jordan, 2009

of opportunities for spiritual development is made available to young people.

At the end of his presentation, DESMOS President, Christos Papageorgiou, expressed his gratitude to all DESMOS Committee members for support throughout all those 15 years, to all other people that helped one way or another successful realization of DESMOS activities and to young people, Orthodox scout leaders from different countries, for their engagement in realization of DESMOS workshops and active participation in DESMOS trainings.

#### **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL - Marko Petrović**

Outgoing Secretary General, **Marko Petrović**, reported to the Committee on the period of last twelve months, through the PowerPoint presentation.

Secretary General mentioned the most important events and activities that took place in 2011:

- The 6th DESMOS Conference, held in Belgrade, Serbia, April 29-30, 2011, when the new Committee was elected;
- Previous Committee Meeting, held in Belgrade, Serbia, on April 30, 2011;
- DESMOS participation in FaB Zone, at the 22nd World Scout Jamboree in Sweden, July 27 August 8, 2011;
- Welcoming Ukraine in DESMOS in November 2011.



presenting more information and details on each of the above indicated events.

Marko Petrovic also informed the Committee about the Invitation for participation at the 4<sup>TH</sup> World Scout Inter-Religious Symposium, which is to be held in Iksan, Republic of Korea, August 1-5, 2012, emphasizing the importance of participation of DESMOS representatives at this event hosted by Won Buddhism faith organization in Scouting.

Secretary General presented to the Committee his view of the DESMOS strengths and weaknesses.

He pointed out as DESMOS' strengths:

- high reputation in the world of Scouting
- renewed Consultative Status with WOSM
- participation at all major Regional and World events
- > inter-religious dialogue joint work with ICCS, IUMS and others in favour of the inter-religious dialogue
- > funding opportunity through "Friends of DESMOS" approach Greek model
- > established and regularly updated web-site

Secretary General especially emphasized the importance of the Consultative Status with WOSM and presented to the Committee members the Definition and Scope, Criteria, Rights and Obligations, as well as the Procedures for obtaining such status. He said that DESMOS fully deserves the Consultative Status and that it's a specific recognition of the World Scout Bureau for DESMOS' continuous successful work on the field of Spiritual Dimension in Scouting and.

As weaknesses, Secretary General pointed out:

- financial problems / lack of NSO's support
- Iarge number of inactive member-countries
- > insufficient number of activities, in particular joint activities between DESMOS countries
- lack of human resources the need to recruit more committed people
- insufficient communication within the Link

Secretary General pointed out that most of the identified weaknesses actually exist for quite a long time already, and need to be addressed in an appropriate way as soon as possible, in order to create better environment for further development of The Link.

Secretary General informed the Committee members about the future DESMOS, Regional and World events:

- o Roverway, Finland, July 20-28, 2012.
- o 4th World Scout Inter-Religious Symposium, August 1-5, 2012, Iksan, Republic of Korea
- o 3<sup>rd</sup> Ecumenical Encounter, September 27-30, 2012, Assisi, Italy
- o 21<sup>st</sup> European Scout Conference, Berlin, Germany, 2013
- o 5<sup>th</sup> World Scout Inter-Religious Symposium, 2014 (host and location to be decided)
- o 5<sup>th</sup> Eurasia Regional Scout Conference, September 2013, Kyiv, Ukraine
- o 7<sup>th</sup> DESMOS Conference, Slovenia, August 10, 2014
- o 40<sup>th</sup> World Scout Conference, Slovenia, August 11-15, 2014
- o 23<sup>rd</sup> World Scout Jamboree, Yamaguchi, Japan, 2015







Secretary General reminded that the Committee had the idea to prepare and run the Orthodox Leaders' Training in Eurasia Scout Region, like DESMOS did it successfully in 2009 for the associations in Middle East and in the Balkans. It was concluded that this issue needs to be further discussed with Eurasia Scout Region.

After presentation of the Report of Secretary General, there was a discussion on certain issues.

**Saeed Daoud**, commented the issue of human resources, which was mentioned in Secretary General's Report as one of the weaknesses of our Link. He suggested the idea of establishing of sub-committees, or brain-storming groups. **George Bahow** suggested enlarging of number of the Committee members.

**Christos Papageorgiou** and **Vassilis Birtsas** took part in discussion on this issue and explained that the number of the Committee members is a constitutional matter and that it is defined in the Statutes. They also raised the issue of operability, which would be significantly reduced with more members of The Committee. The sufficient number of nominations for the Committee, in case of increased number of Committee members, could also appear as a problem at DESMOS Conference, which elects the Committee.

Andriy Chesnokov gave the example of the Eurasia Regional Scout Committee in which the Committee members have particular role and are in charge for particular field of action.

The conclusion was to continue within DESMOS Committee exchange of ideas related to establishing task-force or brain-storming groups on different issues. Regarding the number of the Committee members, it was agreed

that whoever believes it would be better to have more members in the Committee should prepare the corresponding proposal for the next Conference, which is the only one competent to change the Statute.

**Andriy Chesnokov** commented on the financial issue, in particular the issue of DESMOS membership fee. Andriy said he was reading carefully the Summary of the 6<sup>th</sup> DESMOS Conference in Belgrade and that he finds correct the position of the Finish delegate Jaakko Weuro. Andriy said that in his opinion DESMOS Fee in the percentage of 10% of the WOSM Fee is not an appropriate solution and most probably not acceptable for a number of DESMOS member-countries. Andriy, however, pointed out that the Fee should exist and should be paid by all member-countries.

<u>The conclusion</u> on this issue was that it should be carefully considered in the forthcoming period and that the appropriate proposal for the next DESMOS Conference should be prepared.

Andriy Chesnokov suggested DESMOS Committee to consider the possibility of taking part in MESSENGERS OF PEACE project launched by WOSM during the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden. He said that DESMOS Mission and Vision and its activities are solid grounds for DESMOS involvement in this Project and that the Committee should contact the World Bureau and find out if it would be possible to nominate project(s) on behalf of The International Link of Orthodox Christian scouts.



Messengers of Peace

http://scoutmessengers.com/

#### MINUTES OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> DESMOS CONFERENCE - Marko Petrović

Secretary General, **Marko Petrović**, presented to the Committee the Minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> DESMOS Conference, held in Belgrade, Serbia, on April 29/30, 2011.

The "Conference Summary" document was distributed to all Conference participants and to the Committee members earlier last year, so everybody concerned had the opportunity to read it and give comments, if any.

Marko briefly repeated all the items that were on the Conference Agenda, including the elections of the new DESMOS Committee, which is currently having the Meeting in Kyiv, Ukraine.

The Committee unanimously accepted the Minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> DESMOS Conference.



#### REPORT ON DESMOS PARTICIPATION AT THE 22<sup>nd</sup> WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE IN SWEDEN, 2011



Through commented PowerPoint presentation, **Christos Papageorgiou** and **Vassilis Birtsas** reported to the Committee on DESMOS participation at the 22<sup>nd</sup> World Scout Jamboree, which took part in Kristianstad, Sweden, in the period July 27 – August 7, 2011.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> World Scout Jamboree was the biggest ever scout event, with over 42.000 participants and interesting programme, including the Faith and Beliefs Zone with:

- Reflection handbook for every participant with daily Inspiration–Meditation
- Tent for every religious/Faith Group
- 4 Prisma tents (one in each town centre)
- Fyren tent
- Reflex Path in Dream Forest
- Religious Services
- Inter-Religious event

Christos emphasized two elements that made the difference comparing to previous WSJ in England.

DESMOS had all-time active involvement of the Orthodox priest, **Father Constantine Myron**, who was available for scouts - visitors of DESMOS tent - every day, ready to offer children and young people all sorts of information and explanation on spirituality and religiosity.

DESMOS Team, besides Christos and Vassilis, as the two members of the Jamboree Planning Team, also had 19 ISTs from Greece, Palestine, Cyprus, USA, Lebanon, who made organization of DESMOS Team work in Faith and Beliefs Zone much easier and who significantly contributed to the success of the DESMOS Workshop.





