

CONTACT

CONTACT - KONTAKT - CONTATTO

U.I.G.S.E. - F.S.E.

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THE WORD OF THE FEDERAL COMMISSIONER



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Scouting!

It is a great joy for me that you just received the first edition of the new FSE journal **CONTACT**. To be honest, it is not completely new. Attilio Grieco who was the Federal President of our brotherhood agreed together with an international network of famous authors of our movement to *revive* this journal which has already served as an important means of communication from the year 1980 to 1984.

The **CONTACT** journal brings us in touch – temporally, horizontally, and vertically.

Temporally, because scouting is living from its traditions. Tradition is not a matter of keeping the ashes of former times, but keeping the initial fire burning. **CONTACT** brings you in touch with those

who lighted the FSE fire, who let it grow, who carried its torch around Europe and recently to more and more countries across the ocean.

Horizontally, because we are united among sisters and brothers living here and now through one Law and one Promise. For us brotherhood is not a matter of travelling and meeting breathlessly, but to share one method teaching ten thousands of girls and boys how to live together in truth and love. **CONTACT** lets you deepen our greatest pedagogical insights.

Vertically, because our movement is consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of the Virgin Mary. There are no sisters and brothers if there is not a common father. Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of the Father, is the true head of our brotherhood. Since the Eurojam the Holy Spirit has led the hearts of more and more General Commissioners to consecrate them and all its members to Christ Risen – the mystery we are celebrating in these days. **CONTACT** is anchored with greatest faithfulness in our mother the Church and all her teachings.

Why do we need the CONTACT journal? Because our movement is growing in the most various ways in the most various regions of this world – as it never did before. Poland and Belarus are our fastest-growing Europeans, the Netherlands, Bulgaria, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Luxemburg have recently (re)-started the adventure of Guides and Scouts of Europe. Argentina has its first troop, the United States and Canada are close to 1000 FNE members after three years of extreme growth, and in Brasilia we only know from YouTube videos that leaders are enthusiastically developing our scouting. We hope to find them soon in the “rainforest”.

In 1956 our founders started to build tomorrow’s Europe in the middle of the ruins of Cologne. 60 years and 60,000 members later, in 2016 we, you and I, are called to build tomorrow’s World – inspired by the European witness of peoples united in Christ – in the middle of the ruins of collapsing ideologies.

The **CONTACT** journal is an additional means for the Guides and Scouts of Europe – called to go further and further to establish the reign of Christ in all their lives and in the world around them.

Our mission has just started again on another level... May the entire host of Saints accompany us! Today, tomorrow, and forever!

Martin Hafner, Federal Commissioner





FEBRUARY 12th : A HISTORICAL MEETING

On his way to Mexico, Pope Francis made a stop in Havana (Cuba) on last February 12th, in order to meet Kirill, the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia. It was a historical meeting because the separation between the Orthodox Church and the Catholic Church dates from 1054. Although from the pontificate of Blessed Paul VIth the Patriarchs of Constantinople had accepted to meet the Roman Pontiffs, this had never happened for the Patriarchs of Moscow till now.

During the meeting, a joint Declaration was signed. The integral text can be read in several languages on the Vatican site at the following address: <http://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/it/bollettino/pubblico/2016/02/12/0111/00258.html>

The meeting was extremely important. The declaration gives the reasons why, today in 2016, it is compulsory to seek unity between Catholics and Orthodox : it has become something more than a dream or a utopia. There are three areas in particular that encourage them to come together. The first one is the persecution of Christians in the world, especially in the Middle East : Orthodox feel really concerned by this subject as well. Many times, the Pope has called this the "ecumenism of blood".

