



## 2016 WFTO-EUROPE CONFERENCE AND AGM FEEDBACK TO MEMBERS

---

Dear friends and colleagues,  
inspired by the peaceful place where have been organised (the Heiligen Berg, in Wuppertal, Germany) the 3-days 2016 WFTO-Europe Conference and AGM ended the 4<sup>th</sup> June, in a very friendly atmosphere and after having complied with all Agenda items. Mrs. Basma Barham, President of WFTO-Africa-Middle East and Director of Holy Land Handicraft Cooperative (Palestine), the WFTO Global President and CE, and the Fair Trade Advocacy Office representative actively contributed to it.

Namely to update the members that could not attend the meeting, in this short document you find the “title” of what we debated and official approved in the official Conference & AGM, and the AGM’s minute and outcomes in the attached documents.

In my opinion the most important outcome of our 2016 Conference/AGM has been the commonly-shared and positive feeling with regards to the main goals and priorities of WFTO-Europe, as included in the 2017/18 WFTO-Europe Strategic Plan. Beside this, we deepen some issues fundamental to design the Fair Trade future scenario: the inclusion of Northern products in Fair Trade catalogue and shops; advocacy and campaigns, retailers, the renew of the Charter of Fair Trade...

But at the same time we have to underline the weakness side of our meeting: if participants to the first 2 days were not a small number (45 representing 26 organization, plus 3 representative of Fair Trade organization not yet WFTO member), the people and organization which attended the Saturday afternoon AGM were few (16 members + 26 Proxy Votes); if the legal aspect is respected, this small participation during the AGM show that the European Fair Trade movement is maybe not yet ready to recognize that WFTO-Europe is the right place to strengthen the European Fair Trade movement, to make the European opinion visible and loud, to contribute to the WFTO Global debate, and to build the future of Fair Trade collectively.

That’s why - also supported by the fact that WFTO-E’s members are considerably increasing during the last year, and that many new members are knocking to our door - the goal to strengthen the relation with all our members (see next page) and give to WFTO-E more visibility it will be ours priorities in the short-medium terms.

We want to thank all participants to the Conference/AGM for their confidence and contribution, and we feel that this ‘mutual trust’ is the appropriate fuel for our collective engine. The Board is fully committed to complying with the Strategic Plan, and to maintain the close contact with members.



At the AGM all documents presented have been approved (all related document in attach here):

- a) Approval of 2015 Accounts/Balance and discharge of the Board of Directors
- b) 2017 Provisional Budget
- c) Strategic Plan 17/18
- d) Approval of 3 WFTO-Europe Resolutions on Global documents and issues
- e) Nomination of the new Director of the Board
- f) Approval membership fee policies.

### **STRENGTHEN THE MEMBERS PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNICATION**

The already approved Communication Strategy and the new Strategic Plan 2017/18 include action and tools to be more effective and near to our members. In order to strengthen this goal we invite you to also considering the following actions:

- Board President and members are available to Skype (or by e-mail) with members interested to deep the Conference/AGM issues, or some particular themes, and to virtually meet organization interested to become WFTO- member
- If invited, WFTO-E members could attend meeting organised by national Platforms or group of members of the same country/area
- We will develop a short questionnaire to ask to members what are criteria, issues and/or organizational details which could facilitate their participation to the next WFTO-Europe Conferences/AGMs.

### **IN 2017 THERE WILL BE IMPORTANT CHANGES IN THE WFTO-EUROPE BOARD COMPOSITION: PLEASE START TO THINK ABOUT**

Next year 3 members of WFTO-Europe Board (myself included) will definitely ended their mandate in this Board, so we have to find at least 3 new candidate for the WFTO-Europe Board: is a good opportunity to refresh the Board composition, to include new people, and possibly to bring in it new energies, ideas, proposals... Please think about, and be ready to arrive this appointment well prepared.

We are happy if you have comments and feedback on the above issues and contents.

We wish all the best for you and your organisation!

On behalf of the WFTO-Europe Board and with warm regards,

*Giorgio Dal Fiume* (President)  
[giorgio.dalfiume@altromercato.it](mailto:giorgio.dalfiume@altromercato.it)