



**Minutes of the WFTO-Europe Board meeting,  
30 May 2017 (Skype call)**

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

Excused: Gabriella D'Amico, Emilie Durochat

AGENDA
1. Approval previous meeting minutes (28 <sup>th</sup> of April 2017)
2. WFTO-E AGM (software, quorum and general updates)
3. Office update (including possible update on DEAR and other funding opportunities)
4. Meeting with FTAO
5. Update on the next International Fair Trade Towns Conference (IFTTC)
6. Update on the EU Fair and ethical city award
7. Update on the collaboration with Ripess
8. AOB

**1. Approval previous meeting minutes**

Minutes from the 28<sup>th</sup> of April Board meeting were unanimously approved with a minor change.

**2. WFTO-E AGM (software, quorum and general updates)**

The Coordinator gave an overview on the following points:

*Software:* Gotomeeting cannot be bought for only one month but it needs an annual subscription. Due to its high cost (around 580€), the Coordinator asked WFTO to be able to use its own account, upgrading their subscription plan and paying the difference for the related month of use.

*Quorum:* as of end of May, the quorum is set to around 40 members. In order to reach this number the Coordinator asked the Board members to have a proactive role and to contact all the full members in their own country; asking either to participate or to send a proxy vote by the 14<sup>th</sup> of June. If the quorum is not reached the AGM would need to be interrupted and a second call for an extraordinary AGM will be then sent to the members. This second AGM will not take place in less than 15 days from the first one and at that time only the majority of the members present will be needed to approve the documents.

*General update:* a 1st Board candidature has been received from Stefan (Eco-collection, member in the Netherlands)

**3. Office update (including possible update on DEAR and other funding opportunities)**

The Coordinator gave an overview of the main tasks the office is taking care of. Apart from the AGM, whose point was broadly discussed before, she mentioned the 2 fundraising applications presented in May (Crafting Dialogues and Fair it Up) as well as the main upcoming meetings, such as the European development days (7-8 of June) and the Business Day at the Belgian Fair trade Federation (12 June). Francesca also informed the Board that the Belgian Technical Agency approved the project submitted early May. This is a small amount (around 4000€) but it will be still quite important especially for visibility purposes.

Concerning the “Trade Fair, Live Fair” DEAR proposal, there were no important updates to share. The contract has not been signed yet between the EC and FI.

#### **4. Meeting with FTAO**

Following a discussion had in the FTAO Board meeting in April, the coordinator invited Sergi (FTAO) to join the face-to-face Board meeting in June in Brussels. Due to previous commitment, Sergi will not be available at that time. Therefore Francesca will meet him beginning of June to discuss with him 2 main points:

1. FTAO fees
2. Next WFTO-E biennial conference in 2018

The coordinator will then report to the Board meeting in June the feedback of the meeting.

#### **5. Update on the next International Fair Trade Towns Conference (IFTTC)**

Tadeusz and Giorgio informed the Board members on the progress made in the programme of the Conference, which will take place from the 14 to the 17 of September in Saarbrücken. Thanks to their strong engagement in the organisational process, WFTO will have an important role in the conference. Although the programme is very interesting, they shared some concerns regarding the organisational structure. The participation of WFTO/WFTO-E in the Conference with a stand will be also discussed during the next face-to-face Board meeting in Brussels.

#### **6. Update on the EU Fair and ethical city award**

Francesca and Tadeusz briefly informed the others on the meeting they attended on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May. As part of the Technical committee set up by the International Trade Center and promoted by the European Commission (DG Trade), they attended the 1<sup>st</sup> out of 3 workshops organised to define the criteria for the first EU fair and ethical city award. Overall the meeting was very interesting, although it was the first brainstorming amongst different actors on what should be awarded and how. Due to other commitments, Giorgio and Sophie gave their availability to replace Tadeusz and Francesca in the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop which will take place in Geneva on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July.

#### **7. Update on the collaboration with RIPPSS**

Following a worthwhile brainstorming on Skype on how best to foster synergies among the two networks (WFTO and RIPPSS), the organisations agreed to meet physically in Athens in June 2017. The Board confirmed the participation of Gabriella as representative of WFTO in the Ripess 9th-11th June conference. The main aim of the meeting will be to:

- 1) exchange information about the evaluation, monitoring and accreditation process that Ripess and WFTO are using to identify their members, and/or to define their context of activities
- 2) check synergies on advocacy and campaigning.

Gabriella will report about the conference during the June face-to-face Board meeting in Brussels.

#### **8. AOB**

Next face-to-face Board meeting will take place on the 20-21 June in Brussels.

**END.**