



## Minutes WFTO-Europe Board meeting 18 January 2018, 9:00-17:30 Brussels

Present: Tadeusz Makulski (President), Emilie Durochat, Estelle Vanwambeke, Gabriella D'Amico, Stephanie Brookes, Stefan Nijssen and Francesca Giubilo (Coordinator).

### EUROPE

Present in some sections: Sébastien Leclef (Project Officer), Sophie Tack (WFTO-Europe Representative in WFTO Global and FTAO Board), Sergi Corbalan (FTAO).

Time	Issue
9:00-9:10	1. Approval meeting Agenda 2. Approval minutes of previous Board meeting
9:10-10:00	3. Update and news from the countries, including the discussion on the letter the French Fair Trade platform sent to WFTO Global regarding FT regulation.
10:00-10:20	4. Update on the Action plan 2017/2018
10:20-10:50	5. Update on the DEAR project (including WFTO-Europe's activities) (with Sébastien)
10:50-11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00-12:00	6. Update on WFTO Global and FTAO (with Sophie)
12:00-12:30	7. Update from the office New office management and fundraising strategy HR pending decisions update on the new External newsletter (to be issued in Jan/Feb)
12:30-13:00	8. Accounts 2017 and update provisional budget 2018
13:00-14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00-15:00	9. FTAO (with Sergi): presentation of FTAO activities and plans for the next 2 years
15:00-15:30	10. WFTO-Europe Biennial Conference and AGM
15:30-17:00	11. Strategic plan 2018-2020 - first share of views on main goals for the upcoming 2 years, based on the WFTO Global strategic plan too - identification of timeline and next steps
17:00-17:15	12. Next Board meetings dates
17:15-17:30	13. AOB
17.30	<i>END OF THE MEETING</i>

Stefan Nijssen, Chair of the meeting, welcomed everyone in the meeting.

#### 1. Approval meeting agenda

The Board unanimously agreed with the agenda items.

#### 2. Approval minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

#### 3. Update and news from the countries, including the discussion on the letter the French Fair Trade platform sent to WFTO Global regarding FT regulation.

##### France

- PFCE celebrated 20 years and presented its new name: Commerce Equitable France.
- Last year of the Equité project aimed at supporting FT actors in 5 West African countries. Thanks to this project, a WFTO part-time staff position in Burkina Faso was created to support WFTO Africa to

develop new membership in Africa, especially in Burkina Faso. Project focused on providing direct support to producers organisations of cocoa, handicrafts, cashews, shea butter, dried fruits.

- PFCE about to launch a big work on gender and FT, supported by 3 consultants.
- Next FT fortnight will be focused on gender equality.
- Plan to update the international guide on FT labels in collaboration with Fair project and Forum Fairer Handel. The focus will be on domestic FT. Objective is to also invite national platforms to translate the guide and to let them disseminate it.
- PFCE sent a letter to WFTO regarding the FT public regulation in France. According to this one, France will recognise who are the private labels. From last year they are working in the implementation phase. There are 3 main issues regarding the public recognition of WFTO standard: absence of a FT premium, a long term commitment of minimum 3 years and an explicit ban of GMO and pesticides.

**Action:** The Board agreed to take a step forward on this issue and to send a formal letter to WFTO Global asking them to:

- revise its standard by addressing the three issues above
  - advise on who within WFTO should be the one applying for the French public recognition.
- PFCE is about to send a letter to WFTO in order to ask the network to translate the WFTO product label in French. According to a survey, many people in France do not know what the word Fair Trade means.

#### Belgium

- Oxfam Magasins du monde (Omdm) is running a campaign on textile. A Crowdfunding event was organised in October to finance one of the partners in the South.
- Coordination with FTTowns in preparation for the local elections.
- Division of responsibilities between Oxfam mdm and wereldwinkels.
- New director of the Commercial department and a new product development supervisor to deal with the handicraft sector.
- Just finalised research in crafts to see how to reduce the gap between the production and the consumption. The analysis will be most likely translated in EN in February.
- WFTO Global is studying Omdm regarding gender practices within the organisation and with the partners.

