



Minutes WFTO-Europe Board meeting 8th & 9th February 2017, Brussels

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

Excused: Gabriella D'Amico

8 February	ISSUE
11.00-11.15	1. Approval meeting Agenda 2. Appointment Chair of the Board meeting 3. Approval minutes of previous Board meeting (12/01/2017)
11.15-12.00	4. Update and news from the countries
12.00-12.30	5. Update from the office
12.30-13.15	6. 2016 Accounts
<i>13.15-14.00</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
14.00-15.00	7. 2017 Budget & fundraising
15.00-16.30	8. AGM 2017 and Board election
<i>16.30-16.45</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>
16.45-17.30	9. Office MANAGEMENT and Board/Office relation
17.30-18.30	10. 2017 IFTT Conference Saarbrücken
<i>19.00</i>	<i>Dinner</i>
9 February	ISSUE
9.00-11.00	11. Action Plan implementation
<i>11.00-11.15</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.15-12.30	12. Update from WFTO Global, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Fair Trade Charter (former Charter of FT Principles) ✓ Towards the November 2017 AGM ✓ Update on Global WG ✓ Next WFTO Global Board meeting
12.30-13.00	13. Next Board meetings dates
<i>13.00-14.00</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
14.00-15.00	14. Advocacy
15.00-16.00	15. AOB
16.00	<i>END OF THE MEETING</i>

1. Approval agenda

The Board unanimously agreed in the overall agenda and to add to the list the following points:

- Discussion about FT and migration
- The situation of the world shops in Europe

2. Appointment Chair of the Board meeting

Sophie was appointed as the Chair of the meeting

3. Approval minutes of previous Board meeting (12/01/2017)

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

4. Update and news from the countries

FRANCE:

- Emilie at PFCE was just back from a field visit in Burkina Faso, in the context of the "équité" program. Through the Équité programme, which is financed by the French Development Agency, 20 Fair Trade producers organisations across 5 western countries (Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo, Ivory Coast) will be financially supported (between 50 000€ and 220 000€ of grant) to implement projects based on capacity building and biodiversity

protection. The sectors mainly supported through the Equité program are: cocoa, fruits, shea, cashew nut and handicrafts. 2 out of 23 are WFTO members and 1 is in the process of becoming member. The regional Director of WFTO Africa and Middle East, Bernard Outah is member of the steering committee of the Equité Programme and an interesting discussion on how to broaden WFTO membership in West Africa took place. An idea was to invest on having one part-time staff to deal with French applications and to support potential members to join the network in the French speaking countries (Mali, Burkina Faso, Togo, Ivory Coast). The existing and emerging national platforms of Fair Trade organisations will also be supported through the programme. Most of those national platforms have a similar structure as the French Fair Trade Platform as they gather actors working with different certification schemes.

- PFCE organized in December 2016 a national event on domestic FT. More than 200 people were present and the meeting and thematic were very well covered by national media, with more than 60 articles on that. Overall 600mln is the total of sales for Northern and Southern FT products in 2016, including 100mln for Northern French FT products.
- Concerning the new regulation of FT in France, there is now a national commission installed by the French government to deal with trade issue (3C), including Fair Trade. One of the mission of this commission will be to work on the public recognition of FT private labels existing on the French market. Most likely this process will be finalised before the next French presidential elections.
- 2 big French Importers are now full WFTO members: Malongo and les Jardins de Gaia.

ITALY

- No news from the national Parliament regarding the FT law.
- CTM Altromercato increased sales in the mainstream and decreased the ones in worldshops.
- New partners, such as Ferrero.
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- Ass.Botteghe del mondo together with Equogarantito and FT Italia are working on a publication on SDG
- 2 FT and SSE fairs will take place in September in Milan and Venice
- National event in March in Rome involving CSO and NGO against CETA

NETHERLANDS

- The number of worldshops is decreasing (50 WS left in the last 5 years) but nevertheless the total FT sales in the country is increasing due to the sales in the mainstream.
- Big discussion within DAWS on their decision to push members to get the WFTO membership in order to be able to sell products. 16 members (from Fairplaza) decided not to work anymore with DAWS. That is why DAWS is now exploring other suppliers for the worldshops, such as GEPA and CONTIGO.
- Tilingo Nepra is now developing a new product line with Holy Land Handicraft Cooperative Society from Palestine. Marijke will be there in 3 weeks' time.

