



Minutes WFTO-Europe Board meeting 20 & 21 June 2017, Brussels

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

Present on skype: Gabriella D'Amico, Emilie Durochat (present on the 21 June)

20 th June	ISSUE
12.00-12.15	1. Approval meeting Agenda 2. Appointment of the Chair of the Board meeting 3. Approval minutes of previous Boards meeting
12.15-13.00	4. Update and news from the countries
13.00-14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
14.00-14.30	5. News from the Office
14.30-15.00	6. Update on the financial situation and budget 2017 (with DEAR)
15.00-16.00	7. Update on WFTO-E AGM: participants, organization details, Agenda and speakers
16.00-17.00	8. Action Plans implementation and priorities
17.00-17.45	9. FTT Campaign and Saarbrucken Conference
17.45-18.30	10. Update on FTAO (Board composition, 2018 possible event, fees structure)
18.30-19.00	11. Relation with RIPESS and Athens Ripess Conference follow up
<i>Evening</i>	<i>Dinner - Free</i>
21 st June	ISSUE
9.00-10.00	12. Dear Project: overview of the WFTO-E role in the project (including meeting with Sébastien)
10.00-12.00	13. WFTO-Global: update and news (including November AGM, WFTO-E workshop, FT Charter)
12.00-13.00	14. Towards the new WFTO-E Board: to find candidates and criteria to be a Board member
13.00-14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
14.00-17.00	15. Annual General Meeting (AGM) online
17.00-17.30	16. AOB

1. Approval agenda

Agenda approved with a minor change:

- Point 10 postponed on the 21st of June

2. Appointment Chair of the Board meeting

Marijke was appointed as chair of the meeting.

3. Approval minutes of previous Board meeting (30/05/2017)

Minutes approved with a minor change.

4. Update and news from the countries

ITALY

Situation not positive for FTOs. Overall, FT is increasing visibility but mainly due to mainstream sales. Bolzano declared themselves FT town (FTT) on the 30of May. Rudi was there as representative of WFTO to sign the declaration. This was an opportunity to rethink about the FTT Campaign in Italy. CTM Altromercato recently organised a campus with several workshops and seminars for people from the shops and students.

The main aim was to connect and motivate people from FT shops (400 people attending). The situation of FT worldshops in Italy is indeed still dramatic. The new board of CTM Altromercato is launching an internal programme to think about how to renew the worldshops and relaunch them.

Associazione Botteghe del Mondo Italia: important advocacy activities within the Italian FT movement to stimulate dialogues and debates among the 3 FT networks and supporting worldshops in the adoption of the new quality management model. A joint publication on SDGs is almost ready. One new worldshop opened in Rome last May; 2 main events : 22-24 sept in Milan XXIII ed. Tuttaunaltracosa FT fair ; 30sept-1 oct in Mira (Venice) FT and SSE fair and national meeting with Social and Solidarity Economy.

POLAND

In the context of the campaign "Make Fruit Fair", the FT coalition together with FT Poland are working on the banana sales in the supermarket. Towards this aim, banana's producers trips are also organised. As a first outcome of this activity, Lidl put for one week FT banana in its supermarkets. FT Poland joined the DEAR project "Trade Fair, Live Fair" and together with PFTA will develop some campaigns for next year. In terms of advocacy, 2/3 MEP are deeply interested in FT. They were at the EP breakfast and are members of the DEVE Committee. They also joined the event on SMEs organised by FTAO Poland. Poznan (the first FTT) is in the process of renewing its contract. Poland counts now 12 FT schools so far and another city is about to become a FTT. Whenever money is available the PFTA develops activities, most of the time on key annual moments (WFTDay,...). PFTA keeps selling products from El Puente and Dwp (North WFTO members). No other sources of funding apart from DEAR project.

BELGIUM

Sophie circulated the Annual Report of Oxfam Magasins du monde (Omdm). In 2016 they had a big campaign on Fair chances. Recap on how they work with volunteers and partners. On the 17th of June, the General Assembly of Omdm took place. While 2015 was a very critical year due to the lack of collaboration with Oxfam-Wereldwinkels, 2016 was quite good with a growth of 4% of FT sales in the shops. Discussions ongoing with Oxfam Intermon to include new range of cosmetics. Thinking about a new campaign to recruit new volunteers. To the aim of collaborating more with other actors, Omdm together with Agricover and Collectif des citoyens de Etterbeek (citizens movement) opened a new shop in Brussels (Transistore). Several changes in the structure of the organisation: one unique department now for commercial and logistics. From the beginning of this year, new phase of collaboration and agreement signed on product specialisation of Oxfam mdm and Oxfam-Wereldwinkels (the first one working on crafts and the second one on food). The idea is to start operating with this distinction between food and crafts from July this year. Process of merging Omdm with Oxfam solidarity stopped. Omdm is now preparing a big campaign on textile for the end of the year. Several events and conferences will take place in Belgium, such as a crowdfunding event with several partners . Patrick is going to India to make some videos to present in New delhi. Beginning of July mission in Peru for high students from Portugal, Belgium, France for a 3 year programme called "Young FT ambassadors" (JACE).

