



Minutes WFTO-Europe Board meeting 7 September 2017, Skype

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

AGENDA
1. Approval previous meeting minutes (20-21 June 2017 & 12 July 2017)
2. Update from the office (DEAR project, fundraising, financial overview...)
3. Next Extraordinary General Meeting, November 2017 Delhi: - documents and timeframe - Board candidatures (criteria, responsibilities)
4. Update on the WFTO-E workshop in Delhi
5. AOB

1. Approval previous meeting minutes

Both minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Update from the office (DEAR project, fundraising, financial overview)

The Coordinator went through the document she circulated beforehand. She particularly focused on:

- **DEAR project:** the contract should be eventually signed with the EC mid-October. In the meantime the Coordinator is already working with the consortium to define the governance of the project as well as the WFTO-E research on living wage.
- **Fundraising:** 2 out of the 3 fundraising proposals submitted in July were rejected. In the following weeks WFTO-E should receive the feedback regarding the last one still pending: Fair it up!. From mid-October on the Coordinator will focus more on this task to improve the financial sustainability of the organisation.
- **Financial overview:** the Coordinator gave an update on the finances of the organisation and she mentioned the deficit of around 6000€ for the end of the year. As anticipated in the AGM in June 2017, this will be due to the decision of using the DEAR project money and investing more on HR – from mid-October the organisation will hire a full-time Project officer. On the other side the reason is also the loss of several members for financial issues. Despite the increase of new membership applications (around 10 from the beginning of the year), 7 old members recently withdrew or were terminated. Concerning the situation for 2018, a good management of the expenses could allow the organisation to close with a positive balance.
- **Christmas holiday:** the Coordinator proposed to the Board to have 5 extra days off for employees to be used within Christmas and the New Year. Based on the current situation WFTO-E staff has overall 25 days per year (20 legal holiday + 5 offered by WFTO-E due to the fact that extra working hours are not recuperated). The Board agreed to think about it and discuss this topic in another call.

3. Next Extraordinary General Meeting, November 2017 Delhi

The Coordinator gave an overview of the main documents will be circulated to the members one month in advance to the EGM as well as the related timeframe. The renewal of 5 Board members was at the heart of the discussion with only 2 candidatures received so far. Gabriella and Tadeusz confirmed their decision to arrive at the end of their mandate (respectively in 2019 and 2018). Emilie from her side, announced officially her intention to re-candidate herself for a second mandate upon the condition that the organisation could be more ambitious and use the DEAR project at the best to really improve its visibility in Europe.

4. Update on the WFTO-E workshop in Delhi

Giorgio and Francesca updated the others on the workshop: the title, the format and the main speakers they managed to collect. The main aim of the workshop is *“to analyse where we are in the implementation of the Retailers' Standard, after 4 years from its approval. We propose a debate to analyse one of the existing tool to promote market access: to discuss about the challenges the different Regions face in its implementation as well as to share good practices on how these obstacles could be overcome.”* So far all WFTO Regions will be represented in the workshop.

5. AOB

Fair Trade Town Conference

Starting from the 14th of September the FTTC will take place in Saarbrücken. Giorgio and Tadeusz will attend all the sessions. Francesca and Giorgio will also attend the Technical Committee of the EU Cities for Fair and ethical trade award. At the same time likely a meeting of the Working Group on the new governance of the FTT Campaign will take place.

FTAO governance and WFTO-E representative in the FTAO Board

As soon as Sergi circulates an updated document on the FTAO governance structure and fees proposal, another meeting will be set up between Rudi and WFTO-E to discuss within the WFTO family how to jointly react to it. In the meantime with the upcoming election of new Board members, WFTO-E has to define who will be the WFTO-E representative within the FTAO Board. This topic will be better discussed during the next Board meeting.

The Coordinator will circulate a doodle to set up the next 2 Board meetings in October and November.

END.