



## Minutes of the WFTO-Europe Board meeting, 9 April 2015, 10.00-12.00, via Skype.

Present: Giorgio Dal Fiume (President), Tadeusz Makulski (Secretary), Sophie Tack, Bertil Hogberg (Treasurer) and Francesca Giubilo (Coordinator).

Excused: Gabriella D'Amico, Emilie Durochat, Marijke Visser.

AGENDA
1. Approval minutes 17.03.2015
2. European Representative in the WFTO Global Board
3. 2015 AGM documents
4. WFTO Biennial Conference – Draft programme
5. Virtual AGM and decentralisation fees
6. AOB (WFTO-E Board expenses policy + next Board meeting)

### 1. Approval minutes of previous Board meeting

The minutes of the Board meeting held the 17<sup>th</sup> of March via Skype were unanimously approved.

### 2. European Representative in the WFTO Global Board

Considering the importance of having a Board member within the Global Board, the Board decided to:

- wait for the 21st of April in order to have the final decision from Sophie, who was still highly encouraged to take up this role. By that time, she will speak with her Director and communicate to the others her candidature or not.
- have a plan B in case Sophie will not be available:
  - contact some members, such as Marlike (EFTA), to see whether they are interested in taking over this role;
  - see whether other Board members want to candidate themselves or Giorgio can take the lead. In this last scenario he will need to withdraw from his role of President.

### 3. 2015 AGM documents

The Board went through the first bunch of documents sent by the Coordinator one week before and considered all of them almost finalised. Francesca will then send a final version to be approved during the next Board meeting as soon as possible.

### 4. WFTO Biennial Conference – Draft programme

Regarding the WFTO Biennial Conference, the Board shared its first impression on the general programme, agreeing on the overall interest of the different workshops scheduled, for instance on Fair Prices Fair Wages, gender, domestic Fair Trade and advocacy. Sophie also informed the others that she was asked by WFTO to carry out a workshop on campaign activities.

Regarding the workshop on the revision of the Charter of FT principles, co-organised by WFTO Global and WFTO-Europe, Giorgio affirmed not having received any feedback from WFTO with regard to the European proposal on participants and overall organization of the workshop. Therefore, the President agreed to follow up on it with WFTO Global right after the meeting.

## **5. Virtual AGM & decentralisation fees**

### Virtual AGM

The coordinator shared with the Board the information she collected in the past weeks regarding the possibility for WFTO-E to organise virtual AGMs. This issue was raised up as a follow-up of the WFTO's proposal to organise the next WFTO Biennial Conference together with IFOAM, in India in November 2017. The main constrain for WFTO-E seems to be the legal requirement of having its own AGM during the first 6 months of the year. That is why the Coordinator is now exploring the possibility of having a virtual AGM. Although this possibility was confirmed, there are still some concerns amongst the Board members, especially regarding the importance of having physical AGM meetings to strengthen WFTO-E network. Moreover, more information needs to be collected on this topic and might request a legal advice to modify WFTO-E Constitution and Bylaws. Based on these considerations, the Board decided:

- to support in any case the proposal from WFTO to have the next Biennial Conference in November 2017.
- to collect all the information regarding the next steps to be eventually taken forward to modify the Constitution according to the Belgian law to foresee a virtual AGM.
- to discuss with members in Milan whether this option needs to be followed or there is a consensus of non-going ahead on it.

### Decentralisation fees

Following the Board decision, together with the other Regions, to ask WFTO Global Board to revise the policy regarding the decentralisation fees (amount transferred to the Regions for their work on behalf of WFTO in monitoring and membership tasks), the Coordinator briefly informed the Board that an answer should be received soon by the Global Board on this topic.

## **6. AOB**

### WFTO-Europe Board expenses policy.

The Board approved the WFTO-Europe Board expenses policy, which recaps the voluntary basis of the Directors commitment and stresses the "per diem" policy to adopt when reimbursements for Board travel/meetings-related to specific projects are foreseen by the corresponding project budget.

### Next Board meeting

Due to other commitments, the Board agreed to postpone the next Board meeting to the 22nd of April 2015 from 10.00 to 12.00.

END.