



**Minutes of the WFTO-Europe Board meeting,  
17 March 2015, 15.00-17.00, via Skype.**

Present: Giorgio Dal Fiume (President), Gabriella D'Amico, Emilie Durochat, Bertil Hogberg (Treasurer), Tadeusz Makulski (Secretary), Sophie Tack, Marijke Visser and Francesca Giubilo (Coordinator).

<b>AGENDA</b>
1. Approval Minutes previous Board meeting (23 February)
2. Approval Accounts and Balance 2014
3. Communication strategy and graphic chart
4. Global topics: a) Workshop on the "Charter of FT principles"- agree on the next steps b) WFTO Biennial Conference 2017 with IFOAM - agree on a common position on it c) European representative in the Global Board (agree on a new candidate - Sophie cannot take up this role) d) Feedback from Sophie on the FTAO Board meeting and the discussion on the FTT Campaign
5. AOB (survey, WFTDay , feedback on DAWS, letter Rudi)

### **1. Approval minutes**

The minutes of the Board meeting held the 23<sup>rd</sup> February via Skype were approved without any additional comments.

### **2. Approval Accounts and balance 2014**

Francesca presented the final figures of the Accounts and balance 2014, which shows a surplus of around 2400 EUR. Answering to some of the questions from the Board, the Coordinator stressed that the higher rate of membership fees in 2013 was due to the alignment process and so to the increasing number of members compared to 2014. The last year knew an increase of the external funding due to the intense activities organized for the Vote4FT project in 2014 and to the higher contribution from the Belgian Technical Cooperation for the organisation of the Belgian Fair Trade Week. All the documents were already sent to the auditor, who will soon give his feedback and eventually favourable opinion on the overall accounts of the organization. Taking it into account, the Board approved the annual accounts and Balance 2014 unanimously. As next step, Bertil and Francesca will work together to present the 2014 accounts to the members in a more simple and clear way.

### **3. Graphic chart & Communication strategy**

The Coordinator presented quickly the graphic chart, including the 2 layouts to be chosen for all the communication purposes and the recap of the communication strategy to be presented to the members for the AGM. Based on both of the documents, the Board unanimously approved one of the 2 layouts and agreed to start using it from now onwards on WFTO-E main communications. Regarding the communication strategy, some minor changes were suggested, including stressing the

upcoming process to elaborate an overall strategy of the organization, explaining better all the acronyms and requesting clarity on some of the actions points identified. Overall, the document was approved with enthusiasm.

#### **4. Global topics**

##### a) Workshop on the Charter of FT principles - agree on the next steps

The President shared with the other Board members the feedback received from WFTO Global on the organization of the workshop. According to them, the Workshop will be a closed event and will take place on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May from 11.30 to 13.30. The title will be "Revising the 2009 Charter of Fair Trade Principles: Why? Who? How?" and will be attending by 20-25 people. In the Global AGM, 10 minutes will be dedicated to inform members about the main conclusions of the workshop. The Board agreed to write back to Global specifying that the main aim of the workshop should be:

- to see whether this discussion needs to be further developed and so a revision of the Charter of FT Principles is agreed
- if yes, to identify the following steps to be undertaken towards this revision and who else to involve in the process

Moreover, the Board agreed to stress to Global that 10 minutes might not be enough to present the issue in the Global AGM. Regarding the people to be invited, the Board decided to propose to Global to initially discuss the topic with some representatives of WFTO Global Board (not all), all WFTO Regions (1 or max. 2 per Region), FLO, Fair Trade Town Campaign, FTAO and FT National networks (member of WFTO). The other certification bodies (Ecocert, IMO, FT USA,...) will be got involved in a second moment, once agreed the steps to undertake. The Board also decided that Sergi from FTAO should not be the Chair of the meeting in order to let him free to express his opinion and actively participate into the discussion. In order to prepare this workshop, members might be asked to get feedback to the WFTO-E representatives that will attend the workshop, by filling in a survey.

##### b) WFTO Biennial Conference 2017 with IFOAM - agree on a common position on it

The Board quickly discussed the eventuality of having the 2017 WFTO Global Biennial Conference in India, together with IFOAM in November 2017. Although everyone welcomed the idea of having a joint event with the organic movement, the Board shared some concerns regarding both the very busy period of the year for importers and European organisations and the legal requirements that oblige WFTO-E to have its own AGM the first half of the year. The President will share these concerns with Global in a specific communication.

Regarding the next WFTO-E Biennial Conference and AGM, the Coordinator will follow-up the offer from GEPA to organise the Conference in Germany. Further discussions will be held in Milan.

##### c) European representative in the Global Board

Sophie confirmed her not availability to take up this role. Taking it into account the Board decided to have more time to think about a possible candidate or specific election criteria to present to the AGM. Everyone confirmed however that having a Board member in the Global Board would be the best option to keep being updated on the main issues. This topic will be so better deepened in the next Skype meeting.

#### d) Feedback from Sophie on the FTAO Board meeting and the discussion on the FTT Campaign

Tadeusz briefly spent some words on the informal meeting he had in Brussels with Sergi the previous week on the political problems of the International Steering Committee of the FTTC. He stressed the strong connection between the approval of the guidelines of the FTT campaign (including the definition of the FT products) and the workshop on the Charter of FT principles and the FTAO. From her side, Sophie, who attended the FTAO Board meeting on the 12 of February, stressed the lack of implication of the FTTC in the project of having a European FT Capital Award and the discussion around the FTAO priority and strategic objectives in the future. Considering the support showed by the new EU Trade Commissioner, Cecilia Malmström to FT, Sergi will come up soon with a proposal on how to better work with the FTTC to have the EU FT Capital Award. The FTAO Board meeting was the first one with the new Chair (Paul Spray) and while FT presented its strategy on advocacy “Force for Change”, WFTO mentioned the elaboration of an advocacy document to be presented in Milan. This was the starting point of a new discussion on how to better collaborate together and which priorities define within the FTAO for the next years. Moreover, taking into account the financial problems that both FTAO and WFTO-Europe constantly face, the need of building up a stronger collaboration in fundraising amongst the 2 organizations has been discussed. The next FTAO Board meeting will take place in Milan.

#### **5. AOB**

The Board also went through quickly the following topics:

##### a) Answer from WFTO Global on WFTO-E concerns on the first buyers’ issue.

Everyone welcomed the detailed and straightforward letter sent by Global, where all the main concerns were addressed and explained. Considering the importance of following up this issue, the President will shortly reply to WFTO to have a clear idea of when a first assessment of this procedure and contract will be set up. The Board will report to the members during the AGM the exchanges had with Global and the main achievements got in these months.

##### b) Feedback from Sophie on the meeting organised by DAWS and their request of signing a statement

Sophie presented briefly the report released by DAWS on the meeting that Oxfam Magasins du monde together with other Worldshops associations attended in February in the Netherlands. Based on this meeting, DAWS asked the organisations to sign a statement which, according to all Board members, was not necessary to the aim of the meeting in itself. Although everyone agreed in the importance of having an international certification system (based on the WFTO GS) for non-food products, the Board affirmed the relevance for DAWS to get back to WFTO to ensure this harmonisation and go further in the recognition/implementation of the GS.

b

##### c) WFTDay

The Board shared briefly the information on the event that each organization is planning to organise for the WFTDay.

##### d) MoA on decentralisation fees

The Coordinator informed the Board that, following a request from the Regions to increase the decentralisation fees received from WFTO per member, WFTO invited all the Presidents and the Regional directors to a meeting which will be held in Milan to discuss Regional topics. A formal invitation from WFTO should follow this communication.

END.