



## Minutes of the WFTO-Europe Board meeting, 22 June 2015, 15.00-17.00, via Skype.

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

Excused: Tadeusz Makulski (Secretary).

| AGENDA   |
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| 1. Approval minutes 22.04.2015   |
| 2. Decisions about next AGM (date, venue and organisational steps)                                     |
| 3. Final decision about the FT Marathon and the next face-to-face Board meeting in Brussels in October |
| 4. Towards the 2016/2019 Strategic Plan: process and timing  |
| 5. Update from WFTO Global and WFTO-E priorities regarding to the Global agenda                        |
| 6. Update on fundraising   |
| 7. AOB   |

### 1. Approval minutes of previous Board meeting

The minutes of the Board meeting held the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April via Skype were unanimously approved.

### 2. Decisions about next AGM (date, venue and organisational steps)

Based on some initial proposals circulated beforehand, the Board agreed to have the next WFTO-E Biennial Conference and AGM in Germany in the following possible dates:

- 2-5 June 2016
- 9-12 June 2016

Next step: the Coordinator will inform GEPA, who is the liaison organisation with the venue, about the preferred dates and the estimated number of participants. Once got their feedback, Francesca will then update the Board members on relative prices and venue conditions in the next Board meeting.

### 3. Final decision about the FT Marathon and the next face-to-face Board meeting in Brussels in October

The Coordinator gave a brief overview of the FT Marathon in Brussels (14-16 of October). Based on it, the Board agreed on the following calendar:

| When?                                   | What?                                     |
|---|---|
| 13 October                              | EU advocacy network meeting (FTAO-TBC)    |
| 14 October (8-10/11)                    | FT Breakfast (FTAO- TBC)                  |
| <b>14 October (from 11.30 to 17.30)</b> | <b>WFTO-E Board meeting</b>               |
| 14 October (from 18/18:30 to 20:30)     | WFTO-E event on textile (Wear your ideas) |
| <b>15 October (all day)</b>             | <b>WFTO-E Board meeting</b>               |

Due to a previous commitment (clean clothes campaign international forum 12-14<sup>th</sup> October), Sophie Tack will not participate to the meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October. Taking this into account, the Board agreed to dedicate part of the 15<sup>th</sup> October to the discussion on the strategic plan.

Next step: The Coordinator will book a room for the Board meeting in the same place where the event on the 14<sup>th</sup> October will be held. Moreover, she will circulate as soon as possible additional information for cheap accommodations in Brussels.

#### **4. Towards the 2016/2019 Strategic Plan: process and timing**

Following up the commitment taken by the Board during the last AGM in Milan, the members shared their first views on how to start working on the 1<sup>st</sup> strategic plan that the organisation has never had and which timing to follow.

Considering that WFTO Global Strategic Plan will end in 2017 and, that Global will ask the regions to start discussing the next Global Strategic Plan 2018-2021 in 2016, the Board agreed:

- To work on a WFTO-Europe strategic plan for the next 2 years 2016-2017 with a 5 year vision for WFTO-E to be linked to WFTO Global Strategic Plan.

Towards this aim, the Board decided to dedicate at least the 15<sup>th</sup> October morning (when also Sophie will be present) to discuss about the next Strategic Plan, and particularly to share views on what is the added value of WFTO-Europe and what its vision and main goal should be.

Next step: in order to have a constructive and efficient discussion in October, a small group composed of 5 people will meet on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July to prepare some questions to lead the process towards the strategic plan and the first discussion in October (Sophie, Marijke and Francesca will be in Brussels, while Giorgio and Emilie on Skype). The main aim will be to arrive in October with an overall idea of the different views and opinions as well as of the approach to adopt to work on the plan. Then, a first draft will be discussed in January and in March to be finally circulated to the members in May before the AGM in June.

#### **5. Update from WFTO Global and WFTO-E priorities regarding to the Global agenda**

Sophie informed the other Board members of the positive atmosphere she felt during the first meeting between the new WFTO Global and the FTAO Board in Milan right after the Conference. As new Board member at WFTO Global, she also communicated that the next face-to-face Global Board meeting will be from the 16 to the 20 of September. So far, the main issues to be discussed at Global level seem to be:

- Evaluation of Biennial Conference and AGM in Milan
- Preparation of the next strategic plan (2017-2021)
- Resolutions in Milan (how to move them forward)

On this last point, Sophie particularly mentioned the resolution on Advocacy and the attempt to have a 3 year work plan in October. Specifically on this issue and the work to be done by the advocacy and campaigning committee, Sophie has a meeting with Rudy and Natalia in the next days.

With regard to the WFTO Global representative at the FTAO Board meeting, it was discussed the likely decision of WFTO Global to nominate Sophie as WFTO global representative at the FTAO Board. Everyone recognised the positive impact that this decision might have on the future relationships between Global and FTAO. However, due to her current role as WFTO-E representative

within the same body, if this decision will be confirmed, WFTO-Europe will need to nominate another person. On the other hand, Bertil also raised up the importance of having a Southern representative for WFTO Global at the FTAO Board. This was recognised as a key aspect to bring a Southern perspective into the Board, though there are some financial constraints to be considered (FTAO Board members are not reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses).

Due to the lack of time and the importance of following up some specific topics (like first buyer issue and decentralisation fees), this point focused on WFTO Global will be also reported in the next Board meeting.

## **6. Update on fundraising**

The Coordinator briefly updated the members on the meeting she had with Sergi (FTAO) and Sophie Tack on fundraising the 12<sup>th</sup> of June.

Main outcomes of the meeting were:

- FTAO is now working with the support of an intern on a fundraising annual plan. WFTO-E will be taken into account and informed whether interesting donors will be found in this research.
- Voluntary Advocacy Fund: considering the financial gap that FTAO needs to cover for the 2016, WFTO-E agreed to firstly contact those who committed already in 2015 to see whether they want to reiterate their commitment towards FTAO in 2016. Secondly, if the gap is not yet covered, to launch a new call to all WFTO-E members asking them to voluntarily contribute to cover the rest of the gap.
- Both the organisations (WFTO-E and FTAO) recognised a need to work more with WFTO-E members in fundraising applications and to be better informed and included in applications submitted at local and national levels. Further discussions on this issue will take place during the EU advocacy network meeting in Brussels and the WFTO-E Biennial Conference.

Next step: the Coordinator will prepare an email to be circulated to the organisations part of the Voluntary Advocacy Fund.

## **7. AOB**

The Coordinator shared additional information on WFTO grant from Bread for the World and the membership and monitoring process.

END.