



Minutes WFTO-Europe Board meeting
25 January 2019, 9:00-17:00
Associazione Botteghe del mondo, via Carlo Emanuele I n.12A (Rome)

Present: Juanjo Martinez (President), Gabriella D'Amico, Estelle Vanwambeke, Giorgio Dal Fiume (Secretary), Stephanie Brookes (Treasurer), and Francesca Giubilo (Coordinator)

Excused: Emilie Durochat

Chair: Gabriella D'Amico

	Time	Issue
Update on the network	9:00-09:10	1. Approve minutes
	09.10-9.40	1. Update and news from the countries
	9:40-10:00	2. Update from the office (including FTAO and WFTO)
	10:00-10:30	3. Finances (Accounts 2018 and Update budget 2019), fundraising
	10:30-10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
Work plan	10:45-12:00	4. New office organisational chart and revision of the work plan 2019 5. Feedback on Coordinator's appraisal and Board members roles (skills audit questionnaire)
	12:00-13:00	6. WFTO-Europe event in June 2019 – Part 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Analysis of the survey o Agreement on the dates and on the draft agenda o Next steps o AGM (Board elections, WFTO-Europe representative in the Global Board elections)
	13:00-14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
Looking forward	14:00-16:00	7. External guest (Jason Nardi from Ripess Europe) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Fair Trade and Social and solidary economy actors – sharing best practises from the Italian context o Open discussion on how to duplicate this collaboration in other countries? o Where we are in the global collaboration between Ripess and WFTO?
	15:30-16:00	8. Reflection on key topics, strategic thinking
	16:00-16:30	9. WFTO-Europe event in June 2019 – Part 2 (if needed)
	16:30-17:00	10. Next board meeting and AOB

1. Approval minutes of previous Board meeting and follow up eventual action points

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

2. Update and news from the countries

Italy

- Progress in the FT national law.
- Two regions are working on FT laws (1. Basilicata - a regional FT law was approved in December, 2. Lazio)
- Good interest and activity of world shops on advocacy
- Good collaboration with Equogarantito e FT Italy, especially in the campaign "Territori solidali"

Belgium

- Internal challenge in the Oxfam magasins du monde, mainly due to the double soul of the organisation as a movement and a commercial actor.

- Otherwise the movement is very active. New communication campaign to be launched soon to recruit new volunteers. Preparation of the IWD campaign.

UK

- A lot of changes in Traidcraft in the last period. A new business plan approved recently by the Board and 12 jobs approved.
- Traidcraft plc will not be doing the packaging in house anymore but this will be done by a third party from now on. The 12 people remaining will be focused on food brand and third party craft. They will move to a new governance structure where all the 12 people will manage jointly.
- Brexit issue - likely extension of art.50 but how long (considering the EP elections) is still a question. Traidcraft and Fairtrade foundation sent a letter to the EU asking for the EU funding to continue.
- There is no a public position of the FT movement towards Brexit. This is mainly due to commercial reasons

Spain

- Increasing awareness on FT. More requests from media to speak on FT, not only for Oxfam Intermon but also for CECJ. For instance, El pais will organise a seminar in February on social justice and Juanjo will attend.
- Copade is still an issue for the Spanish platform.
- The charity commission will release its report in few weeks on the recent allegations to Oxfam. The independent commission commissioned by Oxfam some weeks ago shared feedback on the safeguarding mechanisms put in place by Oxfam over the past year.
- Due to Spanish crisis the organisation will need to cut staff in the next years.
- Shops are looking at finding new solutions to renew.

Italy

- Situation quite critical for world shops (for Equogarantito e Altromercato). Some exceptions, such as the shop in Bologna, mainly due to several factors. Among those, there is the high engagement with solidarity economy and more communication. Apart from some specific cases, overall world shops situation is critical.
- Several Northern producers in solidarity economy are already selling products in shops and they do not see the added value of joining WFTO. Some shops are closing.

3. Update from the office (including FTAO and WFTO)

Based on a document circulated beforehand, the Coordinator mainly reported on:

Membership: 102 members (as of 17/01) including 2 associate organisations

Project management: Trade Fair, Live fair project (DEAR) project and research ongoing.