#### Poland

- In Poland there are 2 FT organisations (Polish Fair Trade Association-PFTA and Fairtrade Poland) which work together in several fields.
- Thanks to the DEAR project, they will work together next year on the Fair Trade Tows Campaign (FTTC).
- Together with “Buy responsible” the 2 organisations work in Poland on the FTT and schools.
- PFTA has close relationship with FT actors in Bosnia Herzegovina, Czeck Republic and Slovenia, where this is a FT organisation running a FT shop and asking for more information on WFTO.
- Next FTTC conference will be in October in Madrid. During the conference the working group set up to update the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Steering Committee will present its results. New ToR will oblige the Steering Committee to step down.

#### Italy

- Good collaboration between Assobotteghe, Fairtrade Italy and Equogarrantito, especially in the publication on the role of public authorities on FT. There will be a joint event in June.
- During the FT national fair in Osnago (Milan) in September 2017, the FTT campaign was relaunched
- Official petition supported by Mayors launched in September to support the FTTcampaign and push the approval of the national FT law (which was approved only by one chamber).
- Situation of worldshops quite stable with 60 members. In the South of Italy mainly working with agricultural producers and social and solidarity economy actors. Good opportunity with the approval of the WFTO domestic FT approach to include more Southern producers.
- Ass.Botteghe del Mondo has an internal monitoring system, based on participatory model, with WFTO and ISO 9001 quality management principles.

#### The Netherlands

- 2 worldshops organisations are fighting to increase their members.

- Problems also for importers. 4 importers have recently merged in Fairforward (Eco-collection, Tuyu, Tilingo Nepra and Fairforward).
- 2 big centers in Culemborg (Centrum Mondiaal and Fair Plaza). In Centrum Mondiaal now only Sarana and DAWS are WFTO members. Fair plaza is where Fairforward is settled.

#### United Kingdom

- No national platform which coordinates all of the WFTO members in the UK, though there might be a plan to start one.
- Traidcraft PLC has been granted full membership of WFTO. They have also launched a new Fairtrade chocolate range which is certified by the Fairtrade Foundation but which carries the logo on the back rather than the front of the packaging.
- Traidcraft Exchange has been busy developing a strategy for the next five years which will focus on: economic empowerment of small-scale farmers, producers and workers through trade, empowering women and addressing vulnerability and supporting environmentally sustainable trade and business practice. Part of the work will be developing Fair Trade supply chains for a number of different products and supporting Fair Trade producer organisations. However they also work more widely focusing on supporting beneficiaries in developing countries working in mainstream supply chains and influencing policy makers and businesses in the UK and internationally.

#### **4. Update on the Action plan 2017/2018**

The coordinator went through the document circulated beforehand, reporting the main achievements of the past years as well as the ongoing activities. Only one comment arose: the importance to be more present in international events, such as the Fair Trade International Symposium.

#### **5. Update on the DEAR project (including WFTO-Europe's activities) (with Sébastien)**

Sébastien Leclef, in charge of the project within WFTO-Europe, made a PowerPoint presentation of the Trade Fair Life Fair (TFLF) project, focusing on the impact this project will have on WFTO-Europe's activities. Together with the research that WFTO-Europe will carry out on Living Wage, he also mentioned the new idea to produce an annual review to collect best practices on how our members are contributing to achieving each and every sustainable development goal. The Board welcomed the proposal.

#### **6. Update on WFTO Global and FTAO (with Sophie)**

Sophie Tack, WFTO-Europe representative at the WFTO Global and FTAO Board updated the Board members on:

- WFTO strategic and operational plan
- Next Global Board meeting: 8-9-10 February in Culembourg. This is a key meeting where the Board will discuss the implementation of the resolutions approved in Delhi, mainly concerning the Northern producers, the governance structure, the International FT Charter and the Fair payment policy.
- FTAO next Board meeting: 19<sup>th</sup> March. During the next WFTO Global Board meeting in February, the Board will also decide the new WFTO representative in the FTAO board.

**ACTION:** The WFTO-Europe Board agreed to dedicate a session in the following WFTO-Europe Board meeting for her to report about the Global Board meeting. In order to facilitate the exchange of views and inputs with Sophie, the Board also agreed to appoint during the next Board meeting some people as main references for issues linked to WFTO and FTAO.

#### **7. Update from the office**

The Coordinator presented the office update document which was circulated beforehand and answered to some questions regarding membership and monitoring process as well as the Food Smart Cities for Development project. Particular emphasis was given to the new fundraising strategy and working document presented by the coordinator, as a result of the 3 first months of good collaboration with Sébastien on it.

The Board approved the salary promotion of the Coordinator. This promotion was linked to the new responsibility of the Coordinator with the EC project. This promotion, already approved by the previous Board was putting on hold for months, waiting for the official confirmation of the EC contract signature.

