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Creating a Better World

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

**Regional Scout Committee, European Region  
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**Ms. Soraya Sáenz de Santamaría,**  
*Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the  
Presidency*

**Ms. Ana Mato Adrover**  
*Minister for Health, Social Services and  
Equality*

24 July 2013

**Support Letter CJE – Spanish Youth Council**

Dear Madams

The World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) recognises the Spanish Youth Council (Consejo de la Juventud de España - CJE) as the only national body of coordination, interlocution, training and co-operation amongst the different youth organisations in Spain.

Therefore, WOSM rejects the inclusion of the Spanish Youth Council in the list of bodies to be abolished that was drafted by the Spanish government's Commission for Reform of Public Administration (CORA).

The CJE is a diverse and democratic platform, the only state body for coordination, dialogue, training and cooperation for more than 80 organisations and associations of which it is composed, which are very different in character and ideology. It includes two WOSM members, ASDE – Scouts de España and Movimiento Scout Católico. It also plays a crucial role in representing young people in Europe and around the world. It heads the struggle for youth rights and equality, it has created and it continues to maintain an important link with young people in Europe and Latin America, and in this way it has helped ensure that thousands of young people are now active citizens.

The importance of these structures has been consistently reasserted in resolutions from various international institutions. For example, the Youth White Paper from the European Union calls for member states to promote participation among young people in public life through general introduction of youth councils that are independent of political authorities, at a regional and national level. It also calls on authorities to consult them before any decision that could have significant consequences for young people.

If the Spanish government closes the CJE, it will be impossible for young people and youth organisations such as Scouting organisations to have the support of a platform that is independent of the political forces of government. This would severely impair youth participation, as young people would lose a legitimate spokesperson to defend their interests.

Taking into account the current difficult situation for young Spanish people in social, economic and employment terms (with some of the highest youth unemployment figures in Europe and increasing difficulty in accessing basic public services such as education or health), it is now more necessary than ever to promote all possible channels of dialogue with civil society. To deprive Spanish young people of the legitimate role played by the CJE after three decades of work would mean a big step backwards for Spain in terms of youth rights at a European level.

Thank you for taking the time to evaluate our request and passing on our concerns to the relevant Spanish state bodies. We believe that the Spanish Youth Council (CJE) is a model for democratic participation and coexistence and for this reason we would like to express our commitment and support for this platform. We want to see it continue, and we would like to highlight its importance for young people in Spain.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Turpie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Craig Turpie**  
Chairperson, European Scout Committee