The text insists precisely on the Middle East. It affirms : *"Thousands of victims have already been claimed in the violence in Syria and Iraq, which has left many other millions without a home or means of sustenance. We urge the international community to seek an end to the violence and terrorism and, at the same time, to contribute through dialogue to a swift return to civil peace. Large-scale humanitarian aid must be assured to the afflicted populations and to the many refugees seeking safety in neighbouring lands. We call upon all those whose influence can be brought to bear upon the destiny of those kidnapped, including the Metropolitans of Aleppo, Paul and John Ibrahim, who were taken in April 2013, to make every effort to ensure their prompt liberation."* Implicitly directed to the Muslims, the joint text adds that *"attempts to justify criminal acts with religious slogans are altogether unacceptable. No crime may be committed in God's name, since God is not the God of disorder but of peace."*



Contrarily to some previsions, the text does not elude the diplomatic question of Ukraine but invites all parties, including Churches, not to foster the conflict. *"We deplore the hostility in Ukraine that has already caused many victims, inflicted innumerable wounds on peaceful inhabitants and thrown society into a deep economic and humanitarian crisis. We invite all the parts involved in the conflict to prudence, to social solidarity and to action aimed at constructing peace. We invite our Churches in Ukraine to work towards social harmony, to refrain from taking part in the confrontation, and not to support any further development of the conflict."*



The second theme of the declaration is the defence of family, which is *"based on marriage, an act of freely given and faithful love between a man and a woman"* and which is recognised as the *"natural centre of human life and society"*. *"We are concerned about the crisis of the family in many countries. Orthodox and Catholics share the same conception of the family, and are called to witness that it is a path of holiness, testifying to the faithfulness of the spouses in their mutual interaction"*. *"We regret that other forms of cohabitation have been placed on the same level as this union, while the concept, consecrated in the biblical tradition, of paternity and maternity as the distinct vocation of man and woman in marriage is being banished from the public conscience."*

Francis and the Patriarch of Moscow *"call on all to respect the inalienable right to life. Millions are denied the very right to be born into the world. The blood of the unborn cries out to God."* They also reject the *"so-called euthanasia"* which *"leads elderly people and the disabled to feel that they are a burden on their families and on society in general"*. And they refuse the artificial fecundation, *"because the manipulation of human life represents an attack on the foundation of human existence, created in the image of God"*.

The third theme is the testimony of faith, especially towards youth, in a secularized world. Nowadays, faith has to be announced not only by denouncing superficiality and *"consumption"* but by affirming clearly that religious freedom is also violated in the Western World. *"In particular, we observe that the transformation of some countries into secularized societies, estranged from all reference to God and to His truth, constitutes a grave threat to religious freedom"*. A *"source of concern"* is the current curtailment of *"the rights of Christians, if not their outright discrimination, when certain forces, guided by an often very aggressive secularist ideology, seek to relegate them to the margins of public life"*.

Prudence about immigration too. The Pope and the Patriarch invite to vigilance against *"an integration that is devoid of respect for religious identities. While remaining open to the contribution of other religions to our civilization, it is our conviction that Europe must remain faithful to its Christian roots"*.

In a short speech, Kirill affirmed that *"both our Churches can work together to defend Christianity in the whole world, with full responsibility, so that war may stop, and that everywhere human life may be respected as well as the foundations of morals of family and of the person."* The unity between the Churches does not exist yet but *"unity is built on the way"*, the Pope affirmed. On behalf of the persecuted Christians, of the family and of the evangelisation, a meeting which was considered as necessary but impossible for so long has become possible nowadays.





60 YEARS, IT IS QUITE OLD FOR A YOUTH MOVEMENT !

So, let's come back to the fresh times of our youth, just for our anniversary. Not to take refuge in them but to check whether the commitments taken on All Saints' Day 1956 have borne fruit and if we are still their heirs.

Karl Schmitz-Moormann

Ten years after the end of the war, Cologne still looked like a wide field of ruins, with huge cranes and scaffolds. Several dozen people were walking towards the Youth House, on Machabäerstrasse, just near the main station and the cathedral. They were coming from Cologne region and from Münster, a town 150 Km northward. We could expect a group of cultured commissioners, of experienced educators, of clerics, etc. What a surprise! The rare photographs that still exist show an average of 16 years rather than 20. A 28 year old man stands out : Karl SCHMITZ-MOORMANN. Nowadays, he is completely unknown to most of us. But it is thanks to him that everything started.

