

## International Link of Christian Orthodox Scouts



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## 5<sup>th</sup> DESMOS Conference

The 5<sup>th</sup> DESMOS conference held on Jeju Island, Korea, on July 13, 2008. One day before the opening of the 38<sup>th</sup> World Scout Conference in Korea, DESMOS had its 5<sup>th</sup> Conference, in the premises of the International Convention Centre, on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea. The Conference treated a number of important issues, including the elections of the new DESMOS Committee. With the blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Sotirios of Korea, the Vicar General of the Orthodox Metropolis of Korea, Rev. DANIEL NA, attended the 5<sup>th</sup> DESMOS Conference and contributed with the presentation "ORTHODOXY AND ENVIRONMENT". DESMOS President, Mr. Christos Papageorgiou, addressed the Conference and his address was followed by the PowerPoint presentation offering review of all DESMOS activities in the period between the two DESMOS conferences. DESMOS Conference was attended by guests representing the International Catholic

Conference of Scouting (ICCS) and the International Union of Moslem Scouts (IUMS). On behalf of European Scout Committee, took part to the conference Mr. Marios Christou (Vice-Chairman) and Ms. Zorica Skakun (member). The delegates of some countries - the new WOSM members - took part at the Conference too, and expressed their strong interest for DESMOS, like Montenegro and Ukraine. One of the items on the Conference Agenda was the elections for the Desmos Executive Committee. The Conference elected the following members of the new Committee: 1. ABBOUD Georges Lebanon, 2. JEFTIC Goran Bosnia & Herzegovina, 3. MITSIDES Nicolaos Cyprus, 4. PAPAGEORGIU Christos Greece, 5. PETROVIC Zoran Serbia, 6. SAHLIEH Maher Palestinian Authority, 7. SHAHADA Naaman Israel

## DESMOS at the 38<sup>th</sup> World Scout Conference

DESMOS representatives, Christos Papageorgiou, President, and Marko Petrovic, Secretary General, took part at the 38<sup>th</sup> World Scout Conference in Korea, in the capacity of special guests. The 38<sup>th</sup> World Scout Conference was held at the International Convention Centre, on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, July 14-18, 2008. The World Scout Conference treated a number of issues very important for the development and for the future of Scouting. Considering the fact that a huge number of delegates, over one thousand, from 150 countries from all over the world were there, it was an excellent opportunity for DESMOS representatives to meet many people and discuss their eventual involvement and support to DESMOS. Thus, C. Papageorgiou and M. Petrovic met the delegates from the newly accepted countries in WOSM - Montenegro, Syria

and Ukraine, who expressed their deep interest in DESMOS mission, aims and objectives, activities and plans for the future. DESMOS was also present at the World Scout Inter-religious Forum (WSIF) meeting. Together with the representatives of ICCS (International Catholic Conference of Scouting), IUMS (International Union of Moslem Scouts), IFJS (International Forum of the Jewish Scouts), Won Buddhism faith organization in Scouting, as well as with representatives of the World Scout Bureau, DESMOS representatives analyzed the achievements of the World Scout Inter-religious Forum and the next steps to be done. DESMOS representatives also used the opportunity of being at such a large world scout event to distribute DESMOS promotional material - leaflets, badges, stickers

## DESMOS committee meeting



*DESMOS Committee meeting,  
Tismana Monastery,  
February 2009*

“New DESMOS committee from February 2009. Page 3 of 4”

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The DESMOS Committee Meeting took place on February 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> 2009, in the premises of the Monastery Tismana, in Romania, with the blessing of the Patriarchate of the Romanian Orthodox Church and with a support of the Romanian NSO “Cercetasii Romaniei”. Nine countries were represented.

At the beginning of the Meeting, DESMOS Committee members had the Prayer.

DESMOS President, then, suggested the minute of reflection dedicated to the Founder of the Scout Movement, Lord Baden-Powell, on the occasion of February 22<sup>nd</sup> - the Thinking Day. There was also a PowerPoint presentation on founder’s life.

Among the subjects of the Meeting Agenda were: Welcome and Address of the DESMOS President, with a presentation “From Tunisia to Korea, activities and presence 2005 - 2008”. Report of the Secretary General, which included DESMOS highlights and weaknesses. Acceptance of Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> DESMOS Conference / Report on the elections for DESMOS Committee and then followed the elections of the new committee. The results were as

follows: **Papageorgiou Christos**- President, **Sahlieh Maher**- Vice-President, **Mitsides Nicolaos**- Treasurer, **Naaman Sahada**- Committee member, **Abboud Georges**- Committee member, **Petrovic Zoran**- Committee member, **Jeftic Zoran**- Committee member. The committee also appointed **Petrovic Marko** as Secretary General, **Efstathiou Athanassios (Nassos)** as Deputy Secretary General and **Birtsas Vassilis** as Communication and Public Relations Commissioner. It was also unanimously decided to give the title of the honorary member of DESMOS Committee to **George Bahow** and **Odeh Bishara**. The topics followed considered future projects and presence of DESMOS (Training in Madaba, Jordan on July, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ecumenical Encounter, Greece 2010) and reports on DESMOS activities on a national level in particular countries.

