

Minutes of the WFTO-Europe 2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

9 June 2018, 14:00-17:30 (CEST)

Maison des Associations Internationales (MAI), Rue Washington 40, 1050 Brussels (Belgium)

1. Introduction

Welcoming speech by Tadeusz Makulski (President of WFTO-Europe).

Quorum: members present or represented by proxy

Out of 65 registered/full members, 42 members were present or represented (including 17 organisations and 25 proxies). The quorum obligation was met.

Members present (17):

Belgium Fair Trade Federation (Belgium), CMC Malongo (France), Plateforme du Commerce Equitable- PFCE (France), Coordinadora Estatal de Comercio Justo – CECJ (Spain), Equo Garantito - Assemblea Generale Italiana del Commercio Equo e Solidale (Italy), Fairforward (Netherlands), Fair Trade Scotland Limited (United Kingdom), Fair-Band - Bundesverband für fairen Import und Vertrieb e.V. (Germany), Federation Artisans du Monde (France), Finnish Association of Worldshops (Finland), GEPA The Fair Trade Company (Germany), Oxfam Intermon (Spain), OXFAM Magasins du Monde (Belgium), The Organisation of Swedish Fair Trade Retailers (Sweden), The Polish Fair Trade Association – PFTA (Poland), Traidcraft Exchange (United Kingdom), Ctm Altromercato Soc. Coop. (Italy)

Members voting by proxy (25):

Ecoffins (United Kingdom), Les Jardins de Gaia (France), Karethic (France), Bouga CacaO (France), El Puente GmbH (Germany), Amandla (Netherlands), Textielwerkplaats Sari V.O.F. (Netherlands), Tahoua Import (Netherlands), Elecosy bvba (Belgium), Shared Earth UK Ltd. (United Kingdom), The Fair Trade Furniture Co Ltd (United Kingdom), Chotanagpurgruppe - Faire Handelsgesellschaft mbh (Germany), EZA Fairer Handel GmbH (Austria), Weltladen-Dachverband e.V. - WL-DV (Germany), Associazione Botteghe del Mondo Italia (Italy), European Fair Trade Association - EFTA (Netherlands), IDEAS - Iniciativas de Economía Alternativa y Solidaria (Spain), Fundacion COPADE España (Spain), Fairtrade Czech Republic and Slovakia (Czech Republic), BHcrafts doo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), dwp eG (Germany), Shared Interest Society Ltd (United Kingdom), BAFTS - British Association of Fair Trade Shops (United Kingdom), CTM Agrofair Italy (Italy), Traidcraft Plc (United Kingdom)

1. Appointment of the Chair and Secretary;

The president proposed Francesca Giubilo (WFTO-Europe) as Chair and Emilie Durochat (PFCE) as Secretariat. Approved unanimously.



2. Appointment of the Voting Committee and confirmation of the quorum;

Vanessa Comand (WFTO-Europe), Luca Gioelli (Libero Mondo scs) and Poul Roed Kristensen (U-landsforeningen Svalerne) volunteered to be part of the Voting Committee. Approved unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes from the 2017 EGM, in New Delhi, India;

The minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Presentation of 2017 Accounts and Balance;

The treasurer, Stephanie Brookes, presented the figures in a specific session had in the morning. It was particularly stressed that the deficit of 6219,17€ got in 2017 was due to the decision of investing in another person and the delay of the Trade Fair Live Fair project's starting date. The treasurer added that the organisation has sufficient reserves to cover this little deficit. No comments were raised up by members.

5. Approval of 2017 Accounts and Balance; Discharge of the Board of Directors;

The 2017 accounts and balance and the discharge of the Board of Directors were unanimously approved.

6. Presentation of the 2019 Provisional Budget (inc. fee for 2019);

The discussion took place during the morning plenary session. The treasurer presented a table with the updated budget for 2018 and the overall expenses and income expected for 2019. She stressed the need to get around 7000€ of extra funding to cover the core costs in 2019. Based on the above, the Coordinator also updated the members on the office situation: the departure of the current Project Officer (Sébastien Léclef) and the need to reorganise the staff. Despite the news, the coordinator and the Board looked confident in the new scenario for the office, and reassured the members that the new structure will not have a negative impact on the budget.

7. Approval of the 2019 Provisional Budget (inc. fee for 2019);

The 2019 provisional budget was approved unanimously.

8. Presentation of the Annual Report 2017/18;

The Coordinator presented the Annual Report in the morning session, by mentioning the main achievements per goals, in line with the Strategic plan 2016-2018. Members welcomed and approved unanimously the Report and its printed version. The only comment raised up was not to give too much space and visibility to the provisional members, who are not yet fully guaranteed members.

