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World Organization of the Scout Movement
Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout
Всемирная Организация Скаутского Движения
Organización Mundial del Movimiento Scout
المنظمة العالمية للحركة الكشفية

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Circular N° 10/2008

To: International Commissioners

31 March 2008

Scouts of Syria

Dear colleagues,

The World Scout Bureau has received an application from the Scouts of Syria for re-recognition by the World Organization.

In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution of WOSM, the World Scout Committee considered this application at its meeting on 29 February – 2 March 2008, and recommended that it be accepted.

Under the terms of Article VI.2 of the WOSM Constitution, "if within three months the recommendation is unopposed or opposed by less than five per cent of the Member Organizations", the Scouts of Syria will be declared a Member, as the National Scout Organization of Syria, of the World Organization of the Scout Movement as from 1 July 2008. Affirmative votes are not required.

Yours sincerely,

Luc Panissod
Acting Secretary General

Encl.: Information on the Scouts of Syria

Scouts of Syria

Scouting was founded in Syria in 1912 and was first recognised by the World Conference in 1924, as a Federation of Christian and Muslim Associations (jointly with Lebanon). In the 1930s and 1940s, Scouting was affected by the political situation in the region and the separation of Syria and Lebanon. In August 1949, the registration with the World Scout Conference of Boy Scouts of Syria as a separate entity was confirmed. In 1954, Syria hosted the 1st Arab Regional Scout Jamboree and in 1958 the 3rd Arab Regional Scout Jamboree and the 1st Arab Regional Scout Conference.

In 1999, Syria was expelled from WOSM for non-compliance with its constitutional obligations, notably non-payment of registration fees over an extended number of years. The association has, however, continued its activities since its expulsion, but under difficult circumstances.

The situation of the Scouts of Syria has now much improved. It benefits from governmental support, while being fully independent, and enjoys a very good image in Syria, the association comprising groups of various ethnic and religious communities. The Scouts of Syria is very active in delivering quality Scouting, and has produced a number of documents and tools for the local, district and national levels. Local groups are very active, and the range of their activities and programmes (environment, peace, refugees, children facing difficulties in the school, etc.) are a good indicator of the willingness to respond to needs of young people in the community through the provision of good Scouting.

The membership of the Scouts of Syria has increased substantially over the past two years and now totals 9,358 (1,170 Cub Scouts, 4,500 Scouts, 3,000 Advanced Scouts, 250 Rovers and 438 Adult Leaders). The association is open to boys and girls.

The Constitution of the Scouts of Syria has been checked thoroughly and approved by the Constitutions Committee. A formal mission to visit the association, consisting of World Scout Bureau staff and the Arab Regional Scout Committee, was undertaken in February 2008 to assess the realities "on the ground". The conclusion is that the Scouts of Syria fully meets the requirements for re-admission to WOSM membership.