The program included visits and meetings with authorities (both church and civil), social activities prepared by local Scout Groups and “Cercetasii Romaniei”.

## Preparatory meeting for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Inter-religious Symposium, Genève, November 2008

On November 2008 in Genève took place the Scout Inter-religious Symposium. The President of DESMOS was present and among the topics discussed was the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Scout Inter-religious Symposium in Uganda, Kampala, from 21 to 25 October 2009. DESMOS President emphasized that the organizing faith organization of this Symposium, IUMS, carefully examined

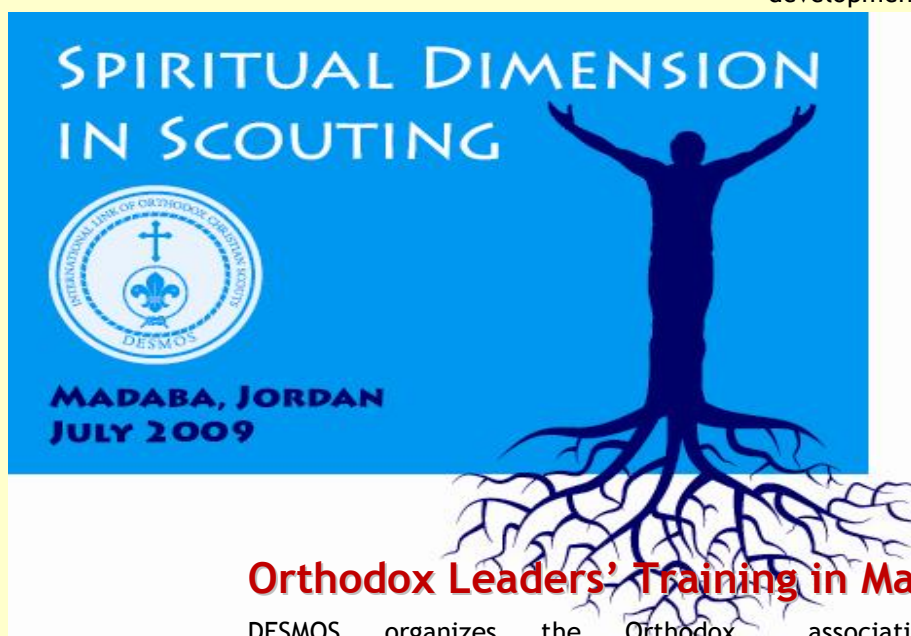
the conditions offered by the host country and its Government, and confirmed that the participants will be absolutely safe, with all needed facilities and conditions at their disposal.

## Russian Association of Scouts joins DESMOS



Russian Association of Scouts/Navigators (RAS/N), Russian Federation's NSO WOSM member, decided to join DESMOS. After the meeting that DESMOS President and Secretary General had in Korea with RAS/N delegation headed by President Anatoliy Ermolin, the contacts continued led to a good end. On March 24, 2009, DESMOS received from RAS/N International Commissioner, Vitaliy Novoselov, the Application for DESMOS membership, which, considering DESMOS policy and previously expressed expectations of DESMOS Executive Committee, means that The Link welcomes the new

member: Российская Ассоциация Навигаторов /Скаутов (Russian Association of Scouts/Navigators) The initial talks started in September 2005, during the 37th World Scout Conference in Tunisia, where DESMOS officials discussed with former leadership of the NSO the matter of Russia's admission. However, there was no real progress until the new meeting in Korea in July 2008. The process was then finalized in March 2009. DESMOS is aware of the great potential of RAS/N and expects a pro-active involvement of the new member and its contribution to further development of the Link



## Orthodox Leaders' Training in Madaba, Jordan

DESMOS organizes the Orthodox Leaders' Training/Workshop on Spiritual Dimension in Scouting. The Training is intended for Orthodox leaders of the associations in DESMOS member countries from the Middle East and Cyprus. It will take place in **Madaba Jordan from 2 - 5 July 2009**. The Objectives of the Training are:

- To present the Toolkit and clarify what is to be taken into account when presenting the Spiritual Dimension in Scouting to the Scouts
- To assist scout associations in DESMOS member-countries in launching the process
- To collect the examples of good practice in different countries
- To recognize what support DESMOS member-countries need in order to successfully implement the Spiritual Dimension in Scouting in their

associations

- To support building of partnerships between associations within DESMOS
- To raise the awareness of need to live together in harmony and peace and of the advantages available through dialogue and cooperation

The sessions of the Training/Workshop will be held in Arabic and in English. The translation to/from English/Arabic will be provided. The workshop addressed to Leaders, aged 18-25, that work with Scouts in their associations.

