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Constitution of the European Scout Region

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## Preamble

Accredited representatives of Member Organizations, being members of the World Organization of the Scout Movement and operating in the geographical area of Europe, as defined by the World Scout Committee, met in Altenberg in 1960 and agreed on a closer cooperation amongst themselves. The principles on which such cooperation would be based were laid down in Hove, England in 1962 in an instrument known as "The Hove Document".

At the European Scout Conference held in Baden in 1970, it was decided to establish the European Scout Region of the Scout Movement.

The present Constitution, which is based on the Constitution of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, governs the operation of the European Scout Region in a spirit of world cooperation and friendship.

## Article I: Title and Organs

### 1. Title

The World Organization of the Scout Movement at European level is governed by the Constitution of the World Organization of the Scout Movement and this Constitution, under the title of "The European Scout Region", as an independent, non-political, non-governmental organization.

### 2. Organs

The organs of the European Scout Region are:

- a. The European Scout Conference, comprising Member Organizations of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement located in the European Scout Region.
- b. The European Scout Committee, duly elected by the European Scout Conference.
- c. The European Regional Office, directed by a Regional Director.

## Article II: Purpose and Principles

- a. The purpose of the European Scout Region is to assist the World Organization in fostering the Scout Movement in Europe.
- b. The principles of the European Scout Region are those of the Scout Movement.
- c. The European Scout Region accepts and promotes work according to the Scout Method as set out on the Constitution of the World Organization of the Scout Movement.
- d. The European Scout Region ensures meaningful participation and a sustained involvement of young people in all activities of the European Scout Region.
- e. The European Scout Region embraces diversity and promotes an inclusive environment in the societies in which Scouting exists.
- f. The European Scout Region commits to the highest standards in child, youth and adult protection, safeguarding and wellbeing.
- g. The European Scout Region values transparency in all its operations.

## Article III: European Scout Conference

### 1. Functions

The functions of the European Scout Conference are:

- a. To further the development of the Scout Movement within the Region, by promoting the spirit of cooperation and mutual assistance amongst Member Organizations within the Region.
- b. To foster the idea of active European citizenship, based on the consciousness of a common values.
- c. To develop cooperation among young people in Europe.
- d. To exercise other functions resulting from this Constitution and other laws governing the European Scout Region.
- e. To ensure the proper implementation of the decisions and policies laid down by the World Organization of the Scout Movement which affect the European Scout Region.
- f. The Conference shall hear the report of the European Scout Committee, approve the report of the Regional Treasurer and elect members of the European Scout Committee.

### 2. Meetings

- a. Meetings of the European Scout Conference shall consist of delegations of Member Organizations defined in Article I.2.a above.
- b. There shall be an ordinary meeting of the European Scout Conference every three years at such time and place as the Conference may decide.
- c. An extraordinary meeting may be called on the decision of the European Scout Committee, or at the request of not less than one third of the Member Organizations.

### 3. Quorum

- a. Delegations from not less than half of the recognised Member Organizations in Europe shall constitute a quorum for any meeting of the Conference.

### 4. Voting

- a. Each Member Organization shall have six votes and resolutions shall be taken by a simple majority of members present or represented and voting. In the event of a tie, the motion is defeated.
- b. In appropriate circumstances determined by the European Scout Committee there may be a referendum by post or electronic communication to Member Organizations between meetings of the European Scout Conference when the same rules as to voting are applicable as set out in Article III.4.a.

The following decisions shall never be taken by post or electronic communication:

- Annual regional registration fee rate (Article VI.1 of the Constitution)
- Amendments to the constitution (Article VII of the Constitution)
- Major changes of policy

### 5. Rules of Procedure

- a. The European Scout Conference shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure as required.

