



2014 WFTO-EUROPE CONFERENCE AND AGM FEEDBACK TO MEMBERS *Elspeet, 12-14 June 2014*

Brussels, 20 June 2014

Dear friends and colleagues,

Inspired by the wonderful place where it was organised (Mennoerde, the Netherlands), the 2014 WFTO-Europe Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM) ended this Saturday 14th June, in a very friendly atmosphere and after having complied with all Agenda's items.

For your information, and mainly to update all the members that could not attend the meeting, we are sending you the official Conference & AGM outcomes in the attached Report.

In our opinion the most important outcome of our 2014 Conference/AGM has been the commonly-shared, positive feeling with regard to the main goals of our meeting: to recognize that WFTO-Europe is the right place to strengthen the European Fair Trade movement; to make the European opinion visible and loud, as a contribution to the WFTO Global internal debate; and to build the future of Fair Trade collectively.

This is why, even if those attending this meeting were less than in previous occasions (around 20 participants, representing – also with Proxies Votes - 37 European Fair Trade Organisations), we are happy with this Conference/AGM. We want to thank all participants for their confidence and contribution, and we feel that this 'mutual trust' is the appropriate fuel for our collective engine. The Board is fully committed to comply with all AGM debates and outcomes, and to maintain the close contact with members (please read the specific following paragraph).

While at the AGM we voted (almost unanimously, with 1 or 2 abstentions) all documents presented (including the 2015 Budget, and - with an amendment related to the implementation of the Retailers Standard – the **2014/15 Working Plan, here in attachment**), during the Conference we deepened, with the support of the WFTO Global President and CE, the WFTO Asia President, and the Fair Trade Advocacy Office Executive Director, the following issues:

- The WFTO Guarantee System
- Advocacy and Fair Trade Advocacy Office activities and future governance
- The so called "Domestic Fair Trade"
- Fair Trade Retailers Standard and WFTO-Europe's Working Group
- Role for Fair Trade Country Networks
- Fair Trade Towns Campaign.
- Fair Prices and Fair Wages

In the **attached Report** you can find the outcomes related to these issues, but it is important to underline that the most important outcome has been the united spirit of collaboration and exchange of ideas amongst the participants.



STRENGTHEN THE MEMBERS PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNICATION

We dedicated also a brainstorming session on “*how to be more attractive to WFTO-Europe members, how TO stimulate more participation*”. We will develop a specific “Communication strategy” to be more effective and closer to our members. But we also decided to do something immediately, so:

- ❑ Board President and members are available on Skype (or by e-mail) for the members interested to deepen the Conference/AGM issues, or some particular themes
 - Giorgio Dal Fiume: Skype: giorgio.dalfiume, giorgio.dalfiume@altromercato.it
 - Sophie Tack: Skype: sophiemdmoxfam, sophie.tack@mdmoxfam.be
 - Marijke Visser: Skype: g.broersen10, m.visser67@chello.nl
 - Gabrielle D’Amico: Skype: gabridamico20, gabriella.damico2008@gmail.com
 - Tadeusz Makulski: Skype: tadeuszmakulski, tadeusz.makulski@sprawiedliwyhandel.pl
 - Emilie Durochat: Skype: emilie.durochat, durochat@commercequitable.org
- ❑ If invited, WFTO-E Board members could attend meetings organised by national platforms or group of members of the same country/area
- ❑ We will develop a short questionnaire to ask members which issues or events they consider as a priority for WFTO-Europe.

THE NEW WFTO-EUROPE BOARD COMPOSITION

This AGM also voted for the candidate to the WFTO-Europe Board of Directors: 3 out of the 5 Board members that ended their first mandate (Giorgio Dal Fiume, Sophie Tack and Marijke Visser) have been re-elected to the Board by large majority (just one abstention). Emilie Durochat (candidate from the French Fair Trade Platform) has also been elected to the Board. Malcolm Curtis and Julie Stoll decided – after several years of presence in the Board - to not re-candidate themselves. The Board gave a big thank to them for the great work done, and the voluntary support to WFTO and the whole Fair trade movement.

Regarding this last point, as a result of the lack of other candidates, the WFTO-Europe Board is now composed of 6 persons, whereas the Constitution foresees that the Board members have to be at least 7. That’s why the Board will re-launch soon the process to find - by co-optation - one more Board member, in order to comply with our Constitution and to add new energy to the Board. Thus, in a forthcoming communication and in addition to the 2014 AGM minutes, we will (re)send you all necessary documents to potentially candidate yourself to the WFTO-Europe Board.

Finally, we would like to inform all of you that the next 2015 WFTO-Europe AGM will be held during the 2015 WFTO Global Conference in Milan (Italy), from 23rd to 27th May 2015.

Please send us your comments and feedback.

We wish all the best for you and your organisation!

On behalf of the WFTO-Europe Board and with warm regards,

Giorgio Dal Fiume (President)