

EUROPE OFFICE WAGGGS

BUREAU EUROPE AMGE

38 AV. DE LA PORTE DE HAL, BOX 1

B-1060 BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

TEL + 32 2 541 08 80 - FAX + 32 2 541 08 99



EUROPE

EUROPEAN SCOUT OFFICE

BUREAU EUROPEEN DU SCOUTISME

5 RUE HENRY CHRISTINE, BOX 327

CH-1211 GENEVA 4, SWITZERLAND

TEL + 41 22 705 11 00 - FAX + 41 22 705 11 09

BRIEFING NOTE ON EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Issue 1 - Summer 2005 Produced by the Europe Region WAGGGS and the European Scout Region

Welcome to the first issue of the Briefing Note on External Relations, jointly produced by the Europe Region WAGGGS and the European Scout Region. As you know in the Joint Plan of Action both regions are working towards becoming the leading organizations in the Youth Sector and a number of objectives such as production of this Briefing Note have been developed to help us achieve this goal.

Through the Briefing Note we hope to keep you informed of the work of the European Scout Region and the Europe Region WAGGGS towards the European Institutions such as the European Union and the Council of Europe, and the policy issues affecting young people and youth organizations on which we are working.

2005 is an important year for young people in Europe and organizations working in the field of youth. Within the European Union, as well as the work on the continuing implementation of the [White Paper on Youth](#), a new European Pact on Youth is being developed, which aims to improve the education, training, mobility, vocational integration and social inclusion of young Europeans, in the framework of the [Lisbon Strategy](#). In the wider Europe (not just EU25), the [Youth Summit](#) at the [Heads of State meeting](#) and the Youth Event at the meeting of Youth Ministers of the member countries of the [Council of Europe](#) are opportunities for young people and youth organizations to give inputs to the future priorities and work programme of the Council of Europe in the youth sector. Through our external relations work, we hope to ensure that the values of Guiding and Scouting are present in these and other youth policy developments in Europe.

We hope that the Briefing Note will be an additional input to your work on external relations and create links between the work at Regional level and the work in your Association on youth policy. It is another way in which your Association can become involved in the work on external relations of both Regions. In future there will be the possibility to register separately to the Briefing note. Until then we ask you to distribute it to everybody who is involved or interested in external relations in your Association. In coming editions we hope to focus on particular issues such as non-formal education, recognition of volunteering, or the work on active citizenship, encouraging young people to participate at local, national and European levels.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Regional Offices if there is an issue which your Association would like to see featured in this Briefing Note or which your Association would like to be promoted at European level by the Europe Region WAGGGS and the European Scout Region.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Sandra Dybowski
Europe Committee WAGGGS

Paolo Fiora
European Scout Committee

NEWS! NEWS! NEWS!

Congratulations to WAGGGS External Representative Ewa Gasiorowska, of ZHP who was elected to the European Affairs Commission (EUACOM) of the European Youth Forum (EYJ) at the last Council of Members in April. The EUACOM supports the work of the EYJ towards the European Union, such as the implementation of the White Paper, and the future funding of youth projects.

Network Meeting

The next Network Meeting for Guide and Scout representatives to youth platforms at national and European level will be taking place between 30 September and 2nd October in the Czech Republic.

Joint Seminar

The European Scout Region and the Europe Region WAGGGS are organising a joint seminar for guides and scouts wishing to know more about the European institutions and how Guiding and Scouting can influence National Youth Policies. The seminar will take place 19-25th November in Kandersteg

Look out for the invitations for both these events in forthcoming editions of Europak.



HOW OUR EXTERNAL RELATIONS ARE ORGANIZED AT EUROPEAN LEVEL

The Europe Region WAGGGS and the European Scout Region are active in the main European institutions and youth platforms.

Within the European Union, we follow the work of [the Directorate of Education and Culture](#), and the [Youth Unit](#). Life-long learning, the recognition of the skills gained through participation in non-formal education and volunteering, and funding of youth organizations are just some of the issues in which we get involved. We also follow and contribute to policy initiatives such as the White Paper on Youth and the Youth Pact.