Born in 1928 in Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany, in a Catholic family, he was called up for military service in the last days of the war. He was made prisoner by the English army. In 1952, he passed his state exam to teach philosophy and went on studying in order to get a PhD thesis of philosophy on Father Teilhard de Chardin's work. In 1953, he spent the school year as an assistant in a school in England. He had the opportunity to take part in the life of the scout group of the school. Back in Münster, Westphalia, where his parents lived, he founded his own Catholic scout group.

In 1955, he did some research at the Catholic Institute of Paris and at the National Library of France on Teilhard de Chardin's work. He took this opportunity to deepen his knowledge of French Scouting and met Jean LEOPOLD¹ who was leading a group of Russian Orthodox scouts exiled in Paris. He made friends with a young troop leader, Serge SELIVERSTOFF² who initiated him to the ceremonial of "Scouts de France" and with a young Belgian seminarian, Joseph TIMMERMANS³, a former Flemish Catholic scout of the VVKs.



Karl Schmitz-Moormann

Karl SCHMITZ-MOORMANN in
August 1957

What happened in Cologne on All Saints' Day 1956 ?

So the man who knocked at the door of the Youth House on that morning was a mature man, with a good knowledge of scouting in its various forms. He arrived firmly determined to solve definitely the question dividing those who wanted to start scouting with a European spirit in Germany: the place of Jesus Christ in their scouting.

Thanks to his word, he gained the support of all for a scouting in which "God would be served first" and where "the Lord would camp among his scouts and guides". This led them to adopt Father Sevin's ceremonial, already experienced by numerous generations of young scouts, as their living environment.

The choice of the badge

Scouting is meant for young people. Karl gave them a symbol, much more significant for them than a long speech : a badge summarizing their ideal.

¹ Jean LÉOPOLD, his novelist's name being Jean-Claude ALAIN, founded the French Association in 1958.

² Serge SELIVERSTOFF, troop leader of Paris 2 FSE, became the first National Commissioner of boys scouts of the French Association at the beginning of the 60s.

³ Father Joseph TIMMERMANS was at the origin of the Belgian Association and Federal Commissioner from 1961 to 1963.

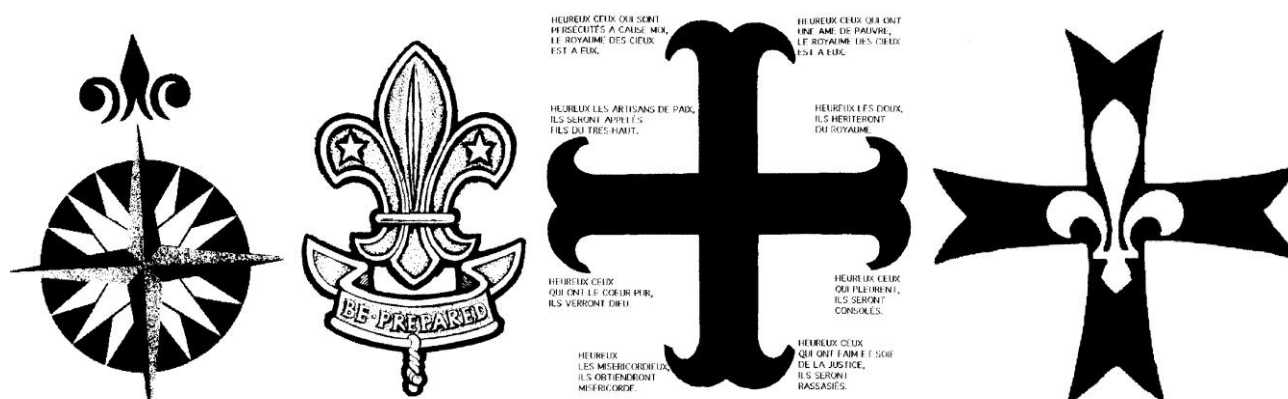


The lily flower makes the link to Baden-Powell. This is the badge of all the scouts throughout the world. Formerly it indicated the North on the compasses drawn on the old sea maps⁴. By the choice of this symbol, Baden-Powell wanted to show that he intended to form characters, that is to say men and women opening the way and able to maintain the direction of their life, whatever the changes of the social and psychological environment⁵. The three petals of the lily flower are a summary of the promise that each scout is going to pronounce : to be loyal to God and to one's homeland – to help the others at any time – to observe the scout law⁶.