- > DESMOS prepared The EXHIBITION on Orthodox Iconography.
- > DESMOS WORKSHOP resulted in more than 2.000 painted wooden plates.
- > The MATINEE with blessings of breads (Artoclasia) was attended by 350 participants.
- > The DIVINE LITURGY was attended by more than 1100 Scouts from 23 different countries.



- DESMOS presence was registered in Official Jamboree Magazine and on the web site <u>www.amen.gr</u> (religious news portal) <u>http://www.amen.gr/index.php?mod=news&op=article&aid=6457</u>
- DESMOS tent was visited by a large number of Scouting officials (World level, Regional levels, NSOs representatives, as well as representatives of different organizations and institutions)
- DESMOS received the warm Message to all participants from His All Holiness The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartolomew I.

At the end of the Presentation, Christos Papageorgiou and Vassilis Birtsas expressed a big Thank You for the supporters of DESMOS participation in Faith and Beliefs Zone, at the 22<sup>nd</sup> World Scout Jamboree:

- WSJ organizers
- Soma Hellinon Proskopon Scouts of Greece
- The Cyprus Scouts Association
- Greek community in Kristianstad
- Palestinian Orthodox Scouts
- Scout National Orthodox (SNO), Lebanon
- Friends of DESMOS in Greece

#### ADDRESS OF ARCHDEACON IOAN DIDENKO, REPRESENTATIVE OF UOC



**Archdeacon Ioan Didenko**, representative of the Archbishopric of The Ukrainian Orthodox Church, addressed The Committee.

Archdeacon Didenko said his responsibility is the coordination between the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and all scout unions in Ukraine. He is also responsible for educational programme for priests related to social work, as well as for all charity activities within the Kyiv region and for Ukrainian voluntary movement, which is helping the Church.

Archdeacon Didenko is a scout himself and holds the position of member of the Board of the Orthodox Scouts of Ukraine. He announced the Committee members that the meeting with other members of the Board will be the opportunity to discuss some issues of possible cooperation with DESMOS. He informed The Committee that His Beatitude, The Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine Volodymyr, is ill and actuaclly in the hospital, but still doing services. Archdeacon Didenko offered to The Committee members an interesting proposal - to visit His Beatitude in the hospital, be present for the Liturgy His Beatitude will serve there in the hospital's premises, and then have a meeting with the personal Secretary of His Beatitude, Archbishop Alexandar, who is the only Archbishop-scout.

Regarding the mentioned Charity Programme, Archdeacon Didenko said he believes they have their partners in almost all DESMOS countries and proposed possible partnership, indicating that we could develop some projects together and reminded that the liaison person with DESMOS id **Archpriest Andrey Klyushev**.

Starting partnerships within the mentioned charity programme, would also be the good basis for Ukrainian scouts to be the active part of The International Link of Orthodox Christian Scouts DESMOS, and it would create grounds for developing other interesting partnerships.

On behalf of The Committee, President **Christos Papageorgiou** expressed gratitude to Archdeacon Ioan Didenko for addressing The Committee.

Christos briefly presented DESMOS, the facts on founding of The Link, its Mission, Vision and philosophy, as well as the most important DESMOS activities. Christos emphasized DESMOS position that there's no spirituality without religiosity and that there's no religiosity without spirituality.





**Ms. Olga Mamona**, the journalist working for the web site of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, made a short interview with The Committee members, asking them to present themselves and say a few words on their scouting life and experience (article - Appendix 2)

Archdeacon Didenko said there was also a question raised by one of the priests who came across The Committee members within the complex of Kyiv Pechersk Lavra, who was interested to find out whether one can be a scout even with a gray hair.

Christos explained the role of adults in Scouting and said that the Movement needs Adults.

Christos Papageorgiou also offered certain general facts about Scouting, like for instance the age sections, etc.

#### THE 4<sup>TH</sup> WORLD SCOUT INTER-RELIGIOUS SYMPOSIUM - WSIS KOREA 2012



The forthcoming 4<sup>th</sup> World Scout Inter-Religious Symposium was presented to the Committee by **Christos Papageorgiou**, **Marko Petrović** and **Vassilis Birtsas**.

The 1<sup>st</sup> WSIS took part in 2003, in Valencia, Spain. Since then, this event is organized every three years, as a regular inter-religious event of faith organizations in Scouting. The 2<sup>nd</sup> WSIS was held in 2006 in Taiwan, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> took part in 2009 in Uganda. The next one, 4<sup>th</sup> World Scout Inter-Religious Symposium will be organized this year by Won Buddhists in the Republic of Korea (South Korea), August 1-5, 2012.

The theme of this symposium is: "Growing Scouting through Families and Communities".

The event will provide an opportunity to reflect and explore the significance of families and communities in growing Scouting and enhancing Youth Programme. Following on the valuable lessons learned during the 3rd WSIS in Uganda; the recognition of the diversity of religious beliefs as a strength to Scouting, the Symposium will also provide opportunity for NSOs and religious groups present within Scouting to share expertise, experiences and practices with each other. This will also further strengthen their spiritual development component of the Youth Programmes in order to enhance better Scouting for more young people thus building stronger families and communities in turn.

#### Themes

#### 1. What do we mean by family and community?

- a. Sub-themes: relationship between individual and family/community;
  - role of family/community in education of individual; historical, anthropological, philosophical perspectives; regional/cultural differences; perspectives of young people on family and community.
- b. Format: plenary session, introducing the theme.
- c. Abstract and full paper for final report.
- 2. The significance of family and community in different religious traditions.
  - a. Sub-themes: Baha'i; Buddhist; Christian (Catholic/Protestant/Orthodox); Hindu; Jewish; Latter-day Saints; Muslim; Sikh; Won-Buddhist.
  - b. Format: parallel seminars, offering an opportunity for interreligious dialogue on the theme of family and community.
  - c. Summary of presentations for final report.

#### 3. Growing Scouting by working with families and communities.

- a. Sub-themes: "Interesting practices" (case studies) from NSOs identifying successes in growing scouting through various links with communities – in particular from APR where "community based scouting" has been a focus; "Interesting practices" from religious groups; Widening participation through engagement with minority groups;
- b. Format: parallel workshops, group reflection, report into final plenary.
- c. Summary of case studies for final report.

#### 4. The significance of family and community for Youth Programme.

- a. Sub-themes: "Interesting practices" from NSOs, which illustrate how engagement with family/community has enhanced Youth Programme; learning to live with difference in family/community; family/community, and spiritual and religious development.
- b. Format: parallel workshops, group reflection, report into final plenary.
- c. Summary of case studies for final report.

#### Call for presentations:

NSOs, Regional Offices, and members of the interreligious forum are asked to identify projects and activities related to the above themes, which can be shared at the Symposium. This approach builds on the call from World Scout Conference 2011 for the sharing of expertise. Members of the Interreligious Forum are asked to prepare seminars on the significance of family/community in their religion.

#### **Interesting Practices:**

Reports on "Interesting practices" should tell the story of the project/activity and offer some reflection on the organisational learning that has taken place: what helped to make it work and what would be done differently next time?

Presentations should be not more than 20 minutes and will be followed by opportunity for discussion.

Christos, Marko and Vassilis encouraged the Committee members to consider possibility of taking part at WSIS in South Korea and to spread the info within their organizations.

The additional information on participation Fee and useful links were presented to the Committee.

The registration fee for the Symposium is 200 Euros to cover accommodation, meals and airport transfers. **The** deadline to register is 20th April 2012.

#### Meditation retreat (Aug. 5-7, 2012)

A meditation retreat following the symposium will be offered. The participation fee is \$50 US.

You should contact the hosts by June 1, 2012, if you are interested.

Meditation harmonizes and balances energy in our body and mind, cultivating a calm awareness of our true nature. This retreat includes silent meditation along with moving (taichi, kigong), sitting, walking, and spiritual discussion, finding oneness in our nature.

Give yourself the gift of rest in your true nature, leaving ordinary concerns behind.

