



EUROPE

Minutes WFTO-Europe Board meeting 30 October 2017, Skype

Present: Giorgio Dal Fiume (President), Sophie Tack, Tadeusz Makulski (Secretary and Treasurer ad interim), and Francesca Giubilo (Coordinator).

Excused: Marijke Visser, Gabriella D'Amico, Emilie Durochat.

AGENDA
1. Approval previous meeting minutes (6 October 2017)
2. Update from the office
3. Update on TFLF project (Sebastien's contract and financial implication)
4. Update on the next Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)
5. Feedback on the appraisal
6. Update on FTAO and WFTO-Europe representative within FTAO Board
7. Update on the webinar on the evolution of the worldshops
8. AOB

1. Approval previous meeting minutes

Minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Update from the office

The Coordinator went through the document she circulated beforehand. One of the fundraising proposal submitted end of May was rejected. New interesting fundraising opportunities could be: the upcoming call on garment transparency and Bread for the World (as possible funder). The Coordinator will look at these options in depth after Delhi. Francesca and Tadeusz gave also an update on the FT marathon, the inspiring meetings hosted by FTAO as well as the event organised by WFTO-Europe on "Business for a fair world".

3. Update on TFLF project

The EC has not signed the contract yet with FI. However, considering the positive feedback got in Brussels during the FT marathon and the number of activities already ongoing in the contest of the project, the Board agreed to offer to Sébastien Leclef a contract from the 1st of November 2017. Waiting for the official signature and start of the project, Sebastien, the new Project Officer will primarily work on fundraising and 30% of his time in administration/finances and human resources. In the unlikely scenario the EC does not sign the contract with FI, we will give to Sebastien a notice period and put an end to his contract. All the Board members, including those not present in the meeting, are aware of the financial implication this decision will have on WFTO-Europe budget, which is already suffering with a deficit of around 5000€. However they do believe that this is the right moment to possibly use WFTO-Europe reserves to invest in human resources and in fundraising, considering the low risk that the contract with the EC is not signed.

4. Update on the next EGM

Board candidature

4 candidatures were received (Plateforme du Commerce Equitable, Oxfam-Magasins du monde, Eco-collection, Traidcraft exchange). The Coordinator will circulate the list of candidates to all the members within the week together with a reminder to appoint a proxy for those who could not attend the EGM.

Proxy votes

Still 9/10 proxy votes need to be collected. The Coordinator asked the Board to take action in the different countries they represent to encourage people to appoint a proxy in order to ensure the quorum of 37/38 members is met.

5. Feedback on the appraisal

5 out of 6 Board members submitted an appraisal to assess the work of the Board in the last 3 years. Below some key points stressed by the majority in the different areas:

- WFTO-Europe mission
 - ✓ Overall people are satisfied about the way WFTO-Europe has promoted, represented and strengthened FT in Europe. Much more could be done if more resources available and Board members more engaged.
 - ✓ While there was a great work done in advocacy, Global topics, and communication, people were a bit upset regarding the work on the Retailers and the long process the Strategic plan took within the Board to be elaborated.
 - ✓ **Suggestions** – need to work more on fundraising, to have people committed and motivated within the Board.
- Board management and composition
 - ✓ There is no need to reduce the frequency of the Board meetings but they should be much more focused on strategic discussions rather than operational issues.
 - ✓ Minutes and Board meetings preparation appeared not to be a problem.
 - ✓ **Suggestions** – Board members need to be active, to come to the meeting well prepared; it should be good to do a risk analysis at one point within the organisation.
- Chair/ President / Coordinator
 - ✓ Very good president. The role of the Chair should be better defined.
 - ✓ Very good appreciation for the work of the Coordinator.
 - ✓ **Suggestions** – the Coordinator could dedicate more time in networking and political aspect of FT in order to bring more strategic thinking into the Board and make her tasks much more interesting.

6. Update on FTAO and WFTO-Europe representative within FTAO Board

Sophie gave an update on the FTAO Board meeting of the 19th of October. She thanked the President and the Coordinator for the feedback received on the documents and she mentioned it was the first meeting with Richard Adams as an observer, he will become the new Chair of the Board. Main topics discussed were:

- ✓ Next EP elections in 2019 - which message to bring (Fair Trade manifesto or sustainability manifesto?) and how to engage MEP who signed the manifesto after the elections, what is the role we expect from FTOs.
- ✓ Financial overview 2018-2020. For 2018, the Board agreed to keep the fees at the same level as in 2017. FTAO will then need to invest more on fundraising and possibly to use its reserves to cover the deficit of 35000€ it could have at the end of 2018. In 2019 and 2020 the proposal includes a big increase in the fees for WFTO Global and Europe (and also for FI). This financial assumption was not approved yet. Sergi has been invited to speak in the WFTO Global Board meeting on the 8th of November 2017 to present the FTAO added value and financial implication. Based on Sergi's proposal for 2019 and 2020, WFTO-Europe needs then to discuss with WFTO Global the WFTO family contribution to FTAO

WFTO-Europe representative in FTAO Board

On the 8th of November 2017, the WFTO Global Board will decide whether to confirm Sophie Tack as representative of WFTO Global within FTAO Board. From its side, WFTO-Europe Board members decided to leave to the new Board the decision on who could be the representative from the European network and replace Sophie. Discussing about the criteria, although the current Board members would love to have a representative from the WFTO-Europe Board to take over this role, they also endorsed the proposal of some of them to let the Coordinator play this role, due to her experience in advocacy and good connection with FTAO. The final decision on this point will be taken by the new Board.

7. Update on the webinar on the evolution of the worldshops

This point was not discussed due to the lack of time and the absence of Gabriella, the Chair of the Retailers and Worldshops Committee.

8. AOB

The Coordinator and the Secretary thanked Sophie and Giorgio for all the brilliant and inspiring work they made over the past years.

END.