But is the lily flower enough to fill our heart? Europe cannot be achieved without a spiritual dimension. For Karl, this was obvious. These young people did not call into question the Christian roots of Europe, as our political men do nowadays so lightly. The slightest activity in nature shows us the beauty of Creation. Masterpieces and monuments from previous centuries reflect the spirit of Beatitudes, which are the basis of European identity.

They were sensitive to Jesus' last prayer before being arrested⁷ and, like Baden-Powell, they thought that religion is not so complicated: « It is to love and serve God, to love and serve one's neighbor »⁸.

The lily of the compass is fixed on a star: the star of our scouting is Jesus, who poured out his blood on a **cross** for the salvation of mankind. This eight-pointed red cross is anchored in the eight beatitudes of the Sermon on the Mount⁹, the program for any Christian who wants to follow Christ¹⁰.



The choice of a badge which would be worn on the heart by young people is not innocent. It must express some personal balance, where the spiritual and physical qualities of an accomplished personality must be combined.

It is interesting to observe how the founders of Guides and Scouts of Europe were going ahead. Probably they did not have a very clear conscience of what they were building, but they had a clear vision that it was what they had to do.

In the first text that they redacted on All Saints' Day 1956, the federal statutes, they wrote in article 1 : « Under the name of **Federation of European Scouting, an international**

⁴ *Scouting for boys*, 2nd Camp Fire Yarn.

⁵ Article 12 of the *Charter of European Scouting*.

⁶ *Scouting for boys*, 2nd Camp Fire Yarn.

⁷ "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me...." John 17,20-21.

⁸ *Saint Matthew 22,34-40 - Scouting for Boys 22nd Camp Fire Yarn.*

⁹ This anchored cross appeared at the beginning of the XIIth century on the shield of Morimond Abbey, in Burgundy, the forth foundation of Cîteaux. This red cross was adopted by the Order of the Hospitallers of Saint John of Jerusalem. It was black for the Order of the Temple. In *Scouting for Boys*, Baden-Powell quoted the knight of Saint John several times as an example for the explorer of former times. When BP was knighted, this anchored cross and the lily of the compass were put on his coat of arms. So the choice of this badge wanted to show the attachment of the F.S.E to Baden-Powell's legacy.

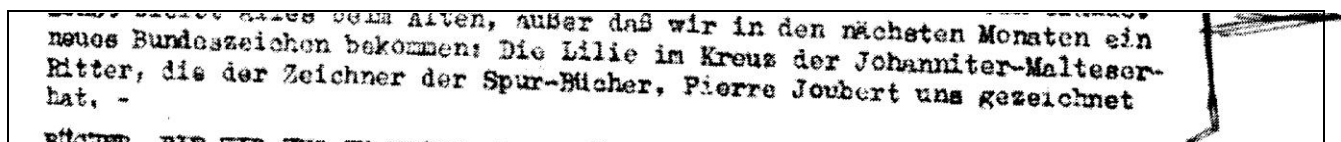
¹⁰ See the last sentences of the Ceremonial of the Rover Departure.



association is founded. It is composed of national sections, the aim of which is to practice Baden-Powell's scouting, within the context of European idea, and on the Christian bases implied by the concept of united Europe. » The article nr. 10 deserves to be mentioned too : "From now on, the official badge of the Federation (FSE) is the Malta cross with a golden lily flower". The words "**from now on**" are the founding words.

Blessed are our predecessors for the choice of the Beatitude cross¹¹.

Back in the region of Paris, Karl SCHMITZ-MOORMANN¹² asked Pierre JOUBERT to draw this badge. Pierre gave it a more modern shape, which is the one we still have now.



From « Kurier » nr.5 of January 1957, the magazine of Cologne group

And what about girls?...

From the very beginning, sisters and fiancées felt concerned. They did not see what could prevent them from living the same adventure. But scouting, as well as society, was divided into two worlds that had hardly anything in common, Guides and scouts. So old fashioned ! Yet they were not looking for co-education, even less did the boys. But **they thought that to educate boys and girls in a same movement, within distinct units of life, constitutes a mutual enrichment for both sexes.** Boys were not against the arrival of girls in their world. They had a striking phrase expressing their state of mind : "OK, but do it on your own ! It is your business". A few months later, the first group of Guides of Europe – FSE started in Wuppertal.

