NEW WORLD SCOUTING LEADER NAMED

Dr. Eduardo Missoni (Italy) will be the new Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement as of 1st April 2004. The organization comprises more than 28-million Scouts, boys and girls, in 215 countries and territories.

Dr. Missoni, 49, will succeed retiring Secretary General Dr. Jacques Moreillon (Switzerland) who has held the position since 1988. The decision was announced today by Dr. Marie-Louise Correa (Senegal), Chairman of the World Scout Committee, the elected governing body of the World Scouting.

Dr. Missoni was appointed by the World Scout Committee following a thorough, worldwide, selection process professionally conducted "pro bono" through the 81 countries in the network of the Amrop Hever Group, and coordinated by its office in Zurich, Switzerland.

The future Secretary General is a professor at the prestigious Bocconi University Management School in Milan, where he teaches Development Cooperation Management and Global Strategies for Health. For 16 years he was responsible for the Italian government’s health cooperation programmes in Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa. He has extensive field experience with youth development issues in a wide variety of cultures. He has represented his government in several international bodies, including the World Health Organization.

He grew up in Scouting, making his Scout Promise in 1965 as a member of the Italian Association of Catholic Scouts and Guides (AGESCI). He became a medical doctor, specializing in tropical medicine, and started his professional life as a volunteer doctor in Nicaragua. Later he worked as a UNICEF officer in Mexico.

He has a strong personal experience and commitment in the development of civil society initiatives for disadvantaged youth, and a dedication to the promotion of active citizenship.

"I know what Scouting does for young people, and what Scouts themselves can do for their society. We have an immense potential for doing even more and I am excited about the opportunity to help lead and manage an organization which really has no equal in the world, and which has the proven capacity to make it better," said Dr. Missoni.

Dr. Missoni and his wife, born in Chile, are presently living in Rome; they have a daughter living in Mexico. In addition to Italian, he is fluent in English, Spanish, French, and German.

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