The hosts invite participants to take advantage of these benefits and join us in this wonderful event to help Scouting expand through interfaith communities worldwide!

#### Contact for further information

E-mail : Rev. Cindy Chang samhaksaeun@hotmail.com

The relevant documents for 4th WSIS could be downloaded from the following link: <u>www.scout.org/en/information\_events/events/wsis/4th\_wsis</u>

The report of the previous, 3rd WSIS in Uganda, could be downloaded at this link: http://scout.org/en/information\_events/library/events/3rd\_world\_scout\_inter\_religious\_symposium\_report\_

For more information about the 4th World Scout Interreligious Symposium, the Committee members were adviced to visit:

http://www.scout.org/en/information\_events/events/wsis/4th\_wsis or to email the host faith organization Won Buddhism at: wonbuddhism.scout@gmail.com or the Korean Scout Association at: international@scout.or.kr

# THE 4<sup>TH</sup> ROVERWAY, FINLAND 2012



see. feel. follow. **ROVERWAY** FINLAND --- 2012 Vassilis Birtsas and Marko Petrovic gave the introduction regarding this important European regional event, open also for rover scouts and rangers from other scout regions.

The 4th RoverWay will be held the forthcoming summer, July 20-28, 2012, in Finland.

Previous RoverWay events were organized in Portugal, Italy and Island, as a very successful events.

Roverway is a joint European WAGGGS and WOSM event for 16 – 22 year old Rover Scouts and Rangers from all over the world.

The main event of the Roverway 2012 takes place in Finland July 20-28, 2012. It is a 9 day long programme event that includes two main parts:

#### 1. Path

A four day hike/event in groups of 50 people somewhere in Finland. Each path is different and the themes range from cultural excursions to forest hikes.





#### 2. Camp

The camp lasts for the rest of the event and all path tribes come together on the camp. The camp has programme valleys and different activities.

Even though the main event takes part in July, participation in the project runs throughout 2012. For more information, see the Programme page.

#### Who is Roverway for?

Roverway is aimed at 16 - 22 year old Rover Scouts and Ranger Guides throughout Europe. Finnish Explorers and Rovers over 16 years old are also welcome. In addition we welcome Rover Scouts and Ranger Guides from around the world.

Those over the age of 22, who are interested to take part, are welcome to join the International Service Team. In order to stress upon international dimension of the event, the decision is that maximum 25% of all the participants can be Finnish Explorers and Rovers.

More details on programme and all other aspects of the event may be found at: www.roverway.fi

It is important to emphasize that <u>the entire registration process goes through International Commissioner</u> of the NSO to which interested rovers/rangers belong.

**Vassilis Birstas** informed the Committee that the organizer did not provide details on how the Spiritual Dimension would be represented at the event. No guidelenes have been issued so far, so the way of participation of faith organizations in Scouting is still undefined. However, they expects us to inform them in what way DESMOS would participate, what is that we would like to do at the RoverWay. The approach for this age section should be certainly quite specific. Vassilis invited The Committee members to suggest some ideas on what DESMOS could do at the RoverWay in Finland.

**Roxana Boltasu** said that for the RoverWay participants, considering their age, the most appropriate would be to offer them realization of some projects in the community and that we might inquire about the needs of local community by asking our Finish friend Jaakko Weuro to help us. Roxana also mentioned the idea of having a photo contest.

**Christos Papagergiou** said, with a help of Jaakko, we could find out what are the needs of local community and build up a relevant project on water, fire, environment, etc. Also, if we can get assistance of the local Orthodox Church we can think of introducing some discussions on Philosophy of Orthodoxy, on Orthodoxy and Environment, on Solidarity, etc.

<u>The conclusion</u>: members of The Committee shall think about possible concrete activities DESMOS might conduct at the RoverWay in Finland. The feedback is to be communicated to Vassilis as soon as possible, considering a very short time left for preparations. Vassilis will continue exchange with the Finish hosts and get back to the Committee with information, so we could bring the final decision on DESMOS participation at the RoverWay 2012 in Finland.

#### PROPOSAL FOR A VISIT TO HIS ALL HOLINESS THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH, IN 2012

The Committee, considering excellent relations with His All Holiness **The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople**, and all the support His All Holiness offered to our Link over the last fifteen years since its founding, concluded that it is of great importance to maintain contacts with The Patriarchate of Constantinople and with His All Holiness in person.

The Committee concluded we should explore the possibilities for a visit of DESMOS delegation to His All Holiness in this year, and delegated this task to **Christos Papageorgiou** and **Nicolaos Mitsides**.



#### **REPORTS ON DESMOS ACTIVITIES ON A NATIONAL LEVEL IN PARTICULAR COUNTRIES**

The Committee was informed about scout activities in particular countries.

Nicolaos Mitsides informed the Committee about scout activities in Cyprus.



The Scout Association of Cyprus celebrates next year the Centenary of Scouting in Cyprus, so the preparations are underway for a number of various events that will be organized throughout the year 2013 in different parts of the country, including the National Jamboree. Nicolaos invited participants from all DESMOS countries to join Cypriot scouts at their Jamboree.

Nicolaos reminded that in previous period the Scout Association of Cyprus supported DESMOS with several volonteers engaged in Faith and Beliefs Zone, at the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden.



The next year ΣΠK also has the Annual Woodbadge Reunion together with Scouts of Greece and the preparations for that event are underway as well. In 2013 there will be the elections in The Scout Association of Cyprus, which is also one of the focussed issues in Cyprus.

**Christos Papageorgiou** proposed that the next DESMOS Comittee Meeting be organized in Cyprus. Thus, we could be with our Cypriot friends in the Centenary year of Cyprus Scouting and have our Meeting in one of the countries founders of our Link.

**Nicolaos Mitsides** accepted the proposal and said the idea has already been discussed within his NSO. It remains to analyze the best options and to communicate it to DESMOS Committee within reasonable time, in order to leave enough time to The Committee members to reserve dates in their Agendas and make their planning.

**George Bahow** informed the Committee about scout activities of the Orthodox Scouts Association of **Israel**.



**George Bahow** communicated to The Committee the greetings of The Committee member Naaman Shahada, and explained reasons for his absence from this Meeting. Naaman is one of the three key people in their NSO who run the Woodbadge Training, which is currently taking part in Israel. Naaman, who is also the Vice-President of the NSO will receive the highest scout decoration in Israel.



ארגון הצופים הארת'ודוקסים منظمة الكشاف الأرثوذكسي THE ORTHODOX SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF ISRAEL

In addition, the Secretary General of The World

ATION Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM), Mr. Luc Panissod, is visiting their country at the same time as we have our Committee Meeting, so Naaman must be in Israel as member of the official delegation of the host NSO.



George Bahow informed The Committee about the evident growth and development of The Orthodox Scout Association in Israel and pointed out the fact that nowadays actually three associations (Orthodox, Druze and Moslem) are gathered in one movement and registered as such in accordance with the law of the country. Based on the programme and projects they nominate, they receive the support of the state. The efforts are made in order to realize common activities as well.

He said their Association's scout groups are now preparing themselves for different activities related to the Easter feasts.

One of the traditional activities of Orthodox Christian Scouts of Israel is waiting for and welcoming the **Holy Light** from Jerusalem. The Orthodox scouts invite on this occasion members of other communities as well – Catholics, Druze, Moslems. Thus, it becomes a massive celebration. The scout parade goes all the way to the Church and afterwards, the Holy Light is being distributed to all the houses in the community.



George informed The Committee about the membership of their Association, which is around 3.000, indicating that they have around 2.000 members aged 9-18, and around 1.000 members aged 18+.

George Bahow also said their Association is going to realize the training course, with the focus on Spiritual Dimesion in Scouting.



George Bahow also informed The Committee about the visit that The Committee member **Namman Shahada** and himself recently did to The Patriarch of Jerusalem, Theophilos III, and about Patriarch's message of support to DESMOS. George pointed out very good personal relations that Namman and himself have with The Patriarch of Jerusalem.