## Article IV: European Scout Committee

### 1. Functions

The functions of the European Scout Committee are:

- a. To exercise such functions as are provided for in the present Constitution.
- b. To provide strategic leadership of the European Scout Region.
- c. To put into effect the resolutions of the Conference and to fulfil any duty that the Conference may assign to it.
- d. To act as an advisory body to the World Scout Committee.
- e. To act as an advisory body for Member Organizations requiring advice and assistance.

### 2. Composition

- a. The European Scout Committee shall consist of six members who shall consider the interests of the Movement as a whole and shall neither consider themselves nor be considered as representing any particular Member Organization.
- b. At any ordinary meeting of the Conference, the members shall be elected until the next ordinary Conference. A retiring member shall only be eligible for re-election for one further period.
- c. The European Scout Committee shall have power to accept resignations and to fill vacancies in its membership until the next meeting of the Conference. In order to fill a vacancy on the European Scout Committee, the candidate for election with the highest number of votes who was not elected (and who has not subsequently already been co-opted) shall be co-opted as a member of the Committee.

In the event of there being no further candidates, the European Scout Committee can choose to send an open call for candidates and to organise an intermediate election through postal/electronic ballot. New committee members will then be co-opted according to the results of the postal/electronic voting session.

- d. Election to the European Scout Committee is subject to the following conditions:
  - in no case shall more than one member from any one country serve on the European Scout Committee in any one period.
  - only members of a recognized Member Organization are eligible.
  - nominations must be sent to the Regional Director at least four months ahead of the Conference. They shall be made or endorsed by the National Scout Organization of which the nominee is a member.
  - On election, and following discussion with fellow committee members, all elected members must declare any possible conflicts of interest arising from positions held in their own or other Scout associations, which would lead to permanent conflicts of interest concerning their perceived impartiality. Positions on the national board and that of International Commissioner, would automatically be conflicts of interest, and such positions would require to be resigned within four months of election.
  - A conflict-of-interest register will be established so that members may declare, at any time, issues and interests they may have institutionally and personally that impact on their contribution to decision making or influence by the European Scout Committee.

### 3. Organisation of the Committee

- a. The European Scout Committee shall elect its own Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. The Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson, on election, becomes an ex-officio non-voting member of the World Scout Committee. The European Scout Committee may appoint any one of its members for a special task; it may invite any

person whom it may deem useful in accomplishing its task as a consultant without vote.

- b. The European Scout Committee shall elect an external specialist to serve as Treasurer. The Treasurer will attend meetings of the European Scout Committee as ex-officio non-voting member of the Committee. The Treasurer is formally appointed by the Treasurer of the World Scout Committee for a three-year period after consultation with the European Scout Committee. (Resolution 6/71, World Scout Conference).
- c. The European Scout Committee shall meet at such time and places as it may decide. Such meetings may be held using electronic communication technology. Virtual attendance of individuals is permitted. The European Scout Committee adopts its own rules of procedure and other operating processes which are contained in the Standing Orders of the European Scout Committee which are adopted or amended by each new incoming committee at its first meeting. These Standing Orders shall be made available to Member Organizations. The participation, in person or otherwise, as defined in the Standing Orders, of four members shall constitute a quorum.
- d. The European Scout Committee may establish subsidiary structures (such as Sub-Committees, working and project groups as well as task forces) and adopt additional rules of procedure as required. Subsidiary structures may be considered particularly to support the implementation of the operational aspects of resolutions of the Conference and any other duties assigned by the Conference to the European Scout Committee.

## **Article V: European Regional Office**

### **1. Functions**

The functions of the European Regional Office are:

- a. To serve as secretariat of the European Scout Region.
- b. To serve as a secretariat of the World Organization and work with the World Scout Bureau and other Regional Offices in matters relating to the Region.
- c. To support the operational implementation of resolutions of the Conference and any other duties assigned by the Conference as well as regional Scout events and meetings in such a way the European Scout Committee may define.
- d. To maintain relations with Member Organizations and to assist them in the development of Scouting.
- e. To maintain relations with European organizations whose activities are concerned, inter alia, with youth.

