

## Virtual Heads of Contingent Meeting, 16 May 2020

### Opening Remarks

#### Karol Gzyl, European Jamboree Director

##### Opening

Good morning, good afternoon and good evening!

I am so glad that every one of you joined today's virtual Head of Contingents meeting for the European Jamboree. Despite of circumstances, we gathered together around the idea of Scouts and Guides acting for better, future world. I welcome you sincerely! I welcome members of the Jamboree Advisory Group and the Jamboree Planning Team. We are connecting with you from the ZHP National Office in Warsaw and from other remote locations across the Europe.

Let me stress, that today is important to go back to the beginning of the European Jamboree, its core values and principles that led us to this moment of the journey. We are here to redefine a timeline, but most of all we are here to prepare the extraordinary, educational and one in a lifetime experience for Scouts and Guides from our countries and associations.

The outbreak of the global COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted lots of plans and caused great sorrow and uncertainty in many parts of the world. During all this, Scouts and Guides have stepped up to serve their communities. This should, in a time of great concern, give us great confidence that our movement is naturally responding to new realities, mobilising to be the social force that can make a difference in local communities.

##### Postponement and New Timeline

At the same time, the Jamboree Organisation was faced with the difficult question of navigating the event through this uncertainty. The Jamboree Executive Team, ZHP, WOSM and WAGGGS, in partnership with the Polish health authorities, have carefully monitored the global health situation since the beginnings of the outbreak. After extensively evaluating different scenarios, we have decided to reschedule the European Jamboree to 2021.

By moving the European Jamboree to next summer, we are opening up the opportunity for the experience of a lifetime once more – the possibility for Scouts and Guides to still dream about their international jamboree adventure.

We are aware that our world will face challenges, even after the global pandemic has been contained. Together with ZHP, WOSM and WAGGGS, we will continue monitoring the situation with as a first priority the health and safety of all.

I will repeat a passage that most of you are familiar with: Yet in a post-pandemic world, we want the European Jamboree to be a beacon of hope and understanding, of unity and solidarity – for young people and adults. Let us use the European Jamboree as a moment of revival and recovery and set an example in good Scouting and Guiding spirit.

### **Appreciation of the HoC efforts**

We do really know that these past days brought you more work than usual. Redefining the plans for the contingent organisation and answering parents' questions for sure was demanding challenge and took your mind and time. We do really appreciate your efforts and I would like to express my sincere gratitude for every one of you.

Moving the European Jamboree to 2021 comes with its own set of challenges. As the Jamboree Organisation, we are prepared to work on delivering a phenomenal event with utmost dedication. But it will require all our solidarity, creativity, determination and flexibility to make it happen. All of us might need to make sacrifices and compromises to achieve something truly remarkable in times where this is needed more than ever.

### **What we are going to do**

We are about to start a new beginning, new opening of the European Jamboree 2020. This event cannot be done without you. We are here to present further steps in organization the jamboree, to dispel doubts, to mitigate the risks, to reshape the European Jamboree together.

As the Jamboree Organization we are not alone here, we received great support in that tough times from both: WOSM and WAGGGS side. All the hours of calls and e-mails spent on the EJ cause is highly appreciated. We really felt that helping hand when it was truly needed.

### **Giving the floor**

I believe that these few hours of our virtual meeting will give us feeling of strength and unity. With these words I am giving the floor to our Jamboree Advisory Group members from WAGGGS and WOSM.

Lilit, Elena, the floor is yours.

Thank you.

HOST CITY



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