



Tuesday 4th of December 2007

Dear friends,

Time flies so fast! We have already reached the end of 2007, the year when we celebrated the Centenary of Scouting.

And I believe that ISGF can be proud of the way it has celebrated this Centenary with its project "The Scout and Guide Spirit Flame".

Flame

Some people regret not being able to have had this Flame in their country, we can understand them and accept it; it is their way of saying that this project was a great idea.

Some supported it financially.

Others came to take it from where it was, if not too far from their country; Switzerland, Luxemburg and Portugal came to Paris and brought back to their members the Flame lit from the main Flame. Portugal gave its Flame to Spain, from where it was sent it to America. Where is it now? It is in Brazil, I believe.

In France, the Flame happened by chance to cross the path of some Scouts and Guides from Israel and Cub Scouts of The Netherlands; each group was able to bring home the Flame lit from the main Flame. Others had decided to take it to Senegal with the Caravan of Peace.

In the countries crossed by the Flame, there were incredible celebrations and happiness. And so many young people wanted to become Scouts or Guides; we have really fulfilled our Mission.

And the very warm congratulations we have received, recognizes the new visibility of ISGF.

It is up to us to work all together to make ISGF more and more visible and to think what has just happened in Africa.

Africa

I came back a few days ago from a four weeks mission, which led me to Ghana, Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso.

The second ISGF Africa Gathering was held in Accra, from 2nd to 9th November. Rigmor Lauridsen and I were there to represent the World Committee with about 25 representatives from Benin, Ivory Coast, Niger, Togo, Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. Burkina Faso and Liberia gave their apologies. There were present 5 observers from United Kingdom and Italy. WAGGGS was also represented.



This gathering has laid the basis of a future ISGF Africa Region. Its development is now in the hands of Africans themselves; but of course with the support of the World Committee and of the World Bureau.

In Ivory Coast, I had the opportunity of working with the representatives of the Central branch of 150 members working on concrete projects which will be put on the website as a "Catalogue of Projects".

In Burkina Faso, I discovered 250 members who were very advanced in their proceedings.

I hope that very soon we should be able to welcome two new NSGFs in Africa: Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast. That would bring to 8 the number of countries, who are members of ISGF in this region of the world.

World Committee

The World Committee meeting was held in Brussels from Wednesday 24th to Sunday 28th October; we worked about 10 hours a day in a very good atmosphere.

The members of the World Committee are conscious that because of the "Scout and Guide Flame" project some issues have been postponed. They are ready to work at double speed. But was not the game worth the candle ?

Concerning the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts

We were all present except Marjorie Samudzimu, representative of WAGGGS, who was unavailable at that time.

Mary MacPhail, WAGGGS Chief Executive, came to represent WAGGGS on Friday morning 26th October.

Mary told us about herself and gave us some news from WAGGGS.

The two main issues that the World Committee raised with her were:

- The representations of ISGF in the WAGGGS regional Conferences (and also those of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, WOSM as Georges el Ghorayeb, their representative was there too) and their relevance. A follow up can be expected from these representations.
- The statement signed in 2001 by the two Presidents of that time is now obsolete. Mario Sica, our specialist on legal questions and Mary Mc Phail will work on this statement in order to update it.

Development of the regions

The World Committee has decided that we allocate from the capital account 15,000 euros for development projects in the following regions: Western Hemisphere, ASPAC and Africa, and replace the money as it becomes available.

World Conference

You have received information regularly and even very recently, on the ISGF World Conference, which was supposed to be in Tunisia.

On Wednesday 24th October we received a representative from Tunisia and the decision to abandon this country from holding the World Conference, led us to some very long discussions.

You have all been informed, after your votes that the Conference will now happen at the end of August, in Austria, not very far from Vienna.

I would like to profit of this issue of the "Chairman's Newsletter" to thank all the National Scout and Guide Fellowships which gave their support to the World Committee in this difficult crisis which has just been passed through.



I also would like to thank all the NSGF which proposed, although the task is very difficult, to hold the World Conference in their country.

And at last, I would like to thank Austria, which has been elected, for the determination in the job already started.

Constitution

Mario and his team have worked very hard, in order to review the ISGF Constitution; their discussions lasted a whole day; you will be informed of the modifications in time for the next World Conference.

Fees and Census: the effectiveness of the new system of fees led us to some long discussions.

Nejib Gharbi is to present an evaluation on the effectiveness of the fee system adopted at Lillehammer by December 15th 2007.

Not all NSGF send their census.

The World Bureau will send an invoice with a 10% fee increase to all NSGFs that have not sent their census for the previous year.

Website

Our discussions were mainly on our new website and its content.

The web system Joomla has been presented to us by a specialist from Holland; we have decided to use it and our new website will be ready in spring 2008.

Waiting for that date, Aleš Čerin has prepared a “blog” which is now on our present website. Just go and have a look it, as have two to three thousands other visitors.

<http://isgf.wordpress.com>

You can also send to Ales all the information you may have concerning your country, your NSGF and your activities. He will put them on the “blog”. E-mail: ales.cerin@skavt.net

World Gazette Mondiale

The World Committee has decided to stop production of the WGM and establishes a Newsletter within the website by spring 2008. The final WGM will be published by the end of 2007.

I do not know if I will have the opportunity to write to you before the end of December; so please, receive, with my friendship in Scouting and Guiding all my good wishes for joy and prosperity, for 2008.

Martine Levy,
ISGF World Committee Chairman