Maurice Ollier



¹¹ Some people say that the cross of Saint John was chosen by the FSE in reference to Father Jacques Sevin. It seems that this statement is not right because the texts and testimonies of the first Scouts of Europe make no allusion to that. The only one who could know this detail was Pierre Joubert, who drew the badge in December 1956. However, he had received from Karl Schmitz-Moormann the order to draw a cross of Malta with eight points, plus a golden lily. In 1920, the cross of Saint John of Jerusalem had been rejected during the foundation of Scouts de France because it was the badge of the « Action Catholique » for girls, ACJF.

¹² Karl SCHMITZ-MOORMANN led our German association till 1961. He married Nicole BONNET, first woman in charge of guides in the French association, and began an academic career that he ended in the United State in 1996, when he died in Princeton, New Jersey. Karl has a true reputation of seriousness in the area of studies upon Teilhard de Chardin.



GUIDES AND SCOUTS OF EUROPE : WHO ARE WE ?

(part 1)

The three Principles of the Guides and Scouts of Europe

During a week-end with young male and female leaders, some of them discussed of the differences between our Movement and the other scout associations, especially the Catholic ones : they mentioned at random the fidelity to the scout method, the fact of keeping the « unitarian » patrol system, the law, the promise, life in nature, the leader's authority or even the Christian « dimension » and the European « dimension »...

Yet, none of these points is completely specific to the Guides and Scouts of Europe...

Admittedly, the Federation of European Scouting has clearly chosen « *the scout method, according to Lord Baden-Powell's spirit, with a Christian interpretation and fully welcoming the inheritance of the founders of Christian scouting, most particularly Father Jacques Sevin, Lord Mario di Carpegna, Professor Jean Corbisier, respectively founders of Catholic scouting in France, Italy and Belgium* ». ¹³ Our various pedagogical booklets and magazines explain all that in detail.



But the originality of our Movement relies elsewhere. In a way, it is expressed in the three principles of the Guides and Scouts of Europe, which are a kind of « *summary of the FSE doctrine* » ¹⁴. Here are the three principles of the « Scouts de France » :

1. « *The Scout is proud of his faith and submits his whole life to it.*
2. *The Scout is a son of France and a good citizen.*
3. *A boy scout's duties start at home*».

They do not seem to be adapted to the international and ecumenical context of the FSE, to the « dream » of the young German boys in the post-war Europe. So, after one

year of reflection, the Federal Council of Anvers, on November 1st 1964, adopted the principles that we know now :

1. « *A boy scout's duties start at home.*
2. *Faithful to his country, a boy scout favours a united and fraternal Europe.*
3. *As a son of Christendom, a scout is proud of his faith: he labours to establish the reign of Christ in all his life and in the world around him.* ¹⁵

These principles give the specific style and the spirit of the Guides and Scouts of Europe, our « DNA ». These sentences, which are simple and easy to remember, express fundamental and intemporal truth, they enlighten our conscience and each boy scout will base his action and his life on them.

The choice of the Federal Council not to keep strictly Father Sevin's three principles is full of interest.

Admittedly, we find the « *three necessary societies, distinct from one another and yet harmoniously combined by God, into which man is born: two, namely the family and civil society, belong to the natural order; the third, the Church, to the supernatural order.* » ¹⁶ But

¹³ Presentation and educational project of the International Union of Guides and Scouts of Europe – Federation of European Scouting (UIGSE-FSE), art. 1.1.

¹⁴ Pierre Géraud-Keraod, *Sextant, Newsletter for the leaders of the association of Scouts of Europe* (« Europa-scouts ») Federation of European Scouting, December 1963, new series, number 1, p. 5.

¹⁵ Federal Statutes of the UIGSE-FSE, September 26th 2003, art. 1.3.4.

¹⁶ Pius XI, encyclical 'Divini illius magistri' about Christian education, December 31st 1929.