#### Dušan Masoničić informed the Committee about scout activities in Montenegro.



Savez Izviđača Crne Gore Dušan informed The Committee that in 2011 The Association of Scouts of Montenegro had the change of the leadership, which faced a very difficult situation of their NSO, left by previous leadership. The new leadership immediately started overall restructuring on all levels in NSO. The new President took on his shoulders the burden and, even though starting practically from the level zero or even below zero concerning NSO's financial situation, he has already achieved lots of positive results. The task of getting new premises from the

authorities, although initiated by previous leadership, has now been finalized. The NSO also got for use a significant piece of land with an old school building that has to be reconstructed for scout needs, with



the idea to build there an international scout center. The scouts finally got the opportunity to have new uniforms, which is the essential scout need.

The issue of the membership fee has also been actualized. The annual membership fee was only 3,- Euros. The new proposed annual membership fee (7-10 Euros) generated

Regarding scout activities, The Association of Scouts of Montenegro mainly had the trainings aiming to produce new leaders needed for further growth and development of the Association. The event on the national level was a joint event comprising the Patrol Leaders' Training and the Scout Gathering.

At the end of his report, Dušan Masoničić offered The Committee members a wonderful video presentation of his country Montenegro, its beauty, fascinating nature and touristic capacity.

# Rakan Fakes informed the Committee about scout activities of the Amman Orthodox Scouts - Jordan.



Rakan started his report getting back to the presentation that Saeed Daoud did about Amman Orthodox Scouts during the 6<sup>th</sup> DESMOS Conference in Belgrade, in 2011. Rakan reminded that after a period in which their membership was decreasing, they were happy to announce that they have reached the number of 150 members, with the tendency of growth.

He said they also had to focus on other issues, like trainings and camps, in order to strengthen the Association. They had 2 camps

last year, on a new location, in the forest, in the mountains, not far from one of the oldest monasteries. They experienced it as a very challenging activity for both scouts and the leaders. The proximity of the monastery helped them to strongly emphasize the Spiritual Dimension in their activities. They organized the Assistant Leaders' training, which turned to be very successful.

Amman Orthodox Scouts have a very good Pipes Band. They are making efforts in order to renew the instruments, which is a serious financial challenge.

In the forthcoming days they will have a Mothers' Day celebration for the youngest age section.

Rakan said the election of Saeed Daoud on the position of DESMOS Committee member is considered in their Association as a very important fact, which motivates them to make additional efforts and achieve better results in their work.

Amman Orthodox Scouts recently established the new age section – Rangers – in which they now have 25 members. Last month they started for this age section the trainings related to religiosity and spirituality in Scouting.

They plan to organize the fund-raising on the occasion of Easter feasts and they will try to recruit more children for the youngest age section.

Once a year, in November, they organize a meeting with parents, as the excellent opportunity to hear what the parents think about their work.

Upon the question of Christos Papageorgiou about other group of Orthodox Scouts in Northern part of Jordan and about the possibility to unite with them and thus have a stronger Association, **Saeed Daoud** added that this process is now ongoing, and that with a help of Metropolitan Christophoros the result will, hopefully, be positive.

Saeed pointed out that the efforts are focused on the idea to have an umbrella for all Orthodox scouts in Jordan and that they are really working on it - to create new scout groups and then to unite them all under one umbrella.

Christos encouraged such approach and said it is very important for DESMOS.

#### Andriy Chesnokov informed the Committee about scout activities in Ukraine.

Andriy Chesnokov reported only about the scout activities in Ukraine related to Spiritual Dimension in Scouting, even though there were numerous scout activities

and events in Ukraine that he would like to share with participants of the Meeting.

He indicated that the official number of scouts in NOSU is 3.000, although in reality this number is estimated on 50.000 scouts. The country has 46 million inhabitants, out of which around 70 percent are of Orthodox Christian faith.

Unfortunately, Orthodox Church in Ukraine is divided and therefore NOSU is facing serious difficulties in relation with

parents, who sometimes raise this issue and their reaction depends for instance on the information what priest is communicating with their children. Sometimes parents even threat with the court in case the priest working with their children belongs to The Patriarchate they do not accept.

NOSU also has charity activities and social work, for the community. Scout leaders interact with the parishes. Scout leaders work with disabled children, or on inclusion of marginalized groups, scouts collect cloths and other things that may be useful for those who can't afford buying it.







NOSU also organizes pilgrim trips for its scouts. Ukraine has three Lavras. Besides this one in which we have this Meeting, there are two other Lavras – one in western Ukraine and the other in Eastern Ukraine. Pilgrim trips are being organized to other holy places as well.

In this Centenary year of Scouting in Ukraine, among numerous scout events, NOSU will also have a Mass with All-Ukrainian Forum of scout groups, with the Programme divided into parts or duties, one of which is Duty to God, as the educational segment for all age sections, with lots of examples of good practice. This event is supported by the Ukrainian Ministry of Education, Science, Youth and Sports.

Andriy emphasized that NOSU is now working on introducing the Spiritual Education track into the scout Programme and that they have a task force forking on this issue and producing relevant handouts.

Scout groups in Ukraine are actively involved with parishes in celebration of most important religious events, like Christmas, Easter, etc.

One of the traditional spiritual activities in Scouting in Ukraine is the Light of Peace from Bethlehem. The Light of Peace comes to Ukraine from Poland, first to the Western part of the country where Catholic population lives, and then moves towards the Eastern part, where the majority are Orthodox Christians, being spread throughout the country to hospitals, local communities, to the President of Ukraine, and all that happens between two Christmas dates (Gregorian Calendar and Julian Calendar).

#### Roxana Boltasu informed the Committee about scout activities in Romania.



Roxana said that scouts in Romania also have the Light of Peace of Bethlehem event. They take the Light of Peace from Vienna. They bring the Light of Peace to the churches, where priests explain children its meaning. Then the scouts bring it to hospitals, orphanage, local communities, etc.

Another big project, which is being implemented in Romania during the last seven years, is The Light Festival. The concept is that the scouts, usually in central areas of towns, tell people how to get back to simple things and enjoy it.

In 2011, the Romanian NSO "Cercetasii Romaniei", celebrated the Centenary of Scouting, with the National Jamboree as the central event, where there was a tent for Spiritual Dimension, where the Orthodox priest coordinated the activities.

There are lots of local projects throughout Romania comprising Spiritual Dimension. For instance, one of such projects was realized in local pediatric hospital in Târgu Jiu, where scouts were drawing Disney characters, which was an excellent animation of hospitalized chidren.

Romanian scouts also have regular charity activities, usually for Christmas time, when they collect food, clothes and other different things, which they offer to poor families.

#### Vassilis Birtsas informed the Committee about SHP scout activities in Greece.



**Vassilis** emphasized that SHP (Scouts of Greece) is fully aware of the importance of DESMOS, its Mission, Vision and activities, and therefore constantly supports The Link. Vassilis said the financial situation of Greece unfortunately affects all aspects of daily life, including the scouts.



In spite of difficulties, Scouts of Greece significantly supported DESMOS participation at the WSJ in Sweden in 2011. SHP reserves for DESMOS the page in national scout magazine, which is being issued four times a year. The Magazine writes not only about DESMOS and its activities, but also about other events having a Spiritual Dimension.

Scouts of Greece have been very engaged in charity activities, helping churches in collecting clothes and food for people in need. In this work SHP had a big support of the Scouts of Cyprus, who collected almost 5 tons of different goods for the Greek people, sent it to the Scouts of Greece and SHP delivered it to the Church of Greece, in order to be further distributed to the Greek people in need. This is a big project and the scouts intend to continue its implementation.



#### Marko Petrović informed the Committee about scout activities in Serbia.

Marko emphasized the fact that in his country the year 2011 was dominantly marked by the Centenary of Scouting in Serbia, which was celebrated through numerous scout events, with the central event - The 8th Serbian Jamboree, held in Šabac, Western Serbia, under the motto "One Hundred Years Young".



The Jamboree was a great and successful international event, which gathered large number of scouts from different countries.