### **2. Composition**

The European Regional Office shall comprise the Regional Director and such staff as the European Scout Region may require.

### **3. Regional Director**

The European Regional Office is directed by a Regional Director. The Regional Director is appointed by the Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement in agreement with the European Scout Committee, is paid by the World Bureau and reports to the Secretary General, to whom he or she is responsible, and to the European Scout Committee. The Regional Director shall serve as secretary to the European Scout Committee.

## **Article VI: Financial Provisions**

### **1. Registration Fees**

- a. Each Member Organization shall pay an annual registration fee at an agreed per capita rate to be determined from time to time by the European Conference by a two-thirds majority.
- b. Payment of the annual registration fee up to and including the end of the fiscal year preceding a European Scout Conference, is a pre-requisite for voting at that Conference, unless remission or postponement has received prior authorisation from the European Scout Committee.

### **2. Annual Budget**

All the funds shall be deposited to the credit of the European Regional Office and shall be disbursed by the Treasurer in accordance with a budget approved and certified by the European Scout Committee.

### **3. Financial Statement**

An audited financial statement shall be submitted annually by the Treasurer to the European Scout Committee and shall be sent to all Member Organizations.

### **4. Auditors**

The European Scout Committee shall agree the appointment of auditors with the World Scout Bureau.

## **Article VII: Other Provisions**

### **1. Official Languages**

The official languages of the European Scout Region are English and French. In the event of a conflict arising out of the interpretation of this Constitution, or any other official document of the European Scout Region, the English text shall prevail.

### **2. Amendments**

- a. This Constitution may be amended by the European Scout Conference at any of its meetings. Texts of the proposed amendments shall be communicated by the European Regional Office to all Member Organizations at least four months in advance of the time of the meeting.
- b. Amendments to the Constitution require a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting.

### **3. Interpretation**

In conformity with the Constitution of the World Organization of the Scout Movement:

- a. This Constitution and future amendments must be approved by the World Scout Committee before entering into force.
- b. In the event of a conflict between obligations resulting from the Constitution of the World Organization of the Scout Movement and obligations resulting from this Constitution, the obligations resulting from the Constitution of the World Organization of the Scout Movement shall prevail.

### **4. Dissolution of the Region**

The European Scout Region may be dissolved by a resolution adopted at a Regional Scout Conference by a minimum of four-fifths of the votes cast by Member Organizations defined in the Article III.2.a.

Such a proposal for dissolution shall follow the same procedure set out in Article VII.2 for Constitutional amendments.

In the event of the dissolution of the European Scout Region, or of any of its bodies established by this Constitution, the totality of their assets shall become the property of the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

If at the time of the dissolution, the World Organization of the Scout Movement, or the legal entity under which it legally operates, is not operational or is incapable of receiving the assets of the European Scout Region or of any of its bodies, then such assets shall be placed at the disposal of one or more organizations which operate exclusively for charitable, educational or scientific purposes, as deemed appropriate by the Regional Scout Conference which approves the dissolution.

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*This Constitution was adopted by the European Scout Conference at Killarney, Ireland, on 18 April 1977; it was approved by the World Scout Committee on 14/15 July 1979 and was amended by the European Scout Conference at Prague, Czech Republic, on 12 July 2001 and approved by the World Scout Committee on 30 September – 1 October 2001. It was further amended at the European Scout Conference at Berlin, Germany, on 16 August 2013 and approved by the World Scout Committee on 21-23 September 2013. Further amendments were proposed and agreed by the European Scout Conference at Melsomvik, Norway on 21 June 2016 and approved by the World Scout Committee on 5 September 2016. Additional substantial amendments were proposed and approved at an extraordinary meeting of the European Scout Conference held in Valletta, Malta, on 29 March 2019. These amendments were approved by the World Scout Committee on 7 April 2019. Additional amendments were proposed and approved by the European Scout Conference in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, on 26 July 2022. These amendments were approved by the World Scout Committee in September 2022.*