THE NETHERLANDS

Very bad situation. DAWS is almost bankrupt due to a strict commercial relationship with another organisation, linked to the former "Fair support" which might go in bankrupt. On a positive side, Zevenaar, Marijke home town, is a new FTT.

5. Update from the office

The Coordinator went through a document she sent beforehand to all the board members, summarising the updates from the office per working area. Francesca particularly stressed the intense period the office had in May and June with the organisation of the AGM, the submission of 3 fundraising proposals as well as the participation in some key annual events, such as the European Development Days, the Technical Committee for the definition of the criteria for the EU Fair and trade city award and the Business Day organised by the Belgian Fair Trade Federation. Overall, the Coordinator shared positive feedback from this intense activity in terms of visibility and interest in the GS. Two organisations got back to her for further information on WFTO suppliers and on the membership process.

6. Update on the financial situation and budget 2017 (with DEAR)

The Coordinator and the Treasurer ad interim went through the budget of 2017, giving an update on the cost incurred in the first 4 months of the year as well as the income got. Considering the initial expected signature of the EC DEAR project "Trade Fair, Live Fair" for the 1st of July, they presented a budget reflecting the new scenario with the project for the rest of the year. They particularly focused on the 2 main budget implications of the project: the salary increase of the coordinator due to her new functions and responsibilities and the Project Officer will be hired to manage the project. The Board re-acknowledged the minor increase of the deficit (5000€ more than initially expected) that this change will imply in the financial balance of the year. However they agreed to consider it as an investment for the organisation as the new person will work 30% on WFTO-Europe working areas, freeing also time for the Coordinator to work more on networking and fundraising. Moreover, part of the budget lines foreseen in the project could be ideally used to cover this existing gap. More will be known once the contract is signed.

Next step

- Due to the delay in the signature of the contract with the EC for the DEAR project (starting date foreseen for the 1st of September), the Board agreed to set up a call later on to re-check the financial implication of the project.

7. Update on WFTO-E AGM: participants, organization details, Agenda and speakers

In order to efficiently prepare the following AGM, which was held for the first time "online", the Board went through a document prepared by the Coordinator and highlighting the timing, purposes and responsible person per agenda items.

8. Action Plans implementation and priorities

The Coordinator went briefly through the Actions Plan implementation word document, focusing mainly on the ongoing tasks and the ones to still be addressed. Gabriella particularly addressed the points linked to the Retailers Standard and agreed in moving these points forward. Everyone also agreed with the need to develop more statistics in the WFTO family (regarding FT sales in the worldshops, FT trends in Europe,...). Waiting for the WFTO database which could easily extrapolate this information, everyone agreed on the need to dedicate some time, for instance thanks to the help of an intern; to start collecting this info in Europe.

Next step

- Francesca to see whether the next intern could dedicate some time to carry out research on the FT sales in the European worldshops.
- Gabriella to relaunch the committee on Retailers and Worldshops and to achieve the objectives planned. (to plan for instance a webinar to discuss about the decrease in sales and new world shops model proposals).

9. FTT Campaign and Saarbrucken Conference

Tadeusz and Giorgio, both involved in the organisation of this big event, shared some criticisms regarding the overall organisation of the Conference but also positive feedback on the WFTO involvement and presence in the agenda.

Next step

- The coordinator will check with Global whether it would be possible to be present with a stand during one day of the Conference to increase WFTO visibility.

10. Update on FTAO (Board composition, 2018 possible event, fees structure)

This point was discussed on the 21st of June.

Sophie, WFTO-Europe representative at the FTAO Board, focused her speech on the 3 following points:

a. Next WFTO-Europe Conference and AGM in 2018

Due to some exciting event which could take place in May/June 2018 in Brussels, more explicitly the EU Fair and ethical city award ceremony and FTAO advocacy events, Sophie shared with the Board members the idea of organising the next Biennial Conference in Brussels. This will make the WFTO-Europe Conference

much more attractive and interesting for our members. Francesca is already in contact with Sergi to concretely see how all these events could fit each other. The Board agreed in exploring this opportunity.

Next step

- Francesca will follow up on this issue with Sergi

b. New recruitment and new Board members in FTAO Board

Sophie mentioned that a new vacancy to replace Alice (project Coordinator at FTAO) is officially on and that she will be involved in the recruitment process in July. Concerning the FTAO Board members, Sophie gave an update on its composition. While Aldine from Max Havelaar France is a new member, Marco Coscione will leave CLAC and consequently FTAO Board soon. With regard to her role within FTAO Board, Sophie mentioned that with the end of her mandate as Board member in WFTO-Europe, she would eventually keep her position in FTAO as representative of WFTO global. However, WFTO-Europe should need to think about a replacement within the FTAO Board. Following up on this point, Emilie already showed the interest of the Plate-forme pour le Commerce Equitable to take over this role. A clear decision will be taken in New Delhi on this point.

c. New fees structure

A discussion on the re-calculation of the fees structure of FTAO is ongoing to define the new financial commitment of FI, WFTO and WFTO-Europe for the following 3 years (2018-2021). Based on an initial proposal of Sergi on a formula to be shared with the members, a proper discussion will be taken on the Board of FTAO on the 26th of June. Following this discussion the WFTO-Europe Board members agreed to set up a call mid-July to see whether they agree with the formula used to calculate the overall amount to be covered and how to redistribute it within the WFTO family.