Marko said the Jamboree had a rich and interesting programme, which included the

spiritual dimension in Scouting through a number of workshops. DESMOS had its stand at the Jamboree and it's a pity that, except from the neighboring countries, there were no participants from other DESMOS member-countries.





**Episcope Lavrentije**, member of the Holy Synod of The Serbian Orthodox Church, visited the Jamboree site and had an exchange with scouts participating in Spiritual Development workshop.

Together with Episcope Lavrentije, Head of the Catholic Church in Serbia, Archbishop of Belgrade and Metropolitan **Stanislav Hočevar** visited the Jamboree site, as well as the representative of Moslems community.

On the occasion of the formal celebration of the Centenary of Scouting in Serbia, at the scout gathering in Belgrade in December 2011, in the presence of representatives of all scout groups from Serbia, representative of the European Regional Scout Committee, numerous foreign guests and state officials, DESMOS Secretary General received special recognition "The Golden Scout Emblem with Wreath", which the Scout Organization of Serbia awarded to The International Link of Orthodox Christian



Scouts DESMOS for its contribution on the field of scout programme, in particular for development of the Spiritual Dimension in Scouting.

In Serbia, scouts also realized different projects with children in Refugee centers, children without parents and with disabled children.

# **Maher Sahlieh** informed the Committee about activities of The Palestinian Orthodox Scouts Association in **Palestine**.

Maher prepared interesting video-presentation, which offered the overview of scout events in Palestine in previous period through large number of photos, with a nice background music, presenting scouts from different Orthodox scout groups during various scout activities.

The scout groups presented were as follows:

- The Arab Orthodox Union Club Scout Group Jerusalem
- Al-Tale'a Orthodox Scout Group
- Arab Orthodox Scout Group Ramallah
- The Orthodox Scouts Group of Beit Jala
- Arab Orthodox Scout Group of Gaza

Maher emphasized the importance of existence of the new Orthodox Scout Group in Gaza, which conducts its activities in spite of a very complex situation in that part of Palestine.



Here are several photos from some of the activities, realized by scouts, members of The Palestinian Orthodox Scouts Association:



At the end of national presentations related to the activities in particular countries, **Christos Papageorgiou** said it is evident that there are numerous activities and reminded once again that we need to share information in order to be able to prepare DESMOS **NewsLetter**.



Christos also said The Committee should prepare sort of recommendation for NSOs with the ideas on how to put the Spiritual Dimension in scout programmes. Christos indicated that we do have resource materials from the meetings of the Inter-Religious Forum and from World Scout Inter-Religious Symposia, so we should use it and prepare a relevant document to be sent out to NSOs DESMOS members.

Christos reminded that until last year at the World level the issue was only spirituality, not the religiosity. But we convinced them that there is no spirituality without religiosity and vice versa.

Christos said we should have in our scout groups more practical religious activities. Children generally need the guidance, especially on the field of spirituality and religiosity. If we could have examples of good practice, we could easily learn from each other. But we need all of you to share your experience with others.

#### ENLARGING DESMOS / MEMBERSHIP GROWTH / How to attract and retain new member-countries

The issue of enlarging The Link is always actual and our aim is to have new member countries in all parts of the world. However, we continuously have a number of inactive countries, so we need to discuss how to get them back to active status.

**Vassilis Birtsas** informed The Committee about his contacts with the new International Commissioner of the Organization of Bulgarian Scouts, who said that in previous period DESMOS and generally religious issues have not been on a list of priorities of their NSO, but promised that it's going to change and that his NSO will start being active in DESMOS.

Vassilis also informed The Committee that SHP (Scouts of Greece) plan to organize for the NSOs from the Balkan region the International Commissioners meeting next summer in Thessaloniki and that one of the topics will be DESMOS and active role of NSOs in the Balkans.

**Christos Papageorgiou** reminded that Vassilis holds the position of Assistant IC in the Scouts of Greece, that he is usually present in most of the scout events in Europe and worldwide, so he can use meetings and other scout gatherings for exchange with representatives of other countries on DESMOS issues.

Christos also said we have a very good contact with the representative of The Patriarch of Alexandria in Greece, who also acts in Ghana and in Zimbabwe, and through him DESMOS renewed negotiations with scouts in Ghana, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Ethiopia. Christos said that Africa should be our focus in the coming years.

Christos pointed out the possibility for DESMOS representative to address The Holy Synod of The Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, in Istanbul, since beside ecclesiastical topics The Synod also allows the possibility of presentation on other topics. During the last visit to The Ecumenical Patriarchate I was told it would be good if a representative of DESMOS Committee could address The Holy Synod and present the Scouting and in particular The International Link of Orthodox Christian Scouts DESMOS.

By the end of this Item of the Agenda, the International Commissioner of The National Organization of Scouts of Ukraine - NOSU, Ms. **Olena Halushka**, joined the Committee Meeting, as well as **Taras**, NOSU member from the Western part of Ukraine.

Olena Halushka, in her capacity of IC of NOSU, welcomed The Committee



members in Ukraine, and DESMOS President Christos Papageorgiou presented The Committee members to Olena Halushka.

The Committee members expressed gratitude to Olena Halushka for all she, Andriy Chesnokov and Andrey Klyushev have done in order to make this Meeting possible and for the hospitality The Committee members met here in Kyiv.



The Committee members also expressed gratitude to

**Denys Bulavin**, who was available practically all the time and always ready to offer any kind of assistance to the participants of the Meeting.

#### FUND-RAISING / FRIENDS OF DESMOS - GREEK EXAMPLE OF GOOD PRACTICE

**Christos Papageorgiou** informed The Committee on the the activities and results in fund-raising of the "Friends of Desmos in Greece" association (FoD in Greece). Christos presented to The Committee the exact numbers:

In 2011, FoD in Greece collected through various activities: 2.871,97 EUR The expenditures were: 2.800,- EUR (WS Conference in Brazil, 6<sup>th</sup> DESMOS Conference in Belgrade, WSJ in Sweden)

The plan for 2012 is to collect financial means for the Inter-Religious Forum, The Committee Meeting in Kyiv and 4<sup>th</sup> Inter-Religious Symposium in Korea, with the total estimated amount needed: 4.400,-EUR, which we are hoping to collect through various activities.

FoD in Greece has more than 50 active members paying the annual membership fee of 50,-EUR, which means we already have half of the needed amount for this year. We also organize every year two gala-diners, one for Christmas and one in July before summer holidays season.

Christos recommended the other Committee members to try to establish similar body in their countries. **Vassilis Birtsas** said the English translation of the FoD in Greece Statute is available and could be sent to all interested members of our Link. It can be adapted to the legislation of particular country.

There was a discussion on the appropriate approach in fund-raising in which took part **Dušan Masoničić**, **Saeed Daoud**, **Rakan Fakes**, **Vassilis Birtsas**. It was said we should always have in mind the "main stream" and support fund-raising of our NSOs, we should seek not only for the financial support but also for moral/ethical support, we should avoid accepting support in exchange for decision-making status of the donor (it's better to collect smaller amounts from large number of donors), etc.

Being fully aware of the great contribution, which actually made possible DESMOS presence at numerous major world and regional scout events, The Committee expressed gratitude to the "Friends of Desmos in Greece" association, hoping The Link will meet its understanding and assistance in future as well.



### DISCUSSION ON DESMOS PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS / DESMOS NEWSLETTER

The importance of DESMOS NewsLetter was mentioned several times earlier during the Meeting.

**Christos Papageorgiou** emphasized once again that the only way to have a good NewsLetter, rich with various news on activities in different countries, is to send information and photos to Vassilis, who is currently working on this issue.

This is something we repeat on every meeting of The Committee, and yet the situation remains the same – there is no feedback from DESMOS member-countries.

We need to invite once again all our member-countries to send us materials for DESMOS NewsLetter.

Christos suggested we should also try to be present in our national scout magazines, since in most countries there is a NSO's publication, which is being issued periodically. It is the opportunity to get at least one page for DESMOS news.

Vassilis Birtsas reminded that a very effective way for promotion and communication, which in addition costs nothing, is the use of internet - Web Site, e-mail circulation of news, FaceBook ...