### PLANNING TEAM

- Christos Papageorgiou
- Maher Sahlieh
- Naaman Shahada
- Georges Abboud
- Marko Petrovic
- Athanassios (Nassos) Efstathiou
- Key-Note Speaker: Archimandrite Innokentios



## 3<sup>rd</sup> World Scout Inter-religious Symposium

The World Scout Inter-religious Symposium (WSIS) is the third biggest world scout event organized after every 3 years that brings together scouts from **8 religious affiliations** to discuss pertinent issues affecting the scouts, their religions and the world they live in. The first WSIS was held in Spain in **2003** while the second was held in **2006** in Taiwan and the third will be held in **Uganda** from the **21st - 25th October 2009**.

The 3rd World Scout Inter-religious

Symposium will bring together over **200 delegates** from **160** countries to experience, share and dialogue. The theme of the symposium is: **"Solidarity, Reflection and Celebration for Peace"**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Ecumenical Encounter, Athens June 2010



*The Areopagus hill where St. Paul first talked about Christianity in Athens and Acropolis in the background*

The Ecumenical Encounter as a means of dialogue between Christians of different denominations was born during the World Scout Jamboree in England, UK in 2007. Since World Scouting already accepted the need to have an inter-religious dialogue, it was logical to establish a dialogue between Christian denominations as well. The 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Encounter was organized by ICCS, in Canterbury, England, in 2008. There were in total 36 participants representing five different Christian denominations.

It was decided that DESMOS will be

hosting the next Ecumenical Encounter in 2010, and Greece accepted to be the host country. The Second Ecumenical Encounter will be organized on June 2010, in Athens.

## Iconography workshop

During the weekend 21 & 22 February 2009, in the Holy Monastery of St. George near Heraclion - Crete, Greece it was organized a workshop on Orthodox Iconography, for Venture Scouts for expanding their abilities and knowledge.

The workshop was an initiative of the Scout District of Heraclion, Crete lasted

10 hours, including both theoretical and practical aspects on the Orthodox Iconography, with presentations and guidance done by experienced iconographer of Orthodox Church.



## New web site by Orthodox Scout Association of Israel



The Orthodox Scout Association of Israel has established the web site. Visit the web address: [www.scout-orthodox.org](http://www.scout-orthodox.org) and find out more about this association, their history and their activities, the interesting is the three alternative languages (English, Hebrew, Arabic).

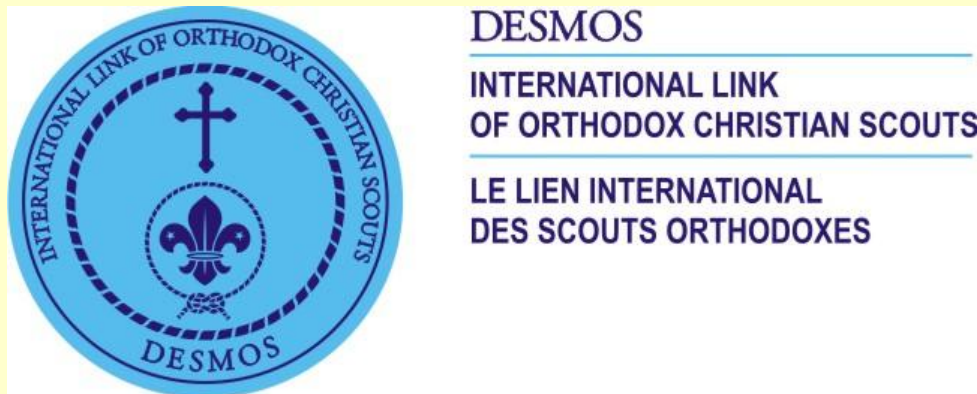
## Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople in Lesbos, Greece

His All Holiness The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, pay a visit to the Greek Island of Lesbos in February 28, 2009. While he was in the island He inaugurated the new Environmental and Training Scout Center of the Scout District, in the presence of Greek Church authorities, Government ministers, local authorities many Scouts and locals. On behalf of Scouts of Greece where present the President, Chief Commissioner, Treasurer and

Deputy Secretary General. The Patriarch mentioned the interest of Scouts for Environment, and congratulated them for their efforts. He then unveiled a commemorative plaque of the event and signed on it with a wish for every Scout. Afterwards the Patriarch decorated the Scout Order of the Silver Pheonix, the highest distinction of Scouts of Greece.



*Archbishop of Athens & all Greece Ieronymos II, Treasurer of the Committee Board, two benefactors of the Scout center, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Chief Commissioner, on the inauguration.*



The International Link of Orthodox Christian Scouts "DESMOS" is an autonomous body of Scouts of the Orthodox Christian faith, who belong to National Member Organizations of the World Organization of the Scout Movement. For more information visit: [www.desmos.info](http://www.desmos.info)

DESMOS IS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE WORLD ORGANIZATION OF THE SCOUT MOVEMENT



We would like to ask you to send your comments or your correspondence by mail:  
[office@desmos.info](mailto:office@desmos.info) or [birtsas@gmail.com](mailto:birtsas@gmail.com)