

Minutes of the WFTO-Europe 2016 AGM

4 June 2016, 14:00-17:00
Wuppertal, Germany

1. Introduction

Welcoming speech by Giorgio Dal Fiume (President of WFTO-Europe).

2. Election/Appointment of the Chair and Secretary

The Board proposed Natalia Leal (WFTO) as Chair and Sebastien Leclef (WFTO-Europe) as Secretariat. Approved unanimously.

3. Election/Appointment of the Voting Committee

Marije De Graaf (WFTO-Europe) and Veronica Ricca (WFTO-Europe) volunteered to be part of the Voting Committee. Approved unanimously.

Quorum: members present or represented by proxy

Out of 61 registered members, 42 members were present or represented (including 16 organisations and 26 proxies). The quorum obligation was met.

Members present (16):

Associazione Botteghe del Mondo (IT) [only voting for point 4 then represented], AGICES / Equo Garantito (IT), Centrum Mondiaal (NL), CTM Altromercato (IT), EFTA (NL), EZA Fairer Handel GmbH (AT), GEPA The Fair Trade Company (DE), IM Swedish Development Partner (SE), Libero Mondo (IT), Oxfam-Magasins du Monde (BE), Plate-Forme pour le Commerce Équitable (FR), Polish Fair Trade Association (PL), Sackeus(SE), The House of Fair Trade (SE), TopQualiTea (DE), Weltladen-Dachverband (DE).

Members voting by proxy (26):

Arge Weltladen (A), Association Romande des Magasins du Monde (CH), BAFTS (UK), Belgian Fair Trade Federation (BE), BHcrafts (BiH), Coordinadora Estatal del Comercio Justo (ES), CTM Agrofair (IT), Dwp eG (DE), Ecoffins (UK), El Puente (DE), FairMail Cards B.V. (NL), Fair Trade Czech Republic (CZ), Fair Trade Furniture Co Ltd (UK), Fair Monkey Ekonomisk Förening (SE), Fair Trade Scotland Ltd (UK), Fédération Artisans du Monde (FR), Fundacion COPADE España (SP), IDEAS (ES), Jardins de Gaïa (FR), La Maison Afrique Fair Trade (SE), Mifuko (FI), Oxfam Intermón (ES), Shared Interest Society Ltd (UK), The Swedish Association of Fair Trade Retailers (SE), Textiel Werkplaats Sari V.O. F. (NL), Tahoua Import (NL).

Not voting:

WFTO, WFTO-Europe, WFTO-Africa & Middle-East

4. Presentation and nomination of the new candidate

Gabriella D'Amico is the only candidate for the renewal of her term in the Board. Number of voters: 42.



Note for next AGM: encourage proxy voters to give voting instructions.

Against: 0
Abstention: 6
in favour: 34

The nomination of Gabriella D'Amico to the Board is approved.

5. Approval of the minutes from 2015 AGM

Against: 0
Abstention: 3
In favour: 37

6. Presentation of 2015 Audited Accounts and Balance

Main source of funding: membership. The two EU projects running during the year are the second source of funding. Main expenditures: human resources. The balance is positive of 17k EUR. The reason of this balance is that there were more new members than expected. The balance sheet was not included in the electronic file circulated to the members. Bertil reconstructed it and presented it. WFTO-Europe accounts were audited by an independent auditor, with a positive conclusion. Bertil explains the auditing terms of "unqualified opinion", which means that there is not any critical remarks made to the financial report.

7. Approval of 2015 Accounts and Balance; Discharge of the Board of Directors

Against: 0
Abstention: 4
In favour: 36

The 2015 accounts and the discharge of the Board of Director are approved.

8. Presentation of the Annual Report 2015/16

Thank you to the contributors and Board for preparing the report. Tadeusz presented the main figures (page 9) which summarize well the achievements of 2015. WFTO-Europe also started providing capacity-building to its members in the form of a webinar.

9. Discussion of the Annual Report 2015/16

Compliments done on the format of the Annual Report. Suggestion made to keep the same format for the following years. Copies will be made available to the members who wish to have more copies.

Interruption for the departure of Gabriella.

Remarks (from Natalia): make sure that “new members” are referred as “new provisional members” in the annual report. Question whether what to do if there were changes suggested to the Annual Report. Responses from Board: the annual report is not for approval but only for presentation to the AGM.

10. Presentation and approval of the strategic plan and discussion;

The revised version is displayed on screen. The discussion took place during the morning plenary session earlier.

Comment that this strategic plan is the first one in WFTO-Europe which is mentioned.

Against: 0

Abstentions: 4

In favour: 36

The Strategic plan is approved.

11. Presentation and approval of the 2017 Provisional Budget (including fee for 2017);

Presentation of the provisional budget. A ‘conservative’ approach was taken in terms of membership income, not to over-estimate the prospective income. Other grants were budgeted at a low level because of uncertainty.

Question on the FAIB membership cost. Response explaining the reason why WFTO-Europe is a member (for renting the office in the same building).

Question on the AGM cost in 2017 and clarifications on the fact that the AGM of WFTO-Europe needs to take place during the first part of 2016 (therefore not at the same time as the WFTO conference in India).

On the 2017 fee policy: change the blue line “incl. current month” to “excl. current month”

Against: 0

Abstentions: 3

In favour: 37

The 2017 provisional budget is approved.

12. Presentation and approval of the membership fee policies (for new members);

Display of the proposal on the screen. Comment by member: not sure that the incentive policy is not necessarily “incentive”. Comment by member that the gain is doubtful and WFTO-Europe not being rich should get the full fee and that a member not willing to join without the discount is not a very committed member.

Against: 10

Abstentions: 11



In favour: 19

The fee policy is approved.

13. Presentation discussion and approval of WFTO-Europe positions and comments on Global documents and issues;

Giorgio presents the following resolutions to WFTO Global:

- I. Doing research aimed to assess the general impact of Fair Trade as implemented by WFTO members on the producers. More specifically a pilot study on the impact of the Guarantee System. This will help to show the impact of WFTO to other Fair Trade organisations, public authorities and the general public.
- II. Method of calculation of the fees
- III. Translating to the application documents

Resolution I:

Against: 0

Abstentions: 4

In favour: 36

The resolution I was approved.

Resolution II:

Discussion on the method of calculation for the fees. Clarifications on the current method. She objects on this change. The current level of membership fee is considered “cheap” already.

Against: 5

Abstentions: 14

In favour: 21

The resolution II was approved.

Resolution III:

Against: 0

Abstentions: 4

In favour: 36

The resolution III was approved.

14. Any Other Business (AOB).

None.

Closure of the AGM.