Other promotional materials we do have – calendars, badges, leaflets, pins, T-shirts (from time to time), crosses (for some events), scarfs (from time to time)

#### ELECTIONS

As the outgoing President of The Link, Christos Papageorgiou proposed for the position of the President of DESMOS Marko Petrovic.

Christos explained to The Committee why he believes Marko would be the right person to continue the chairmanship of The Link.

He said Marko has been, together with him, actively involved in all DESMOS issues since the very beginning, since the founding of The Link. Throughout the last 15 years, Marko performed in our Link the duty of the Committee member, Vice-President and Secretary General. During his term of International Commissioner of The Scout Organization of Serbia, Marko established numerous contacts on the world level, regional levels, as well as with large number of NSOs, and he is quite well known in the world of scouting. Marko proved with his active engagement the loyalty to DESMOS and commitment and deserves to chair The Committee.

There were no other proposals for the position of President of DESMOS. The proposal was accepted unanimously by The Committee. **Marko Petrovic** was elected **President**.

For the position of Vice-President there were two proposals:

- Saeed Daoud proposed Maher Sahlieh

- Christos Papageorgiou proposed Vassilis Birtsas.

The voting by secret ballot was performed, and the results of the voting is as follows:

Maher Sahlieh - 3 votes Vassilis Birtsas - 4 votes

Vassilis Birtsas was elected Vice-President



For the position of Treasurer there was only one proposal, made by George Bahow: Maher Sahlieh. The proposal was accepted unanimously.

Maher Sahlieh was elected Treasurer

The newly elected President, Marko Petrovic, proposed for the position of Secretary General: Georges Abboud Proposal was accepted unanimously by The Committee.

Georges Abboud was appointed Secretary General



Considering that a Honorary Committee member should be a person that significantly contributed to the development of The Link, The Committee appointed as **Honorary Committee members**:

Christos Papageorgiou





George Bahow





### SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Besides being excellent hosts regarding organization of The Committee Meeting and the related logistics, NOSU organized additional activities for participants of the Meeting, offering participants the opportunity to get acquainted with Ukrainian historical heritage, culture and habits, as well as with the beauty of the city of Kyiv.

#### Thursday, March 22, 2012:



DESMOS Committee meeting participants had the opportunity to visit the beautiful Saint Jonah Monastery in Kyiv, and take part at the "Youth Service", which is a sort of Forum organized by the Monastery for young people every Thursday at 19h.

This event became a traditional gathering for young people of Kyiv, who come to this Monastery with enthusiasm and strong desire to get an additional knowledge on Orthodoxy, but also to discuss actual interesting topics that concern the youth nowadays.



DESMOS Committee Meeting participants had the opportunity to present themselves to the young people of Kyiv, Forum participants, and to tell them some facts about DESMOS, about the aims and objectives of our Link, as well as about Scouting in their countries.

Participants of DESMOS Committee Meeting were offered a diner in the Monastery premises.

The Service starts with the Prayer and blessing of the Priest – **Father Nikolay Mogilniy**, who is facilitating the session. Different interesting topics are on the Agenda and the participative young people exchange their views and opinion, becoming during these gatherings good friends. The Service usually lasts until 21h-21h30 and is closed with the Prayer, thanksgiving and announcements for the next gathering...

The event has a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere and includes a tea serving.



It was an extraordinary experience for DESMOS Committee Meeting participants, on the eve of The Committee Meeting scheduled for the next day.

#### Saturday, March 24, 2012:

Participants of The Committee Meeting visited the complex of **Kyiv Pechersk Lavra**, a unique monastery complex, which is included in UNESCO world heritage list.

Kiev-Pechersk-Lavra originates in 1051, when a monk Antoniy had settled in this place in dug out on a hill slope cave. Soon other monks joined him and started to widen the caves, later when underground space could not house all community to construct overground buildings.

The name of the monastery comes exactly from the caves (the word «pechera» in Ukrainian means a «cave»), the word «lavra» means status, it received large and influential monasteries, which size was like small towns with streets (lavra means «street» in Greek).

From the 70th of the XI century an intensive building had begun in the monastery, here was constructed Uspenskiy Cathedral, Troitskaya Church and refectory.

The monastery played very important role in Ukrainian culture development - the first printinghouse was established here, many famous chroniclers, writers, scientists, painters, doctors lived and worked. In 1113 Chronicler Nestor wrote his «Tale of Bygone Years» («Povest vremennyh let») the main source of knowledge about the times of Kievan Rus.

After a great fire of 1718 the restoration of damaged building and the construction of new one had began. Holy Dormition Cathedral and Troitskaya Church got its present-day baroque style, the monastery territory was surrounded by stone walls. Thus in the middle of the XVIII century the unique architectural ensemble of Lavra had been formed. It preserved till our times for the most part. Kiev-Pechersk Lavra became the largest monastery on the territory of former Kievan Rus, its total square was almost 30 hectares.









After Communist Party came to power in 1917 the hard times for the monastery had begun - it was closed and all its property had been nationalized, some time after in the part of monastery buildings museums were placed.

In 1941 during World War II the Holy Dormition Cathedral had been blown up. Up to now there are no exact facts who realized the blasting operations - Germans or Soviet underground. In 1988 the territory of Far Caves with all overground buildings was returned to newly created monk community, and in 1990 the territory of Near Caves.

Lavra caves is the system of underground passages, divided into two parts - Far and Near Caves. First annalistic mentions of Lavra Caves are related to 1051. At first caves were occupied by the monks who lived their, later in caves started to bury dead settlers of the monastery. In particular there are remains of Chronicle Nestor the author of the «Story of bygone years», Ilya Muromets - Russian epic hero and the relics of imperishable Lavra saints.

In some underground cells lived hermit monks, who devoted their lives to prayers - in the walls of cave passages had remained small holes through which they got water and food.

There are legends about the extent of Lavra caves - it's said that underground passages stretches under the Dnieper and also connects Lavra with other monastery caves of Kiev and Chernigov.



that there will be another opportunity to return and visit this wonderful site again.

# MEETING WITH THE HEAD OF UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH (MOSCOW PATRIARCHATE), HIS BEATITUDE, THE METROPOLITAN OF KYIV AND ALL UKRAINE VOLODYMYR

The participants of The Committee Meeting had the pleasure and the honor to be received by **His Beatitude**, **The Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine Volodymyr**, in His Residence within the Kyiv Pechersk Lavra complex.



After a period of time spent in the hospital due to His health condition, on March 24, 2012, for the first time since September 2011, His Beatitude Metropolitan Volodymyr celebrated the Divine Liturgy at St Nicholas Church at the Residence of the UOC Primate at the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra.

The same day, His Beatitude received all the participants of DESMOS Committee Meeting and gave His Blessing for DESMOS work. All the participants received from His Beatitude a small Holy Icon.

At the end of the Reception, the group photo with His Beatitude was taken.







His Beatitude said that working with youth is pleasing God and encouraged DESMOS to continue with implementation of its Mission, wishing God's help to The International Link of Orthodox Christian Scouts.

The newly elected DESMOS President, Marko Petrović, offered to His Beatitude the souvenir of The Committee Meeting in Kyiv and, on behalf of DESMOS, expressed the gratitude for the privilege of being received by His Beatitude.

The participants of The Committee Meeting were deeply touched by the encounter with the Head of The Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

After the encounter with His Beatitude, The Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine Volodymyr, DESMOS delegation had the Meeting with Archbishop Alexander, personal secretary of His Beatitude.

Archbishop Alexander received the delegation of DESMOS in his premises in the UOC Residence. At the reception also took part Archdeacon loan Didenko, in charge in UOC for youth issues, and Father Andriy Klyushev, Archpriest, member of NOSU.



DESMOS representatives presented themselves and informed Archbishop Alexander about The Link, its aims and objectives, its philosophy, activities and plans for the future.

