

Minutes of the WFTO-Europe 2017 AGM

21 June 2017, 14:00-16:00 (CEST)
ONLINE, via gotomeeting

1. Introduction

Welcoming speech by Giorgio Dal Fiume (President of WFTO-Europe), who reminded to participants why the Board decided to organize an online AGM online, and why it recommends to WFTO-Europe members to attend the next physical WFTO-Europe Extraordinary General Assembly, which will be hold in New Delhi (India), the 12 November 2017, during the WFTO Global Conference and AGM.

Quorum: members present or represented by proxy

Out of 67 registered/full members, 38 members were present or represented (including 26 organisations and 12 proxies). The quorum obligation was met.

Members present (26):

Arbeitsgemeinschaft zur Foerderung der Weltlaeden (ARGE) (AT), Associazione Botteghe del Mondo Italia (IT), CMC Malongo (FR), Coordinadora Estatal de Comercio Justo (ES), CTM Altromercato (IT), ECO collection (NL), Ecoffins (UK)*, El Puente GmbH (DE)*, Equo Garantito (IT), European Fair Trade Association (EFTA) (NL), EZA Fairer Handel GmbH (AT), Fair Band (DE), Fairtrade Czech Republic and Slovakia (CZ), Fair Trade Scotland (UK), Finnish Association of Worldshops (FI), GEPA The Fair Trade Company (DE), La Maison Afrique FAIR TRADE AB (SE), Oxfam Intermon (ES), Oxfam-Magasins du Monde (BE), Plate-forme pour le Commerce Equitable (FR), Shared Interest Society Ltd (UK), The House of Fair Trade (SE), The Polish Fair Trade Association (PL), Wetladen-Dachverband e.V (DE), Tilingo Nepra V.O.F (NL) and Les Jardins de Gaia (FR).

Members voting by proxy (12):

Association romande des Magasins du Monde (ASRO) (CH), CTM Agrofair (IT), Tuyu BV (NL), Chotanagpurgruppe (DE)*, BHcrafts doo (BH), Belgium Fair Trade Federation (BE), Federations Artisans du Monde (FR), Karethic (FR), SolidarMonde (FR), Dwp eG (DE), FairMail cards B.V. (NL) and Centrum Mondiaal (NL).

**organisations joining a bit later.*

2. Election/Appointment of the Chair and Secretary

The Board proposed Giorgio Dal Fiume as Chair and Francesca Giubilo (WFTO-Europe) as Secretariat. Approved unanimously.

3. Election/Appointment of the Voting Committee

Francesca Giubilo (WFTO-Europe) and Maria Batista (WFTO-Europe) volunteered to be part of the Voting Committee. Approved unanimously.

4. Approval of the minutes from 2016 AGM, in Wuppertal (Germany)

The minutes were approved with large majority and with just one abstention.

5. Presentation of 2016 Accounts and Balance

WFTO-Europe Treasurer ad interim, Tadeusz Makulski presented the Accounts and Balance of 2016. While the main source of income was still linked to membership fees, the main expenditure in 2016 came from human resources, due to the 2 months of overlap between the Coordinator and the replacement during her maternity leave. In 2016, a profit of 8072€ was particularly stressed. Based on a question raised up by one of the members, Tadeusz also explained that the organization does not have a reserve policy yet.

6. Approval of 2016 Accounts and Balance; Discharge of the Board of Directors

The 2016 accounts and Balance was approved unanimously. The Discharge of the Board of Directors was approved with large majority with just one abstention.

7. Presentation of the Annual Report 2016/17 and of the Action Plan

The coordinator presented the Annual Report, focusing mainly on its new structure. The report gave visibility to the past and new members as well as highlighted the added-value of the network. Contents and activities were for the first time presented in connection with the new strategic plan approved in the 2016 AGM in Wuppertal (Germany). New challenges and ideas for the future were also briefly presented during the presentation.

8. Presentation of the 2018 Provisional Budget (including fee for 2018)

Tadeusz Makulski presented the 2018 provisional budget. Regional fees will be kept at the same level and main changes in the budget are linked to the possible EC DEAR project "Trade Fair, Live Fair" whose contract should be signed soon. Therefore, Tadeusz presented the two scenarios with or without the project. In this last case, the expenses will increase due to the extra staff the organisation will hire. However, the final balance in both scenarios appears to be positive. The Coordinator added information on 3 fundraising proposals were recently submitted by the organisations. These proposals did not appear in the budget in order not to modify the figures. Feedback on these proposals should arrive in July.

Following a question raised up by one of the member, the treasurer ad interim and the Coordinator gave also an update on the budget of 2017, highlighting the two scenarios with or without the DEAR project too.

9. Approval of the 2018 Provisional Budget (including fee for 2018)

The 2018 provisional Budget was unanimously approved.

10. Presentation of the new possible candidates to the Board of Directors

The Chair presented the current situation within the Board, with 5 new Board members who need to be elected (3 Board members end their second mandate in 2017 and according to the Bylaws cannot be re-elected and one, Emilie Durochat ends her first mandate, Bertil Hogberg step down). Therefore the President encouraged all participants to think about new candidatures to the Board to achieve a WFTO-Europe Board made by 7 effective members,

as foreseen by our bylaws.

Although some initial interested candidates, such as Emilie Durochat (who confirmed her decision to re-candidate herself for a second mandate), Stefan Nijsen from Eco-collection and Estelle Vanwambeke from Oxfam-Magasins du monde, the AGM unanimously approved to have an extraordinary AGM during the WFTO Global Conference in New Delhi in November 2017 and to postpone the elections of the new Board members to the 12 of November 2017. This will allow the organisation to collect much more candidatures from members as well as to ensure the secret ballot when going through the vote. Hence, the AGM unanimously approved the extension of the mandate for Giorgio Dal Fiume (President), Emilie Durochat, Marijke Visser and Sophie Tack until the 12 of November 2017.

11. Presentation and discussion of WFTO-Europe positions and comments on Global documents and issues

Sophie Tack, European representative at the WFTO Global Board, firstly asked participants to attend the WFTO Global electronic AGM (votes between 16 and 30th of June). Secondly she gave an update on WFTO in general and on the main documents will be presented by WFTO and asked for approval in New Delhi, in November 2017:

- Northern producers (agreement on a document allowing Northern producers to be members of WFTO)
- Definition of “marginalized producers”
- New version of the Charter of FT principles
- Strategic plan 2018-2021
- Revision of WFTO governance structure (how to better link and align WFTO Global and its Regions)

Fair Wages, Living wages policy and an update on the Guarantee System will be also at the heart of the WFTO Conference.

Last but not least Sophie invited members to attend the WFTO Global Conference in New Delhi from the 9th to the 13th of November 2017 and listed the main activities will take place throughout these days.

12. Any other business (AOB)

The Chair shared the most important upcoming events, such as the International Fair Trade Towns Conference (14-17 September 2017).

Sophie Tack informed members on the increasing WFTO engagement and collaboration with Fair Trade Advocacy office (FTAO). In this context FTAO, WFTO, WFTO-Europe and Fairtrade International participated with a stand at the European Development Days, a 2days meeting gathering several actors from the EU, private sector and CSOs.

WFTO-Europe together with other organisations, such as FTAO is also part of the Technical Committee to define the criteria for the first EU Fair and ethical city award.

The Chair thanked members and officially closed the AGM.

END.