Next step

- Francesca to set up a doodle mid-July to discuss this point more in depth.

11. Relation with RIPESS and Athens Ripess Conference follow up

Gabriella, WFTO-Europe representative at the Ripess Conference, shared her feedback on the meeting and the next steps agreed to foster the collaboration within WFTO and the social and solidarity movement. Gabriella mentioned her participation in two key moments of the Conference: one on the WFTO guarantee system and a second one more focused on advocacy. Overall it was a very inspiring meeting with a lot of interest in the WFTO system. As next steps, it was agreed to do a workshop on the 12th of July to identify common criteria in the accreditation systems and to foster collaboration especially in advocacy and fundraising.

21st of June

12. Dear Project: overview of the WFTO-E role in the project (including meeting with Sébastien)

The day started with the confirmation from FI that the EC contract was not yet ready and signed. According to FI, the project should start on the 1st of September. Based on this last minute information, the Board decided anyway to go ahead in approving the annex of the contract for the Coordinator (to stress the changes in her job profile and so in her salary) as well as the fixed contract for Sébastien, the new Project Officer. The Board also agreed to accept Sébastien salary expectation. Once the contract with the EC is officially signed, the 2 contracts will be formally signed too.

Taking advantage of the presence of Sébastien in the second part of the meeting, the Coordinator presented briefly the DEAR project, highlighting the WFTO-Europe in the project. Although the main focus will be on the coordination of the affiliates of the project, everyone agreed in the importance of being creative and propulsive in the implementation of this project, whose potential is huge.

Next step

- Once the EC contract signed, the President will sign the 2 contract already prepared and approved.

13. WFTO-Global: update and news (including November AGM, WFTO-E workshop, FT Charter)

Sophie gave a brief update on some key topics at Global level:

- a. Northern producers (after several discussions, the Global Board finally reached an agreement on how to deal with Northern producers and which criteria to adopt to check whether they are FT or not).
- b. Who are the marginalised producers (key issue which was deeply analysed especially in the discussion on Northern producers).
- c. Strategic plan 2018-2021 (great collaboration with Jim, a consultant, to elaborate the next strategic and operational plans. The 5 main pillars are kept as well as the vision and mission. New structure on the results and targets per goal).
- d. Charter of FT principles (great collaboration within the WG. Once collected feedback from members of FI and WFTO and received the approval (in the respective GA end of June and November), the main focus will be on the endorsement. Since the Charter is a political document, other stakeholders will be invited to endorse the Charter in a second moment (2018)).
- e. FTTC (A group composed of 2 people from WFTO, FI, the Steering Committee has been set up and will meet in July to revise both the ToR of the Steering Committee and the FTTC guidelines. Rudi and Sophie will be those representing WFTO within the group).
- f. Next conference in New Delhi (in order to take advantage of the reduced fees, people need to register by the 30th of June. The Conference will last from the 9th to the 14th of November. On the 10th there will be the IFOAM Conference as well as the Oxfam Mdm event on textile. On the 11-12 several workshops will take place, including the Regional AGMs. The Global AGM will be on the 13th).
- g. Governance structure (thanks to the support of the external consultant, WFTO Global has detected some issues in its current governance structure, including duplication with Regional activities, lost of efficiency in communication and roles. Based on this observation, Global has elaborated a new governance structure, redefining a new role for Global and the Regions and completing the alignment process started in 2013. In order to create more synergies, the new structure foresees regional staff hired directly by Global to deal with Global issues at Regional level. It leaves then the choice to the Regions to see whether there is a need to invest in extra time or person to focus more on Regional issues. In order to send WFTO-Europe feedback to Global on the new governance structure proposal, the Board agreed to set up a call mid-July to discuss it further).

More discussions on the first 4 points topics will come later, once the documents are finalised at Global level.

Next step

- A specific call will be set up before end of July to deepen the discuss on the WFTO governance structure and send feedback to WFTO.

14. Towards the new WFTO-E Board: to find candidates and criteria to be a Board member

The Board agreed to stress the importance to define some general criteria to become Board members. First and foremost they mentioned a clear commitment to actively participate in the three physical meetings organised over the year. Two candidates already showed their interest: Stefan Nijsen from Eco-collection and Estelle Vanwambeke from Oxfam-Magasins du monde.

15. Annual General Meeting (AGM) online

16. AOB

None

END.