Archbishop Alexander is actually the member of the Orthodox Scouts of Ukraine. In a very open, relaxed atmosphere, in conversation with participants of The Committee Meeting, Archbishop Alexander manifested quite a good knowledge about Scouting, thus confirming that his membership in our Movement is not just formal.



Вікарій Київської Митрополії Секретар Предстоятеля Української Православної Церкви



Archbishop Alexander supported the work of The International Link of Orthodox Christian Scouts DESMOS.

#### MEETING WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF SCOUTS OF UKRAINE

After a nice lunch meal offered by NOSU, DESMOS representatives visited NSO's premises and had the meeting with the Head of NOSU National Board, ів україни eau National O

Mr. Viktor Bocharnykov

Andriy Chesnokov - Eurasia Regional Committee member, First Vice-President of NOSU. Olena Halushka - International Commissioner, Jaroslava kolobova -Scouting's Profile Co-ordinator, Father Andrey Klyushev - Archpriest and member of NOSU, as well as Denys Bulavin - member of Lviv Regional NOSU, also took part at the Meeting.

NOSU representatives warmly greeted DESMOS delegation and this encounter happened in a really nice and true scout atmosphere.

NOSU and DESMOS representatives exchanged information about each other's organization, as well as small presents - scout souvenirs.



Mr. Viktor Bocharnykov informed DESMOS delegation about the events and activities NOSU has in the year 2012, since this NSO celebrates this year the Centenary of Scouting in Ukraine.

DESMOS representatives informed Mr. Viktor Bocharnykov about The Link, its aims and objectives, its activities and plans for the future.

DESMOS representatives expressed gratitude for NOSU's decision to host The Committee Meeting in the Centenary year for this NSO, and for excellent organization of the event.

In a friendly discussion, it turned out that NOSU's President Viktor Bocharnykov and former DESMOS President Christos Papageorgiou had a lot in common from the former days regarding scout events they both took part at, and even some old photos appeared on the table, so they were overwhelmed by memories and emotions...



Participants of DESMOS Committee Meeting were very happy with the welcome, atmosphere and exchange they had in NOSU premises.

#### SIGHTSEEING OF THE CITY OF KYIV

The host NSO organized for participants of The Committee Meeting the sightseeing of the central area of the city of Kyiv.

Kyiv (also known as Kiev), a scenic city of close to 3 million people situated on the Dnipro River, is the bustling capital of Ukraine. Ancient Kievan Rus, which reached its greatest period of ascendancy during the 11th and 12th centuries, was a center of trade routes between the Baltic and the Mediterranean. The city of Kyiv and the power of Kievan Rus were destroyed in 1240 by Mongol invaders and the lands of Kievan Rus were divided into principalities located to the west and north: Galicia, Volynia, Muscovy and later, Poland, Lithuania, and Russia.



Once a powerful force on the European scene, Ukraine's fate in modern times has been decided in far-off capitals. As a result, modern Ukrainian history, for the most part, has been defined by foreign occupation.

Kyiv suffered severely during World War II, and many irreplaceable architectural and art treasures were destroyed. Earlier in the 1930's the Soviet authorities systematically destroyed many churches. Extensive restoration has revived much of historic Kyiv. The city hit the headlines in April 1986, when the nuclear reactor at nearby Chernobyl exploded, but scientists generally agree that the city is now safe from radiation effects.

Despite repressions, suffering, political turmoil, and ecological disasters, Ukraine's spirit and national identity have never died. On August 24, 1991, after the aborted coup in Moscow, Ukraine proclaimed its independence. As of 1994, Ukraine has diplomatic relations with over 135 countries and close to 60 diplomatic missions are established in Kyiv. News correspondents, business representatives, and students from all over the world reside in Kyiv, and the flow of foreign tourists and official delegations is heavy year round. The resident American community consists of Embassy personnel (including dependents), correspondents, business representatives, clergy, professors, and students.



The art and architecture of Kyiv are world treasures. The **Cathedral of St. Sophia**, where the princes of Kyiv were crowned in the years of Kyiv's grandeur, has outstanding mosaics and frescoes dating back to the 11th century.

Overlooking the old section of Kyiv, Podol, stands the Ukrainian Baroque church of St. Andrew, much beloved by Ukrainians. The **Percherska Lavra**, the Monastery of the Caves, a short trolley ride from the center of town, has two 11th-century cathedrals on its grounds, in addition to its world-famous catacombs, bell tower, and museum collections. Close to the center of town stands the Golden Gate, a structure which dates back to 1037. This recently reconstructed remains of the former fortified wall of the city defined the limits of the city in centuries past. Several blocks away, stands the magnificent 19th-century Cathedral of St. Volodymyr.

Theater buffs will find much to choose from here. Most performances are in Ukrainian or Russian. The recently renovated **Kyiv Opera House** presents very good opera as well as a broad repertoire of ballets. The Kyiv Young Theater is very popular and stages innovative plays in Ukrainian or Russian. The Ivan Franko Theater is the center of Ukrainian drama, comedy, and musicals. This repertoire has just opened its 75th season and includes brilliant versions of Aeneid and Teve Tevel, the original version of Fiddler on the Roof.

The modern center with surviving parts of the old city are on the







hilly west, or right bank, of the Dnipro River. The main street, Khreshchatik, runs between two steep hills. Parallel about half a kilometer west, is vulytsya Volodymyrska, the main street of the Old Kyiv area (Staryj Kyiv). From the north end of Khreshchatik, vulytsya Hrushevskoho rises southeast along a ridge to the Caves

Monastery at Perchersk. Woods and parks cover most of the steep right-bank slopes. The capital's newer sections stretch out on the flat left bank. These are characterized by large housing developments and industrialized neighborhoods.



## VISIT TO THE ORTHODOX SCOUTS OF UKRAINE

At the end of a very busy day, participants of DESMOS Committee Meeting visited the premises of Orthodox Scouts of Ukraine, where the warm welcome was expressed by OSU Director Ms. **Lesya Prokopovych** and other young people.





Young people, members of the Orthodox Scouts of Ukraine were interested to find out more about The International Link of Orthodox Christian Scouts DESMOS.

They were quite enthusiastic to hear about our Mission, aims, objectives and activities and.





Lesya Prokopovych and her friends presented activities of their organization to the members of DESMOS delegation.

They played guitar and sang scout songs, they presented themselves and they told us they would be happy to take part at some DESMOS event in future.

DESMOS delegation was offered a nice diner meal prepared by scouts and the conversation developed in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere.

After a wonderful evening spent in the premises of the Orthodox Scouts of Ukraine, a group photo was taken as a souvenir to this interesting visit.

Thanks to our hosts – National Organization of Scouts of Ukraine - participants of DESMOS Committee Meeting had a fruitful Meeting and a wonderful time in Kyiv. DESMOS is grateful for that.

DESMOS expresses a big THANK YOU to **ANDRIY CHESNOKOV**, **OLENA HALUSHKA**, **Father ANDREY KLYUSHEV**, **SVITLANA TARAPATA**, **DENYS BULAVIN**, and all the others involved in organization of the event whose names we do not know, for all their efforts in order to make the Meeting possible and so successful.

APPENDIX 1



INTERNATIONAL LINK OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN SCOUTS LE LIEN INTERNATIONAL DES SCOUTS CHRETIENS ORTHODOXES

#### APPOINTMENT OF PROXY DESMOS Committee Meeting Kyiv, Ukraine, March 22 - 25, 2012

In case you are not able to attend the Committee Meeting in Kyiv, Ukraine, March 22-25, 2012, please complete this form in capital letters and return by e-mail: office@desmos.info\_and\_zs.inv.1@tsbest.net

not being able to attend DESMOS Committee Meeting in Kyiv, Ukraine, I, the undersigned NAAMAN SHAHADA, DESMOS Committee member from Israel, in my capacity of the elected DESMOS Committee member,

hereby appoint Mr. GEORGE BAHOW, Honorary DESMOS Committee member, to represent me as The Committee member during DESMOS Committee Meeting in Kyiv, Ukraine, March 22-25, 2012, in all the issues regarding that Meeting, including voting.

Date: March, \_\_, 2012.