9. Presentation of the Strategic Plan 2018-2020 and the Work Plan 2018-2019;

In the morning session, Stephanie Brookes and Tadeusz Makulski presented the new Strategic Plan 2018-2020 and its main goals. This presentation was followed up by the presentation of the Work plan 2018-2019. The Coordinator pointed up the main activities to be undertaken in the first year, including specific indicators and timeline per goal. The members welcomed both documents. They congratulated the staff and the Board for the great effort made to have concrete outputs and indicators to evaluate the progress over the 2 years. Members also stressed the important advocacy role that WFTO-Europe plays within WFTO and the relevance of internal topics, such as the WFTO product label and the Guarantee System.

10. Approval of the Strategic Plan 2018-2020 and the Work Plan 2018-2019;

The Strategic Plan 2018-2020 and the Work plan 2018-2019 were unanimously approved.

11. Presentation of the new possible candidates to the Board of Directors;

Three candidatures were received for 2 vacant seats. The Chair asked the 3 candidates Juan José (Juanjo) Martínez Viciano (Oxfam Intermon), Eve Broadis (Fair Trade Scotland) and Giorgio Dal Fiume (Equo Garantito) presented their candidatures.

Juanjo Martínez Viciano (*representative of Oxfam Intermon in Oxfam Fair Trade Working Group, from 2011 vice-president of Fair Trade Spanish Platform – CECJ). Working on Fair Trade for 18 years. His priorities are to develop WFTO-Europe strategic plan 2018/2020, contribute to develop a clear system to manage the new Fair Trade Northern Producers status, work to strengthen World Shops and ensure correct use of WFTO-GS logo.*

Eve Broadis (*director/owner of Fair Trade Scotland Ltd). In the past, she became a Fair Trader with Traidcraft in the 1980's, joined IFAT as an Associate Member, became a Director/secretary of BAFTS and represented them at various boards including the UK IFAT Leaders Forum. She would like to set up a UK WFTO members' platform. A platform would allow for discussion around ways to promote ALL UK trading members.*

Giorgio Dal Fiume, (*since 2010 a member of the Equo Garantito's Board of Directors, fundraiser and internal trainer and communication manager at Ctm altromercato, former member and president of WFTO-Europe. He was kindly asked by some members to submit his candidature due to the fact that the Board would consist of members from mostly new and "young" organizations and it would be nice to have someone who is engaged with WFTO since long time.*

Members were then invited to use secret ballot to express their vote on each candidate.

12. Approval of the new possible candidates to the Board of Directors;

The Voting Committee notified the nomination of all the 4 candidates:



Juanjo Martinez Viciano (41 valid votes)

Against: 0
Abstention: 0
in favour: 41

Giorgio Dal Fiume (36 valid votes)

Against: 3
Abstention: 5
in favour: 28

Eve Broadis (32 valid votes)

Against: 15
Abstention: 9
in favour: 8

The nominations of Juanjo Martinez and Giorgio Dal Fiume to the Board were officially approved.

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

Sophie Tack mentioned that the next WFTO Global Biennial Conference will take place in Lima (Peru), 19-21 September 2019.

Rudi Dalvai, representative of CTM Altromercato but also WFTO President, shared news on the guarantee system, audits and demoted provisional members.

Andrea Fütterer (GEPA) shared some concerns regarding the WFTO product label, as also stressed by EZA in a letter. She also stressed that the suspension of members for not having paid on time the membership fee cause some problems to other WFTO members who are their partners.

Emilie Durochat (PFCE) raised up the issue of the translation of the label on the packaging (in France and West Africa people do not associate “Fair Trade” to “commerce équitable”). A translated version of the WFTO product label would allow consumers to better recognize WFTO products.

Francesca Giubilo confirmed that all these points were brought by WFTO-Europe’s Board at Global level, who is taken them into account.

14. Any Other Business (AOB).

The Chair asked members to share their thoughts regarding the next AGM. Considering the Global meeting in Peru in September 2019, she asked whether members were available to



have a physical AGM in June 2019 or an online one. Members showed interests for the online version, unless another interesting event will be realised together with the AGM.

Members shared their thoughts about the 3 days of the Conference and the AGM. Overall, the first day session organised with FTAO was highly appreciated. In terms of logistics, some members stressed the need to discuss some key topics (such as gender on plenary session). It was very much appreciated the visit of Oxfam Magasins du monde. People also asked whether the AGM could take place in a working day rather than a Saturday.

The Chair and other board members thanked the outgoing board member (Tadeusz Makulski, the President) for all the years of great commitment, collaboration and welcomed the new Board members.

The Chair thanked members and officially closed the AGM.

END.