- Research on Fair payment ongoing – to be published by May 2019
- upcoming sub-campaigns- Gender(WFTO), living income (FTF) and EP elections campaign (FTAO)
- policy statement on FT and climate change finalised and circulated
- in the process of developing infographics on Fair payment process – deadline March
- Annual review (the FT contribution to the SDG's): Drafting process on-going, and survey sent round to members to request stories to give all a chance to get visibility in the Review.
- Two sub-grant mechanisms (by FTAO and FI) shared with all our members and are ready to support within our capacity members willing to apply (especially on public procurement).

Advocacy

- Physical FTAO Board meeting – 30of November (informal minutes circulated)
- Interview with a researcher on the 14/15 of FT on the role of FT in the current economy
- WFTO-Europe submission to a EU public consultation on deforestation

WFTO

- New MOU on the governance signed

4. Finances (Accounts 2018 and Update budget 2019), fundraising

The Coordinator gave some updates on the almost finalised figures for the Accounts 2018. Based on the estimation, the balance should have a little deficit of around 40€. A more accurate version will be circulated to the Board together with the updated version of the provisional budget 2019 once the final items for the month of January will be encoded.

Regarding fundraising, this is high priority for the staff due to the unstable financial situation from 2020 on.

5. New office organisational chart and revision of the work plan 2019

Based on the new governance and on the appraisal recently conducted, the Coordinator presented an updated version of the WFTO-Europe office staff, including a revision of her job profile. Main changes imply a more specific focus on communication with members and policy activities rather than internal management. Towards this aim, the Board also agreed to work on a future provisional budget that could better reflect these needs by including for instance more travels for the Coordinator to visit members and attend key events.

6. Feedback on Coordinator's appraisal and Board members roles (skills audit questionnaire)

Following up on the appraisal of the Coordinator and considering the next Board elections, members of the Board were invited to fill in a skills audit questionnaire. The aim is to assess existing skills in the Board and see whether there is a need to look for other candidates that could cover the missing skills. A specific call to discuss the result of this questionnaire was set up to discuss it further.

7. WFTO-Europe event in June 2019

- Analysis of the survey
- Agreement on the dates and on the draft agenda
- Next steps
- AGM (Board elections, WFTO-Europe representative in the Global Board elections)

Based on the results of the survey circulated earlier to the members, the Board agreed to organise the Members meeting on the 6th and on the 7th of June 2019 at the Maison des Associations Internationales (MAI) in Brussels. The Board also agreed on the draft agenda, focus on the role of the mission-led enterprises in pursuing social and environmental global justice as well as training sessions for members. Thanks to the TFLF project, the event will be free of charge for a specific number of members joining.

The Board particularly stressed the importance of keeping gender aspects at the heart of each and every session and to speak about craft producers too in the Northern FT producers' session.

Concerning the AGM, this session will include a discussion on the new governance of WFTO. Among the key topics to be discussed:

- Elections of 2 board members
- Election/renewal of WFTO-Europe representative in the Global Board

8. External guest (Jason Nardi from Ripess Europe)

- Fair Trade and Social and solidary economy actors – sharing best practises from the Italian context
- Open discussion on how to duplicate this collaboration in other countries?
- Where we are in the global collaboration between Ripess and WFTO?

After a brief presentation of the Social and solidarity economy movement across the world and in particular in Europe, some agreements and action points to foster collaboration were highlighted:

- There are different levels of collaboration, firstly at national level.
- The 2 networks are very specific and have interesting connections in terms of sectors involved (energy, tourism,...) and type of members included (local authorities networks,..)
- Important to map out respective actors at national level and check which kind of collaboration already exist in some national contexts (especially on advocacy and education), share good practices and see whether additional kind of collaboration could be created between the different networks (for instance on ethical finances, tourism, with sustainable local authorities and FT organisations)
- Think about a possible joint project to build up new synergies
- Interesting upcoming events to take into account to join forces towards a new and transformative economy (World Social Forum in Barcelona and a local authority event in Lyon)
- Important to try to find regular and more structured ways of communication

9. Reflection on key topics, strategic thinking

The Board identified the World Social Forum which will take place in Europe in 2020 as an important opportunity for WFTO to be present and visible.

For future reflections, the Board also suggests to try to invite people out of our network in order to get innovative solutions on how to deal with some of our internal challenges.

10. Next board meeting and AOB

11th of February 15:00 – 16:30 – board meeting via Skype to assess skills audit questionnaire and approve Accounts 2018 and provisional budget 2019 if finalised.

30th of April, 2:00 – 4:00 - Board meeting via Skype to approve all documents for the Annual General Meeting.

5th of June afternoon – Board meeting in Brussels.

END.