The [Council of Europe](#) has a unique co-management system whereby the Advisory Council on Youth (made up of representatives of youth organizations and other actors in the youth field) can participate in the management of the [Youth and Sport Directorate](#). As well as being represented on the [Advisory Council](#), WAGGGS and WOSM contribute to the work of the Council of Europe by providing participants and trainers for events, and assisting in ad-hoc projects and working groups.

The [European Youth Forum](#) (YFJ from its bilingual name Youth Forum Jeunesse) is the leading platform for youth organizations active at European level. It is made up of 93 member organizations from National Youth Councils and International Non-Governmental Youth Organizations. Both WAGGGS and WOSM attend the Council of Members which meets twice a year to discuss the work-plan of the EYJ and any current youth policy issues, and the General Assembly, which meets once every two years to elect the President and Bureau and approve the work-plan for the next two years. WAGGGS and WOSM representatives participate in the Bureau, the [Statutory Commissions](#) which follow the work of the European Union and the Council of Europe, in working groups which are set up to follow specific issues such as social exclusion or global development, and in events organized by the EYJ on youth policy issues.

Sandra Dybowski from the Europe Committee WAGGGS and Paolo Fiora from the European Scout Committee are responsible for external relations in each region. These issues are followed by Rosemary Hindle in the Europe Office WAGGGS, and Mike Walker and Pascale Boulanger, in the European Scout Bureau.

Both Regions are also assisted by small groups of guides and scouts who follow issues of interest to young people in the Regions; represent their respective organizations in the statutory bodies and at other youth events; and contribute to the position of Europe Region WAGGGS and the European Scout Region on youth policy issues.

HOW TO CONTACT US

EUROPE REGION WAGGGS

EUROPEAN SCOUT REGION

sandra@europe.wagggsworld.org
rosemary@europe.wagggsworld.org

pfiora@worldnet.scout.org
mwalker@euro.scout.org
pboulanger@euro.scout.org

COMING UP IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

Update on the Youth Policies of the Council of Europe

THE EUROPEAN YOUTH PACT

Who?

Believe it or not, the European Youth Pact was born from an initiative from four heads of state: Indeed, back in October 2004, the French President Jacques Chirac, Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson, German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder and Spanish Prime Minister José Luis Zapatero proposed the President of the European Council to draw up a new "European Pact for Youth" to serve as one instrument in the frame of the Lisbon strategy.

What?

The Youth Pact, agreed by the heads of state and government at the 22-23 March Brussels summit, aims to improve the education, training, mobility, vocational integration and social inclusion of young Europeans. The Pact also aims at reconciliation of professional and private life.

Why?

In short, the Youth Pact raises the question of how to cope with the impact of an ageing population while providing opportunities to the youngest in society.

What impact for you as a Scout or Guide?

Important to note is that the Council names the European Youth Forum of which WAGGGS and WOSM and many of your national youth councils are members as one of the key players in ensuring the success of the European Youth Pact.

It is hoped that the Youth Pact will make it easier for young people to take part at all levels of decision-making, that access to good education for all is reinforced and that it contributes to decreasing unemployment in young people.

We do support the Youth Pact as long as it goes in the line of it enhancing the removal of barriers to mobility and recognition of non-formal education. How is your National Youth Council working on the Youth Pact?

To check the full text of the European Youth Pact www.eurodesk.org/YouthPact_Mar05.pdf

To read about the European Youth Forum's position on the Youth Pact visit www.youthforum.org

Youth Declaration of the Youth Event of the Luxembourg Presidency

The latest Youth Event to take place as part of the EU Presidency took place in Luxembourg on 24th-26 April 2005. Young people from National Youth Councils and international youth organizations discussed the Youth Pact and the [common objectives on voluntary activities](#) (the next stage of the implementation of the White Paper on Youth) and how they could be achieved.

The full text of the declaration can be found at: http://www.eu2005.lu/en/actualites/documents_travail/2005/04/26declalux/youthforum.pdf

Some questions for you to think about: What is your National Youth Council doing regarding the implementation of the common objectives on volunteering? How is your Scout or Guide Association working on this issue?