Pierre Géraud-Keraod¹⁷ replaced the child in the centre and came back to the order given by Pius XI : in the first place comes the family, which has « *priority of nature, and therefore of rights* » because it has been « *instituted directly by God for its peculiar purpose, the generation and formation of offspring* » even if it has not « *in itself all the means for its own complete development* » ; civil society, « *a perfect society, having in itself all the means for its peculiar end, which is the temporal well-being of the community* » ; in this sense, it has pre-eminence over the family ; and then the Church, « *a society of the supernatural order and of universal extent ; a perfect society ,because it has in itself all the means required for its own end, which is the eternal salvation of mankind ; hence it is supreme in its own domain* ».

So a movement of education necessarily belongs to all these «three societies », « *in due proportion corresponding (...) to the co-ordination of their respective ends* », in order to educate « *man as a whole, individually and socially, in the order of nature and in the order of grace* ». European Scouting places the child clearly in the heart of its action, and it « *considers itself to be, beside school, complementary to education given by the family, to whom the child belongs primarily* »¹⁸. This concern is expressed in the first principle.

More than forty years separated both redactions, Father Sevin's one and the one of the Federation of European Scouting. It is a lot in the Xxth century... When Pierre Géraud-Keraod redacted these three principles, the Council Vatican II had started in Rome for more than one year... Duty of state, complementarity with the family, faithfulness to ancestral soil, promotion of a European 'community' and firmness in faith are part of the vocation of all Christians and of the sanctification of the earthly realities : « *the laity, by reason of their special vocation, seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and by directing them according to God's will* »¹⁹.

The order of the three principles, the choice of words and the references chosen are as many keys to understand better the specificities and the particular vocation of Guides and Scouts of Europe. We will study these points in further articles.

Gwenaël Lhuissier



¹⁷ Claude Pinay, at that time general commissioner, asked him to make a proposal of redaction of the three principles, in order to interest him in international work. In the initial redaction, we can find the influence of 'Bleimor' and Claude Pinay's patient and clever action was necessary to convince Pierre Géraud-Keraod to simplify his project and to express in it only the intuitions of the Movement.

¹⁸ Charter of the national and Christian principles of European Scouting, art. 7.

¹⁹ Council Vatican II, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen gentium*, November 21st 1964, §31.

**NEWS - NOUVELLES - NOTIZIE****Consecration of the Dutch and Belgian associations to the Sacred Heart of Jesus**

On March Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th, the Dutch Guides and Scouts of Europe made a pilgrimage to 's-Hertogenbosch, in Brabant. After the celebration of the holy Mass in Saint-John's cathedral, the meaning of the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus was explained to the participants. Then the national leaders consecrated the Dutch FSE to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

In February, during a training week-end for leaders, the Belgian association also consecrated itself to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

As Martin Hafner, Federal commissioner, stated :

"The consecration of our movement, of our associations and of all of us is the most precious service that can be done for Europe and its peoples".

Everything started on August 3rd 2014, during the Eurojam, when Martin consecrated the whole UIGSE-FSE during the opening mass. In Prague, in October 2015, during the federal meeting, all general commissioners, presidents and national secretaries consecrated themselves to the Sacred Heart. This consecration is not an act of devotion, an external act, but it means that we truly want to love God as Jesus does and to open our heart fully to Christ.

During the consecration, we ask Jesus to give us all his strength to love God and transform our heart in the likeness of His Heart.



Dutch Guides and Scouts of Europe

The Explorers and the Timber Wolves of Toronto visiting their brothers of the United States in Cincinnati (Ohio) and Orlando (Florida)

On March 14th, 25 Explorers and 19 Timber Wolves of the Group 1st Four Arrows FNE, based near Toronto, went by bus to Orlando, Florida, in order to camp with the members of the Group Stella Maris FNE. They came back on March 21st. A stop was made in Cincinnati (Ohio), where the Group Holy Trinity FNE is settled, for sharing dinner, a 'veillée' and the evening prayer.



The two troops



We have fun together

CONTACT

**Newsletter from the International Union of Guides and Scouts of Europe
Federation of European Scouting**

Editor : Martin Hafner

Managing Editor : Robin Sébille – Editor-in-Chief : Attilio Grieco

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