Signed by: NAAMAN SHAHADA Signature:

Title: DESMOS Committee member

http://orthodoxy.org.ua/content/skaut-s-detstva-skaut-navsegda-pravoslavnye-skauty-so-vsego-mira-v-kieve-45696



# «Скаут с детства – скаут навсегда»: православные скауты со всего мира в Киеве

27 Березня 2012 16:11 Ольга Мамона

22-25 марта впервые в Украине состоялась встреча представителей Международной сети православных скаутов «Десмос», к которой в ноябре 2011 года присоединились и скауты нашей страны.

В частности, форум проходил на территории древней христианской святыни – Киево-Печерской Лавры, которую сами участники встречи назвали «духовным сердцем» Киева. А еще, как они признались, именно жизнь в Лавре и встреча с Блаженнейшим Митрополитом Владимиром, которая состоялась в его резиденции, стали самым сильным и ярким впечатлением от форума.

Сама Международная сеть православних скаутов «Десмос» была создана в 1997 г. в монастыре Пентели в Афинах. На тот момент в эту сеть входило 8 стран, сейчас это уже 25 стран-членов: Балканские страны, Европа — это Финляндия и Украина, страны Евразийского региона, Ближний Восток, США, а также Африка. Почему Африка? Да потому, что в этих странах также существуют православные скауты. На сегодняшний день, к примеру, Уганда является членом сети, а в следующем году присоединятся Камерун, ЮАР, Кения, Ганна и Эфиопия.

Православные скауты всех стран, объединяйтесь!

Что же еще, кроме Православия, объединяет скаутов этого движения? Как заметил Президент «Десмоса» **Христос Пепеджорджиу**, Всемирный скаутинг старается привить молодежи духовность и религиозность. «Мы верим в то, что не может быть религиозности без духовности или духовности без религиозности, - подчеркнул он. - Это означает, что все скауты должны выполнять свои обязанности перед Богом. А это говорит о том, что мы должны не только назвать себя христианами, а действительно доказать, что являемся христианами. Собственно, для того, чтобы продвигать Православие во Всемирном скаутском движении, и была организована Международная сеть православных скаутов "Desmos", что в переводе с греческого означает "единство"».

Однако кроме объединения всех скаутов «православного мира», к главным задачам «Десмоса» относится и обязанность проводить мероприятия по развитию духовности молодых людей-скаутов, а также поддерживать дружественные отношения между Православными Церквями в тех странах, где существует скаутское движение.

Управляет же сетью православных скаутов специальный Комитет, который избирается Генеральной ассамблеей раз в 3 года и в который сегодня входят представители Греции, Сербии, Черногории, Румынии, Иордании, Израиля и Палестинской автономии. Кстати, Украина является последней страной, которая присоединилась к сети.

«Этот Комитет является таким себе «зонтиком» для всех православных скаутов, которые входят во Всемирную организацию скаутского движения, - подчеркнул Христос. - Подобно тому, как Вселенский Патриарх Варфоломей I объединяет все Церкви».

Кстати, в последнем Всемирном скаутском джемборе в Швеции принимали участие 44 тысячи скаутов. В рамках этого съезда члены «Десмоса» организовали семинар по православной иконографии, а также совершили Божественную литургию, которая переводилась одновременно на 8 языков мира и в которой приняли участие более 1,5 тысячи людей из 23 стран! Помимо этого, на джемборе постоянно работал священник, который отвечал на все вопросы, возникающие у детей относительно Литургии, Причастия, отличий православия от католицизма, протестантизма и прочее.

«Уверен, что демонстрировать нашу веру нужно, показывая культуру и цивилизацию, которые эта вера несет», — отметил Президент ассоциации православных скаутов в Израиле Джордж Бахоу, который в скаутинге с 1981 года, а через три месяца ему исполнится... 75 лет. «Так, скауты ведь молодые. А почему тогда они немолодые?..»

К скаутам мы привыкли, и уже давно ассоциируем их не с американскими детьми, а с нашими православными скаутами, которые в конце 2011 года как раз праздновали свое 7-летие. Но признаться, странно было видеть на форуме православных скаутов «Десмос» не детей, а взрослых, многие из которых даже сединой на висках могут похвалиться.

Удивило это и одного монаха Лавры, который у главного скаута Украинской Православной Церкви – протодиакона Иоанна Диденко даже спросил: «А это скауты собираются? Так, скауты ведь молодые. А почему они тогда немолодые?». На что отец Иоанн заметил, что «скаут с детства – скаут навсегда!». Ответ протодиакона Иоанна нас, конечно, убедил, но... Мы, все же, не постеснялись спросить об этом и у самого Президента скаутской сети «Десмос».

Вопрос у него вызвал улыбку, но наше недоумение оказалось оправданным. Как оказалось, 80% членов Всемирной организации скаутского движения более чем в 150 странах, а это около 32 миллионов человек, все-таки – дети.

В то же время, как уверен Христос Пепеджорджиу, а он скаут с 60-летним стажем (!), в скаутинге должны быть люди всех возрастов. Потому что каждый человек должен привносить свой опыт в движение, передавать свои знания детям. А этот опыт развивается и изменяется как раз по мере того, как человек продвигается по возрастным группам.

Что касается возрастных категорий, то в Международной сети православных скаутов они следующие. Дети от 8-ми до 11-13-ти лет – это «кап-скауты», у них занятия проходят только в виде игры; дети 11-15ти лет – это скауты, которые развиваются интеллектуально, духовно, морально и физически по специальным образовательным программам; а скауты 15-18 лет – это «роверы», они уже создают собственные образовательные программы и вовлечены в ту работу, которая приносит пользу обществу.

Но всем этим скаутам, как заметил Христос, нужен учитель, который и расскажет им, как играть, как разрабатывать программы, как помогать людям. Поэтому и нужны лидеры, и нужны старшие с огромным жизненным и скаутским опытом люди, которым есть, чем поделиться с младшими.

«Я стал скаутом в 7 лет, сейчас мне 40, - добавил **Вассилис Биртсас** из Греции, который отвечает за связи с общественностью в «Десмосе». — И знаете, мне так понравилось быть скаутом, когда я был ребенком, затем юношей, что и теперь, будучи взрослым, хочу им оставаться :). Сейчас отдаю свои знания и свой опыт младшим скаутам, поэтому я здесь».

#### Article on DESMOS Committee Meeting in Ukraine, on the web site of WOSM



#### Eurasia for the first time welcomed DESMOS meeting

Author: irakli varshalomidze Saved From : www.scout.org



On March 22-25, 2012 for the first time in the history of the International Network of Orthodox Christian Scouts DESMOS, the annual meeting of its Committee was held in the Eurasia Scout Region - in Kyiv, Ukraine.

During the meeting a wide range of issues was discussed: results and plans of DESMOS, including international scouting events in 2012-2015, fundraising, development of contacts between the NSO - members of the Link, the dialogue with the Church in the area of youth education, and expansion of spiritual dimension of the Scout program. The Committee also elected Marko Petrovic (Serbia) as new President of DESMOS.

sacred place of world Orthodoxy.

Committee Meeting was held in the Holy Dormition Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra - the

Participants were received and blessed by the Head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church Metropolitan Volodymyr. In his welcoming remarks, His Blessedness said that working with young people was a holy deed and wished God's help to scouts.

Committee members also had meeting with the only archbishop of Ukrainian Orthodox Church who is a scout - Archbishop Pereyaslav-Khmelnitsky and Vishenky Olexander. During this meeting the participants exchanged views on the various possibilities of the spiritual education of youth.

National Organization for Scouts of Ukraine as a host has made every effort the meeting of the executive body of the International Link of Orthodox Scouts of 23 countries, including six countries of the region of Eurasia, was an effective and interesting. Members of DESMOS Committee were not only able to touch the ancient history of Kyiv - the mother of Russian cities, but also to get acquainted with different approaches of spiritual education, used in the Ukrainian scouting, which this year celebrates its centenary.

The next meeting of the DESMOS Committee will take place in Cyprus in 2013.