



## Minutes of the WFTO-Europe Board meeting, 16 July 2015, 14.15-16.15, via Skype.

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

Excused: Gabriella D'Amico

| AGENDA                                                                                                             |
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| 1. Approval minutes 24/05/2015 and 22/06/2015                                                                      |
| 2. Towards the new Francesca Giubilo's contract                                                                    |
| 3. Decision about 2016 WFTO-E AGM date and organization details.                                                   |
| 4. Update about fund raising (including FEBEA)                                                                     |
| 5. Update about WFTO-Global issues (European representatives in Global WG) and WFTO-E representative in FTAO Board |
| 6. WFTO Global Advocacy/Campaign Working Plan                                                                      |
| 7. Confirmation about the WFTO-E Strategic Plan process and timing                                                 |
| 8. Short check about the implementation of the WFTO-E present Working Plan                                         |
| 9. AOB                                                                                                             |

### 1. Approval minutes of previous Board meeting

The minutes of the Board meeting held the 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2015 in Milan were unanimously approved. The minutes of the meeting held the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2015 were approved with 2 minor changes.

### 2. Towards the new Francesca Giubilo's contract

The 2<sup>nd</sup> year contract of the Coordination ends on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October. Considering the financial aspects below:

- ✓ according to the Belgian law, after 2 year of fixed contract the organisation is obliged to offer a permanent contract to the employee;
- ✓ a permanent contract does not have any additional costs for the organisation;

The Board agreed to:

- extend the contract of Francesca and offer her a permanent contract starting from the 7/10
- do an assessment of the work done by Francesca in the last 2 years and discuss with her possible improvements and personal developments. For this purpose, Sophie and Emilie will circulate a template used by their own organisations to regularly evaluate the staff. During the next meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July, the Board will agree the time frame to be set up to go through this process and finalise the assessment.

### 3. Decision about 2016 WFTO-E AGM date and organization details

The Board carefully analysed the information collected by the Coordinator and the Secretary regarding the possibility of organising the next Biennial Conference and AGM in Germany. Although they sincerely appreciated the support and the availability of GEPA to present to WFTO-E a proposal,

the Board expressed some concerns regarding the location and its cost. Still convinced of the importance of having the Conference in Germany, the Board then decided to get back to GEPA and kindly ask for additional information regarding the venue.

In the meantime, the Board also raised up the importance of dedicating a moment during the Conference to the organisation hosting the event, in order to present its activities and create synergies with the other members.

On a side note, it was also reminded that, as agreed in Milan, a physical meeting for Worldshops and Retailers will be organised straight before the opening of the Conference.

#### **4. Update about fund raising (including FEBEA)**

The Coordinator shared with the Board some additional information on the meeting she had on the first of July with Daniel Sorrosal from FEBEA (European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks) and on the upcoming fundraising opportunities:

- ✓ Meeting with FEBEA: this is a network of ethical financial institutions that might be extremely interesting for WFTO-E members. The Board confirmed the importance of foster collaborations with them and suggested the Coordinator using the Newsletter to inform the members about the ethical financial institutions they can find at national level. In addition, the Coordinator will also check the outcomes of the 2 surveys circulated in this topic in the framework of the PRICE projects and see whether there is a need for any further actions on it. The Board agreed that it might be good to deepen this topic during the Biennial Conference and to participate to the Conference of the FEBEA network to raise awareness about the FTOs and their activities.
- ✓ Fundraising: the Coordinator will continue updating the Board members on fundraising and all the other areas in the monthly update document. Francesca also mentioned that Global got some funding from Bread for the World for regional trainings. Although this is extremely focused on the Southern regions, there might be the opportunity for WFTO-E to benefit for this fund. A Skype call with Natalia will be scheduled soon to discuss it further. Regarding the other opportunities, the Roi Boudoin call will be open only in November, while in September she will try to set up a meeting with the EU focal point for the Europe for Citizens call to get more information on it.

Despite the fact that fundraising is still a high priority for the office, the Coordinator informed the Board that the last part of the year will be very busy with the meeting in Barcelona in September for one of the Milan project, the FT Marathon in October and the overall reporting of the 2 EC projects at the end of the year/beginning January. On a positive side, a new intern will start end of July to support her on this task.

#### **5. Update about WFTO-Global issues (European representatives in Global WG) and WFTO-E representative in FTAO Board**

Sophie Tack, who was elected in Milan as the Regional representative at the WFTO Global Board, gave an update on the status of the different Working Groups and Committees at Global level:

1. Working Group on Gender: following the resolution approved in Milan, the WG is now working on a work plan for the following years. Sophie communicated that:
  - ✓ Patrick Veillard from Oxfam-Magasins du Monde (Omdm) will be still the European representative within the WG. As he is changing his tasks, Patrick will be then

replaced but the person that Omdm will recruit to work on gender issues within its team.

- ✓ Peter from South Africa (Regional representative at the WFTO Global Board) will be the “champion” of the WG (the Global Board member to deal with gender issues). Despite the fact that Sophie was at the top of the list, she welcomed this idea for two reasons: 1. it would be great for the WG to have a man in the group dealing with gender issues; 2. she will have more time to dedicate to the Advocacy and campaign committee.
- 2. WG on Fair Price Fair Wage: following the resolution approved in Milan, the WG, which has not been very active so far, will be relaunched soon with a revised ToR. Bertil will be the one representing Europe within the WG.
- 3. WFTO Global Strategic Plan and Financial overview as of end of June: Sophie only mentioned that the documents, which were circulated beforehand, are under the analysis of Natalia, who will revise the financial report and get concrete feedback in the following weeks. So far the financial situation appears to be extremely positive.
- 4. Advocacy and Campaign Committee: Sophie had several meetings on this topic, before with Natalia and Rudi and then with Francesca and by email with Giorgio. As agreed in Milan, the Committee has to come out with a work plan by October 2015. In the following days, Sophie will have another call with WFTO and FTAO to identify synergies in some areas. Once got more feedback, she will get back to the Board.
- 5. WFTO-E representative at the FTAO Board meeting: Although the interest of Giorgio to take up this role and allow Sophie to stay at the FTAO Board meeting as representative of WFTO Global, he could not formally present his candidature due to the cost that this option implies for his organisation. FTAO is not reimbursing the travel costs for the Board members and each organisation has to take this point into account. Considering the positive financial overview of Global, the Board decided to ask Global whether they could pay either for a Global representative from the South or for the European representative at the FTAO Board.

## **6. WFTO Global Advocacy/Campaign Working Plan**

This point was already discussed (please refer to the point 4 of this page).

## **7. Confirmation about the WFTO-E Strategic Plan process and timing**

Giorgio, Emilie, Sophie, Marijke and Francesca will have a meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July from 10am to 13am to identify some questions for the Board to already arrive at the Board meeting in October with some ideas regarding the Strategic plan. Marijke, who is in contact with an expert on this area, will share beforehand some suggestions to the others.

## **8. Short check about the implementation of the WFTO-E present Working Plan**

The first week of August the Coordinator will inform the Board about the status of the implementation of the Work Plan. Based on this information, Francesca and Giorgio, together with other eventual members interested in the topic, will have a specific call to see how best to move the implementation of the Work Plan forward.

## **9. AOB**

The next face-to-face Board meeting will be the 14<sup>th</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup> of October in Brussels.

END.