POLAND

- A new national not governmental centre has been created in Poland to allocate money to NGOs.
- PFTA is waiting for the DEAR call results to see how to contribute to the development of FT in the area.
- Lot of work with FTT and FT schools campaigns, but no resources to do more. PFTA counts now 2 employees (1 in Poznan where there is a shop) and a couple of volunteers. They are thinking about diversifying products.
- As a member of WFTO, PFTA went through the peer visit in January, inviting FT Poland to do it. Try to survive as a member of WFTO.

BELGIUM

- Oxfam mdm launched in October 2016 a campaign on alternative economic models. The idea is to analyse every step of the supply chain, to show alternative models in each of them and to present FT as one of those. In this campaign Oxfam mdm is working a lot with other partners, such as Agricover. Together they developed an interactive exposition with a "cube"

representing the “réalité augmentée”. Second phase of the campaign will be launched in Belgium on the 18th of February. They will also use this campaign for the WFTDay.

- They are working on a campaign on decent work and textiles for end 2017-beginning 2018.
- If DEAR proposal is approved, they will organise an event with politicians in India (linked to the AGM of WFTO Global).
- Regarding the GS, they had in December the audit.
- As a positive note, Oxfam-Wereldwinkels decided to start re-using the label of FT on the food products. In the last AGM they also agreed to split up their objectives and to have Oxfam-Wereldwinkels focus on food while Oxfam mdm on non-food. That should be operational in June 2017.
- Oxfam mdm is in the process of merge with Oxfam Solidarity and works more and more with Oxfam International.
- Challenging period in Belgium as the budget of cooperation is decreasing. .

5. Update from the office

The coordinator went through the document she circulated beforehand, giving an update per working area. In sum:

- M&M: 91 members, 16 new members in 2016 and 22 Guaranteed
- International Women’s Day campaign with WFTO Global and Oxfam mdm
- Audit of the Food Smart Cities for Development EC project successfully passed on the 31st of January.
- New events and activities planned: call with RIPPES, participation to the European Development Days.

A specific moment was dedicated in the agenda to discuss about finances and fundraising.

6. 2016 Accounts

The Coordinator shared with the Board the latest figures on the Accounts 2016. The figures showed a benefit of around 7000€, due to the extra income received by new members and the one-off payment received by Global. This amount could slightly change with the latest data but the scenario should be kept positive anyhow. Based on the figures and on the partial audit WFTO-Europe had on the 31st of January for the EC project, the Board decided not to pay for the overall audit of the organisation for 2016 and to save money for 2017.

7. Budget 2017 and fundraising

Based on the actual figures of the last year and on the forecast approved by the AGM in 2016, the Coordinator gave a more accurate overview of the budget of the organisation for the current year. Due to the absence of external funding for 2017, particular attention was put on the big gap of around 20000€ we could have in case no new members and no external funding. Having said that, the Board dedicated time to discuss about fundraising. Considering the reserves collected by the organisation over the years (more than 50.000€), the Board started a reflexion on why not investing on a fundraising officer to be shared with FTAO and WFTO to try to be more sustainable in the future. However, before taking any kind of decision everyone agreed that it was worthwhile to wait until the results of the DEAR call are out. Since WFTO-E submitted 2 projects in 2016 under this call, the scenario for 2017 could be drastically different according to the results. In the meantime, the Coordinator mentioned her research for other grants, such as Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), Horizon 2020 whose deadline is however very close, the 1st of March.

Next steps:

- The Board will have an extraordinary meeting as soon as the DEAR result is out to assess at that time the financial situation for 2017.
- The Coordinator will go ahead working on other fundraising calls, and in particular on the EACEA will coordinate the activities with FTAO to try to submit a proposal for the 1st of March 2017.
- PFCE will try to see how the “équité” project could cover some WFTO-E activities.

