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## BRIEFING NOTE ON EXTERNAL RELATIONS

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Welcome to the second issue of the Briefing Note on External Relations, jointly produced by the Europe Region WAGGGS and the European Scout Region. As you know from the Joint Action Plan both regions are working towards becoming the leading organisations in the Youth Sector. A number of tools have been developed to achieve this, including Briefing Notes.

Through the Briefing Note we hope to keep you informed of the work of the European Scout Region and the Europe Region WAGGGS and our relationships with the European Institutions. In this issue we will focus mainly on an update of youth policies in the Council of Europe.

### **ALL DIFFERENT ALL EQUAL**

by Giuseppe Porcaro, Chair of the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe

#### **What?**

The European Campaign on Diversity, Human Rights and Participation is an initiative of the Council of Europe. It is largely promoted by the European Youth Forum and will be implemented at National level by National Campaign Committees (NCC) in a spirit of co-management.

#### **When?**

The European Campaign will run from June 2006 to October 2007.

#### **Why?**

The general objectives of the Campaign are as follows:

1. To engage in initiatives promoting diversity and understanding, that would be implemented through co-operation between governmental and non-governmental structures, based on the core values of the Council of Europe;
2. To strengthen participation in democratic processes, by improving relations between young people, youth organisations and the authorities, involving the widest possible range of young people and engaging decision-makers at all levels;

Continued overleaf ...

### **NEWS! NEWS! NEWS!**

#### **The Network of Scout and Guide representatives**

Discover this user-friendly new tool created especially for you....

A database has been created for Scout and Guide representatives to National Youth Councils to register their details so as to facilitate exchange and sharing of your external work.

You can access it at:

<http://www.europak-online.net/onlinedatabaseE.html>

Try it, and encourage other representatives to join the network!

#### **JOINT SEMINAR, OUR PLACE IN EUROPE**

This joint seminar has been cancelled because of lack of participants.

#### **Network meeting of young Scout and Guide representatives to National Youth Councils and International Youth Platforms:**

The 10<sup>th</sup> network meeting took place 30/09-02/10 in Prague, the Czech Republic

It gathered 21 participants from 13 different countries who exchanged their experiences in their National Youth Council and discussed the latest developments in youth policy at national and European level including the "All Different All Equal" Campaign.

It is an annual meeting to support Scouts and Guides working in NYCs. Join the network and find out more!



## **The 7th Conference of European Ministers for Youth of the Council of Europe and the Youth Event**

by Heidi Jokinen WAGGGS External Representative

3. To strengthen civil society in the Council of Europe member states and to create a space for public debate on the promotion of diversity as a cornerstone of peaceful civil societies.

The Campaign should be focused on the promotion of **Diversity**, as a cornerstone for building a peaceful European society. The aim of this large-scale campaign is to take a pro-active approach in preventing the spread of fear, discrimination and misinformation that challenges constructive social dialogue. The methods used to implement the Campaign will be based on the wealth of experience that exists in the youth sector of the Council of Europe in the field of Human Rights, intercultural dialogue and social inclusion. Youth participation will be at the core of the Campaign, with the aim being of fostering a participative approach to building European societies.

### **How can you get involved as a Scout or a Guide?**

- Participate in the European Activities organised by Council of Europe and the European Youth Forum that will take place as part of the Campaign;
- Participate in the International Activities organised by Scouts and Guides (Roverway, eurolife02, etc.);
- Participate, through your National Youth Council to the National Campaign Committee;
- Participate in the activities of your National Youth Council organised at a national level;
- Promote activities in your Guide or Scout Association and communicate this to the Europe Office WAGGGS or the European Scout Office;
- Promote activities related to the campaign at local and regional level, and communicate this to the Europe Office WAGGGS/European Scout Office or your national headquarters.

The Europe Regions will send more information on activities in the frame of the campaign when it becomes available.

### **Your Topic Promoted In The European Arena!**

Are you working on topics in your National Youth Council which are relevant to Scouts and Guides in other European countries? Do you want to see WAGGGS and WOSM promote this topic at a European level? Let us, and your representatives in National Youth Councils, know. You could even write a short article for one of these Briefing Notes, or you can contact us directly to discuss how to communicate the issue more widely. WAGGGS and WOSM follow a number of issues on your behalf with the European institutions. Do you know what we are doing in your name? Would you like to suggest other issues? This Briefing Note is the ideal place to discuss issues which you feel are important to Guides and Scouts. Please, do not hesitate to contact us – tell us what you think needs to be worked on by WAGGGS and WOSM in our external relations work.

### **HOW TO CONTACT US**

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The Conference was held in Budapest, 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> September, on the topic of "Human Dignity And Social Cohesion: Youth Policy Responses To Violence."

Both at the Youth Event, which took place in the newly renovated European Youth Centre (celebrating its 10th anniversary), and at the Conference, different topics around the core subject of violence were discussed at length.

It was apparent that networks and partnerships between young people, non-government and government bodies should be developed and strengthened in order to combat the rise of violence.

It was recognised that youth NGOs do valuable work in providing young people with opportunities to participate in different civil society activities involving young people from diverse backgrounds.

Emphasis was placed on the need to facilitate the education of young people in order to create an awareness and understanding of the need to prevent violence, especially through campaigns - one more reason to support the All Different All Equal Campaign!

### **EUROPEAN YOUTH WEEK 5-11 December 2005 YOUTH TAKES THE FLOOR!**

Approximately two hundred young people will converge on Brussels between 5<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> December 2005 for European Youth Week, organised by the European Commission. The event is intended to give young people an opportunity to discuss what they expect from the EU and how they can participate in their European society. There will be discussions on the European Youth Pact; non-formal education; active citizenship; the White Paper - There will also be awards to youth organisations and young people for outstanding projects which have taken place as a result of support from the Youth Programme.

During the week, events will also be taking place in EU member states to publicise the work of the Youth Programme and the contribution which youth organisations and young people are making to their societies.

You can get involved. If you live in a EU member state, find out what is happening and celebrate European Youth Week. Maybe your Guide or Scout Association can use the opportunity to show the contribution that Scouting and Guiding makes to society? Do you want to be part of the debate? Each member state is sending a youth delegation to Brussels - find out if you can be involved. For more information, keep checking the European Youth Unit website - <http://www.europa.eu.int/youth>

### **COMING UP IN THE NEXT ISSUE:**

- More on All Different All Equal