



**World Scout Bureau, European Regional Office
Bureau Mondial du Scoutisme, Bureau Régional
Européen**

Avenue de la Porte de Hal 38
1060 Brussels
BELGIUM

9th April 2008

**European Youth Forum
Forum européen de la Jeunesse**

120 Rue Joseph II
1000 Brussels
BELGIUM

**Red Cross / European Union Office
Bureau Croix-Rouge / Union européenne**

Rue Belliard, 65. Box 7
1040 Brussels
BELGIUM

To the attention of National Youth Councils, National Red Cross Youth Societies and members of the European Scout Region in the European Union

Re: Written Declaration on 2011, the European Year of Volunteering

Dear Friend,

Over the last year we have collaborated at a European level with other organisations and platforms involved in the issue of volunteering in order to have the year 2011 designated as European Year of Volunteering. As organisations led and based on volunteering, the designation of 2011 would significantly add to our recognition and to the climate in which we work.

Today, Wednesday 9th April, Members of the European Parliament (MEP), Marian Harkin (IE), Gisela Kallenbach (DE), Emmanouil Angelakas (GR), Mieczyslaw Janowski (PL) and Joel Hasse Ferreira (PT) are launching a written declaration (see attached) in the Parliament to propose 2011 be designated the European Year of Volunteering. If it is adopted it will make a significant contribution to the campaign to have the year designated.

However, a declaration in the European Parliament requires 50% +1 (391) of all MEPs signature's to be adopted. So we need your help in mobilising your national MEPs and collecting signatures. We would strongly encourage National Youth Councils, National Scout Organisations and Red Cross National Branches to work together with other volunteering organisations to:

1. Make contact with your national MEPs;
2. Personalise and send the attached template letter to MEPs of your country (the details of your MEPs are at www.europarl.europa.eu);
3. Invite them to participate in a local (to them) activity giving them the opportunity to learn more about your work and volunteering.

This is a great opportunity to affect change at a local, national and European level. If you would like further information or support in exploiting this opportunity, then please do not hesitate to contact one of us.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Walker

World Scout Bureau

Diogo Pinto

European Youth Forum

Dimitri De Fré

Red Cross / EU Office