8. AGM 2017 and Board elections

Considering Bertil’s resignation and the upcoming renewal of 3 out of 6 Board members in 2017, the Board agreed to launch as soon as possible the call for 4 new Board members, who will be formally

elected with secret ballot in November 2017, in New Delhi. Taking into account our legal requirement to approve the accounts 2016 in the first 6 months of the year and the WFTO Global Conference in November 2017, the Board agreed that:

- The WFTO-Europe AGM will take place for the first time online to approve accounts and legal documents on the 21st of June from 3 to 5pm.
- An extraordinary WFTO-E AGM will take place in New Delhi, during the WFTO Conference, to nominate the 4 new Board members with Secret ballot.

Next steps:

- The Coordinator will explore the best software to use to ensure members active participation and vote in the online AGM (together with Tadeusz).
- A special communication will be sent to the members regarding the AGM, the decision not to go for the overall audit and the Board elections.
- A call for new Board members will be launched as soon as possible to start informing members and collect candidatures.
- A new WFTO-Europe representative in the FTAO Board should be appointed from November on as Sophie will not be WFTO-E Board member anymore.

9. Office MANAGEMENT and Board/Office relation

The Coordinator briefly presented a document circulated beforehand. The document sum up feedback from the Coordinator ad-interim and listed some recommendations for the future on how to improve the efficiency of meetings, the relationship with the Board and Global. After an interesting exchange of views, the Board agreed that it was important to take into account some of the points highlighted and to mention them when launching the call for the new Board members. Mainly:

- Work more on the preparation and follow-up of the meeting
- Let every time one Board member chair the meeting
- Have more bilateral calls with the Coordinator than full Board meeting (1 Board meeting every month appeared to be too much)

Concerning the relationship with Global and the Regions, it was stressed the importance of working more closely together; especially developing more transversal projects for fundraising opportunities.

10. 2017 IFTT Conference Saarbrucken

From the 14th to the 17th of September 2017, the IFTT Conference will take place in Saarbrucken and will involve 4 different cities. Tadeusz and Giorgio, more involved in the organisation of this conference, stressed the crucial role this Conference plays in terms of visibility and the need for WFTO and WFTO-Europe to be present. This is going to be the biggest Fair trade event of the year, gathering several local organisations and a key opportunity for WFTO to show its label. Since for the first time WFTO and WFTO-Europe takes part in the elaboration of the agenda, there is a need for both to define what the expectations as participants of this Conference are and what they want to achieve.

Next steps

- Tadeusz, Giorgio and Francesca to check with WFTO whether they are planning to have a stand in the Conference.

9th of February

11. Action Plan implementation

The Coordinator went through each and every actions planned to reach the three objectives of the strategic plan. Based on a document shared beforehand, she mentioned the steps undertaken and the tasks still to be accomplished. In order to go more in-depth on it, the discussion lasted half an hour more than foreseen.

Next steps

- A special communication will be circulated to the members to give an update on the implementation of the action plan.

12. Update from WFTO Global

Waiting for the next WFTO Global Board meeting, which will take place mid-March 2017, Sophie already shared some updates on the main agenda items.

The Fair Trade Charter (former Charter of FT Principles)

As Chair of this Working Group, together with Luis Heller, Sophie highlighted the great involvement and active participation of the people in the WG. Thanks to this good collaboration, it was finalised the draft of a new Fair Trade Charter, a political document, which defines Fair Trade going beyond FI and WFTO. From mid-February until mid-March a new second consultation round will be launched to collect additional inputs. The idea is to let members of FI approve the document in June and WFTO in November, during their respective AGMs. In the next Skype call, the WG will mainly discuss how to deal with the endorsement from external stakeholders, namely other FT labels.

Towards the November 2017 AGM

The next WFTO Global Conference and AGM will take place in New Delhi from the 9th to the 14th of November 2017.

WG on living wages

The WG chaired by Rain Morgan, shared three different documents with the WFTO Global Board. These documents focused on the importance of having a policy on this topic linked to the GS and the process/tools to use it. Once the WFTO Global Board approves it, WFTO will launch a consultation with members and the final version will be then put for approval in New Delhi.

