

Minutes of the WFTO-Europe 2014 AGM

14 June 2014, 12:30-16:00
Mennorode Conference Centre, Elspeet, the Netherlands

1. Introduction

Welcome and introductory words by Giorgio Dal Fiume (President of WFTO-Europe).

2. Quorum: Members present or represented by proxy

Since there were 68 registered members and 37 members were present or represented (inc. 16 present and 21 proxies), there was a quorum. The following members were present or represented:

AGICES (IT), Altraqualità (IT)*, ARGE Weltläden (AT) *, Association Romande des Magasins du Monde (CH)*, Associazione Botteghe del Mondo (IT), BAFTS (UK)*, BHCrafts doo (BH)*, Boutic Ethic (FR)*, Centrum Mondiaal (NL), Claro fair trade AG (CH)*, Coordinadora Estatal del Comercio Justo (ES)*, CTM Altromercato (IT), EFTA (NL), El Puente (DE)*, Equo Mercato Società Cooperativa (IT), EZA Fairer Handel GmbH (AT), FAIR (IT)*, FairMail Cards (NL)*, Fédération Artisans du Monde (FR) *, Fundacion Adsis - Equi Mercado (SP)*, Fundacion COPADE España (SP)*, GEPA The Fair Trade Company (DE), Individuell Människohjälp (SE)*, Intermón Oxfam (ES), La Maison Fair Trade AB (SE), Libero Mondo scs (IT)*, Oxfam-Magasins du Monde (BE), Plate-Forme pour le Commerce Équitable (FR), Polish Fair Trade Association (PL), SeeMe (NL)*, Shared Interest Society Ltd(UK), Solidar'Monde (FR) *, The House of Fair Trade (SE), The Swedish Organisation of Fair Trade Retailers (SE), TopQualiTea-Group (DE/GB)*, Traidcraft Exchange (GB)*, Weltladen-Dachverband e.V. (DE)*.

* = Voting by Proxy

3. Election/Appointment of the Chair and Secretary

The Board proposed Natália Leal as Chair and Francesca Giubilo as Secretariat. Approved unanimously.

4. Election/Appointment of the Voting Committee

Bertil Högberg (The House of Fair Trade), Louise Mounsey (Shared Interest) and Birgit Calix (EZA) volunteered to be part of the Voting Committee. Approved unanimously.

5. Agenda

The WFTO-Europe Board proposed to remove the point 10 c) on “Approval of WFTO-Europe positions and comments on Global documents and issues”, since it was not necessary. Change accepted and agenda approved unanimously.

6. Approval of the Minutes from the 2013 AGM, in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

Approved unanimously, without any comments.

7. Presentation of 2013 Accounts and Balance

The document was presented by Malcolm Curtis, the WFTO-Europe Treasurer, who compared the financial situation of the organization in the last 3 years. He assessed the enormous progress made last year, with the new double-entry accounting system and the compliance of WFTO-Europe accounts with the Belgian accounting plan. He thanked Francesca Giubilo for her hard work to make it possible and Oxfam Magasins-du-monde for its support on this task. He finally stressed the favourable opinion of the auditor on WFTO-Europe's accounts and balance and the auditor satisfaction for the new WFTO-Europe accounting system.

8. Approval of 2013 Accounts and Balance; Discharge of the Board of Directors.

The Accounts were approved without changes by large majority and with just one abstention. The AGM discharged the Board of Directors of their responsibilities.

9. Presentation and discussion of the Annual Report 2013/14 and of the Work Plan 2014/15

Both of the documents were presented by Francesca Giubilo, who briefly went through them, highlighting the main strengths and weaknesses of the organisation and the priorities for the future, including representing European members, advocacy, communication and fundraising. The Board thanked Oxfam Magasins-du-Monde and in particular Sabine Clause and Sophie Tack for carrying out the recruitment process for the new Coordinator on behalf of WFTO-Europe. The WFTO-Europe Coordinator thanked as well Plate-Forme pour le Commerce Equitable for its support in the elaboration of the new Annual Report layout.

The AGM also welcomed the new format of the Work Plan and briefly discussed some issues raised by the Work Plan and the activities/challenges for the near future. More concretely, members discussed a small proposal raised up by one of the Members (Martin Moritz-El Puente), who asked to add the point "further implementation of Retailers' Standard" to the activity on "Market access and market development".

Members also debated the importance of defining the theme of WFTDay on time in order to make this event more visible at national level. The WFTO Chief Executive and the WFTO-Europe Coordinator drew the attention to the new WFTO Advocacy and Campaigning Committee, whose tasks also include the definition of the WFTDay theme for 2015 and 2016.

10. Presentation of the 2015 Provisional Budget

Malcolm Curtis presented the 2015 Provisional Budget, stressing the need to fundraise to cover for core expenses and to make the organisation more sustainable in the future.

11. Important decisions/votes:

a) Approval of the 2015 Provisional Budget

Approved by large majority (two abstentions).

b) Approval of the Work Plan 2014/15

The AGM approved (with one abstention) an additional sentence - included in the session “Market access and market development” - stating “further implementation of Retailers’ Standard”, proposed by Martin Moritz from El Puente. The whole Work Plan, including the additional point, was approved by large majority (one abstention).

c) Nomination of Board of Directors

The Chair and the Board thanked Julie Stoll and Malcolm Curtis for their work as Directors. Giorgio Dal Fiume, Sophie Tack and Marijke Visser re-presented their candidature while Emilie Durochat presented her official application to become a WFTO-Europe Director. Members approved each of the 4 candidatures by large majority with just 1 abstention. A new call for the 7th Director will be launched soon.

12. Any Other Business (AOB).

None.

The Chair thanked members and officially closed the AGM.

END.