Last but not least the Coordinator updated the Board members on the External Newsletter to be issued for the first time early February. She also encouraged members to fill in the mailing list with possible interested contacts.

### **8. Accounts 2017 and update provisional budget 2018**

The Coordinator presented an estimation of the Accounts 2017. Although expenses were in line with what forecasted, incomes appeared to be much less (68%). This was mainly due to the withdrawal of several members (around 15) over the year. Based on the above, the deficit for the end of the year is estimated to be around 5000€. Regarding the provisional budget 2018, the Board approved the updated version of the budget, including a more realistic forecast for the TFLF project. According to the new figures, accounts 2018 shows a positive balance of around 1000€.

### **9. FTAO (with Sergi): presentation of FTAO activities and plans for the next 2 years**

Sergi Corbalan, Executive Director of FTAO, presented the 3 main roles of FTAO and priorities for 2020:

1. FT movement cooperation – support processes of the global FT movement to achieve joint objectives. Key opportunities:
  - FTTC
  - International FT charter
2. Advocacy (focus on FT and trade justice): influence EU policies to promote FT system and principles. Key opportunities:
  - Trade for all strategy (which already include a section on Fair and ethical trade). More specifically:
    - EU cities for Fair and Ethical trade award-27th June
    - FT market-data report
  - Aid for trade and Fair Trade – be sure that the reference to FT will be now followed by concrete implementation aspects/commitments to be translated in funding projects
  - Public procurement - looking at how rules are implemented at members state level – together with organic movement
  - Unfair trading practices
  - Competition policy
3. Capacity building in advocacy and public policies
  - Webinars on several topics
  - Toolkit on how to go through advocacy work (to be finalised and ideally translated in SP and FR)
  - FT system at national level – check the impact of legislation laws for non-national FT actors

### **10. WFTO-Europe Biennial Conference and AGM**

The last AGM held in Delhi approved the decision to organize the next 2018 WFTO-Europe Biennial Conference in Brussels, close to other international events, in order to encourage more members to come. Based on that, the Board considered the different options presented by the Coordinator according to the different international events scheduled in June, and took a decision on the dates.

The WFTO Biennial Conference will take place from the 7th to the 9th of June straight after the European Development Days. The other option was to organise it in conjunction with the EU City for Fair and Ethical trade award ceremony (27th of June) and the possible event of FTAO on the 28th of June, aimed to identify recommendations (using best practices as examples) on what regional, national authorities and EU should do to promote uptake of Fair Trade. However, due to the International Fair Trade Symposium (26-28 June), to the uncertainty regarding the event of FTAO and to WFTO-Europe legal requirement to organise its own AGM before the end of June, the Board opted for the first option.

The Board also agreed for the first time not to include the accommodation costs in the fees. This was due to several reasons:

- It is very hard and expensive to find a conference centre in Brussels
- Brussels wide range of cheap and affordable hotels/B&B/Airbnb available. This will also help members to decide where to be according to their financial availability.
- Conjunction with other events and more flexibility for members regarding the length of their stay
- Very competitive fees to encourage more members to come.

In order to move faster towards the definition of the draft programme, the logistics, budget and fees, the Board agreed to set up a specific working group, composed by Estelle, Emilie, Stephanie and Francesca, to analyse all the above details and present them for approval to the next Board meeting in February. The draft programme will take into account the fact that some sessions of the Conference need to be linked to the DEAR project; meaning that part of Conference's cost will be covered by the EC.

#### **11. Strategic plan 2018-2020**

Considering the presence of new people in the Board and the need to discuss deeply this point, the Board agreed to have another physical meeting in London early March to elaborate a first draft. Moreover, a working group on it was set up to prepare a first assessment of the previous strategic plan for the physical meeting and to follow up on the discussions on this topic. The working group is composed by Estelle, Tadeusz, Emilie and Francesca. The main objective is to agree on a draft document to share with the members early May.

#### **12. Next Board meetings dates**

- 19th of February from 2-4pm – Board meeting on Skype to approve key information regarding the WFTO-Europe Biennial Conference. Estelle will chair the next meeting.
- 2nd or 5th of March – physical meeting in London to discuss the strategic plan. The Coordinator will circulate a doodle to set up the date.

#### **13. AOB**

The Board approved the WFTO-Europe per diem policy per staff members.

END.