Next WFTO Global Board meeting

The meeting will take place mid-March. A full agenda of the meeting will be circulated in the following days. At the heart of the discussion will be: WG documents, strategic and governance, accounts 2016, feedback from Regions, and much more. Concerning the accounts, WFTO closed the 2016 with a benefit of around 75000€, mainly due to more income from new members and DAWS support and less expenses than foreseen for staff. Regarding the GS, there is an ongoing discussion on the tasks of the committee.

13. Next Board meetings dates

- 24th of march, 3-5pm, Skype
- 20-21 June, Face to face board in Brussels (to be moved according to the results of the DEAR call)

14. Advocacy

Since this point was already discussed when presenting the action plan, the Board dedicated this time to the 2 new topics in the agenda:

Discussion on the future of the worldshops

Following the negative trend WS are having across the countries, the Board brainstormed about the importance for worldshops to be professional and to create connections with the consumers. The Board agreed with the need to explore a new concept for FT shops, new product lines and in case merge with other organic shops. As good practice Oxfam Intermon has recently reviewed the WS concept, showing that a new concept is possible. While in Belgium they are trying to connect WS with other actors, such as agricover and "circuit court", in the Netherlands are trying to launch new product lines to help producers to also have better access to market. In Italy Ass. Botteghe del Mondo has a new worldshop model, based on a strong collaboration between Fair Trade and Social and Solidarity Economies in the local context and generally with CSOs and NGOs (in particular in Milan, Rome and Venice).

Next steps

- The Coordinator to ask WFTO to dedicate a workshop in New-Delhi to show different existing model of WS.
- Use the WFTO-E newsletter to share good practices of some of our members.
- To get in contact with Oxfam Intermon to see what else can be done to support other similar WS organisations.

Migration

The Board exchanged experiences on the topic:

France: nothing to mention

Italy: Equogarantito and CTM Altromercato decided in 2015 to give big relevant to this issue. They launched a campaign. They wrote to all parliamentarians, event, media, and developed several materials. CTM also had a partnership with Medici Senza Frontieri (Doctors without borders) supporting their campaign "Milion di passi".

In 2017, Ass.Botteghe del Mondo has been promoting (together with Fairwatch, ARCI and more than other 30 CSOs) dinners with migrants, to offer not only a shelter but also hospitality. The first events took place in Rome and they hope the initiative will be extended in other cities.

Netherlands: the COA association gives support to migrants in different ways: languages, taxes, insurance in order to help them get more integrated to the society. Also the worldshops has been playing an important role in supporting migrants to integrate themselves to the society.

Poland: government now is ultra-right and they are completely narrow-minded in this sense. They close borders while they are trying to help people in their countries. FTOs are not involved in migration but at local authorities level there are initiatives to encourage people to help migrants.

Belgium: Oxfam mdm is part of Oxfam International which has a humanitarian programme in Lebanon, Syria and try to work on the field to raise awareness. In December 2016 there was the launch of the new report: "where there is a will there is a way". In the report there are specific recommendations on the way in which we treat refugees. In Belgium, Oxfam mdm developed an information flyer (based on the information of Amnesty) for volunteers and supporters. Support actions were also organised in Brussels in the Park where refugees were waiting for administrative support. In some centres clothing and other materials was given. . Besides that, in September 2016 Oxfam mdm participated in a programme called TANDEM aimed at hosting an asylum seeker in the organisation for a short time to have a working experience. They are also supporting Oxfam America in their actions against Trump.

The round table confirmed the general feeling that there are 2 levels of connections between FT and migration: 1. The value of solidarity, respect, dignity; 2. Migration reflects the unfair trade conditions we fight. FT as a tool to reduce migration due to economic reasons.

In order to deal with this annual topic; the Board agreed that it is important to firstly know what members have been doing on this area and then to have our own statement and use it to create new partnership.

Next steps

- Marijke, Giorgio and Emilie to work together to elaborate a survey to circulate to our members on this topic.
- To share materials and to have a WFTO-E statement on this topic.
- To get in contact with other organisation to show the connection between FT and migration, such as the one created in Italy with MSF.

15. AOB

None.

END.