



Minutes of the WFTO-Europe 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

7 June 2019, 15:00-17:30 (CEST)

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

1. Introduction

Welcoming speech by Stephanie Brookes (Treasurer of WFTO-Europe).

Quorum: members present or represented by proxy

Out of 74 registered members, 48 members were present or represented (including 26 organisations and 22 proxies). The quorum obligation was met.

Members present (26):

Associazione Botteghe del Mondo (Italy), Belgian Fair Trade Federation (Belgium), Bouga CacaO (France), Commerce Equitable France (France), Coordinadora Estatal de Comercio Justo (Spain), COPADE (Spain), ALTROMERCATO IMPRESA SOCIALE SOC. COOP. (Italy), EL PUENTE (Germany), EZA Fairer Handel GmbH (Austria), FAIR BAND Bundesverband für fairen Import und Vertrieb e.V. (Germany), Fair Trade Scotland Ltd (UK), Fairforward (Netherlands), Fédération Artisans du Monde (France), Finnish Association of Worldshops, GEPA The Fair Trade Company (Germany), GLOBO Fair Trade Partner (Germany), Oxfam Intermón (Spain), Oxfam Magasins du monde (Belgium), People Tree Ltd (UK), Polish Fair Trade Association (Poland), S.C. NetWorks Trading Srl (Romania), Shared Interest (UK), Swedish Organisation of Fair Trade Retailers (Sweden), Traidcraft Exchange (UK), U-landsforeningen Svalerne (Denmark), Weltladen-Dachverband e.V. (Germany)

Members voting by proxy (22):

ARGE Weltlaeden, CMC Malongo, Les Jardins de Gaia, IDEAS, Fair Mail, CTM Agrofair, Chotanagpurgruppe - Faire Handelsgesellschaft mbH, Ecoffins, Amandla, Symbolica, Karethic, Forum Fairer Handel, Zotter, WP, EFTA, Fairtrade Czech Republic, Equogarantito, Fair Monkey AB, Divine Chocolate Scandinavia AB, Fair Trade Denmark, BAFTS, Traidcraft PLC.

1. Appointment of the Chair and Secretary;

The Treasurer proposed Giorgio Dal Fiume (Equogarantito) as Chair and Francesca Giubilo (Regional Coordinator of WFTO-Europe) as Secretary. Approved unanimously.



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

Theresa Güldenring (WFTO-Europe), Luca Gioelli (Libero Mondo scs) and Verena Albert (GEPA) volunteered to be part of the Voting Committee. Approved unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes from the 2018 AGM, in Brussels, Belgium;

The minutes were approved with 45 votes and 3 abstentions.

4. Presentation of 2018 Accounts and Balance;

Michael Fivet, WFTO-Europe consultant on finances presented the Accounts 2018. The figures showed a positive balance of 3099€. This was mainly due to the fact that from June to September 2018, the organisation had one person less due to the departure of Sébastien Leclef, project office until June 2018. No particular comments were raised up by members.

5. Approval of 2018 Accounts and Balance; Discharge of the Board of Directors;

The 2018 accounts and balance and the discharge of the Board of Directors were approved with 47 favourable votes and 1 abstention.

6. Presentation of the 2020 Provisional Budget (inc. fee for 2020);

The treasurer presented the updated figures of the current budget 2019 as well as the provisional budget 2020, including the regional fees for 2020. The Treasurer emphasised the critical financial situation of the organisation that, thanks to the good level of reserves collected so far, could afford the possible deficit of 14000€ in 2019 and of around 29000€ in 2020. Some members asked clarifications about the negative results expected and the action that the Board is planning to take as a reaction. The Board confirmed the need to take a clear action from 2021 on to make the organisation more sustainable. It was explained that due to the end of the European Commission (EC) Trade Fair Live Fair project (end of August 2020) and of the WFTO Global contribution on decentralisation and application fees from June 2020, the organisation can only count on a stable income from the membership fees, which cover so far only a bit more than 60% of the core costs of the organisation. Based on the above, the Board informed the members about their decision to work on a 3 year financial plan together with the strategic plan in the upcoming year and to get back to the members in the next AGM with a clear proposal to make the organisation more sustainable in the future. The Board stressed that the EC programme which financed part of the core costs of the organisation in the past, is unlikely to be got in the next 2 years due to some changes in the EC financial frameworks. Moreover, the Board highlighted that the new proposal will include most likely an increase of the membership fees. On this point, it was stressed that despite the increase of the general costs, the fees were not changed from 2013 on. Members overall agreed on the need to take an action and to make the organisation more sustainable for the future.



7. Approval of the 2020 Provisional Budget (inc. fee for 2020);

The 2020 provisional budget was approved with only 8 abstentions and 40 favourable votes.

8. Presentation of the Annual Report 2018/19;

The Coordinator went through the Annual Report by mentioning the main achievements per goal, in line with the Strategic plan 2018-2020. Members welcomed and approved unanimously the Report and its printed version.

9. Presentation of the Work Plan 2019-2020

Estelle Vanwambeke presented the key activities the organisation is planning to implement in the following year per goal. She also stressed that the upcoming year is the second and last year of the strategic plan 2018-2020. The Board will start a reflection on the next strategic plan 2020-2023 from July on. This process will include several consultations with members over the year.

10. Approval of the Work Plan 2019-2020;

The Work plan 2019-2020 was approved with 1 abstention and 47 favourable votes.

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

Based on the resignation of Stefan Nijssen (in September 2019), Emilie Durochat (in April 2019), and the end of the second mandate of Gabriella D'Amico, 3 seats in the WFTO-Europe Board of Directors were vacant. Despite the situation, only one candidature was received from Maria Veronica Silva Alvarado (Associazione Botteghe Del Mondo). The candidate joined the session via Skype and officially presented her candidature to the members. Some members raised up specific questions regarding her experience on Fair Trade and WFTO and proposed at one point to the association to withdraw her candidature in order to let the candidate have more time to present it in a more appropriate way and get more familiar with the network. Associazione Botteghe del Mondo confirmed the candidature. Therefore, members were invited to use secret ballot to express their vote.

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

Members approved the resignation of Stefan Nijssen and Emilie Durochat. Regarding the new candidate, the Voting Committee notified the following votes:



Abstention: 41
in favour: 7

The nominations of Maria Veronica Silva Alvarado was officially rejected. Due to the remaining vacant seats, the Board communicated its willingness to launch soon a call to co-opt new Board members and re-call those interested to apply for this role.

13. Presentation and Approval of the WFTO-Europe representative in the WFTO Global Board of Directors.

Sophie Tack, current WFTO-Europe representative at the WFTO Global Board of Directors presented to the members her candidature and willingness to continue with her second mandate for other 4 years. The Board confirmed that no other candidatures were received for this role and strongly confirm its endorsement to her candidature.

Sophie Tack's candidature was unanimously approved by the members with only 1 abstention.

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

Due to the legal topics in the agenda of the next virtual general meeting of WFTO Global, there were no key strategical documents shared in advance or positions to be taken by WFTO-Europe. The Board only invited members to join the big WFTO summit in Lima in September 2019.

15. Announcement of the next WFTO-Europe Biennial Conference

No proposals were received from members to host the next Biennial conference in June 2020. Therefore the Board invited those interested to express their eagerness in the following month.

16. Any Other Business (AOB).

The Chair, the other board members and the Coordinator thanked the outgoing board members Gabriella D'Amico and Emilie Durochat for all the years of great commitment and collaboration.

The Chair thanked members and officially closed the AGM.

END.