



**Minutes WFTO-Europe Board meeting**  
**5<sup>th</sup> June 2019, 14:30-18:00**  
**Village Partnaire, Rue Fernand Bernier 15, 1060 Brussels**

Present: Juanjo Martinez (President-on Skype), Emilie Durochat, Estelle Vanwambeke, Giorgio Dal Fiume (Secretary), Stephanie Brookes (Treasurer), Francesca Giubilo (Coordinator), Sergi Corbalàn (from 3:45 to 4:45) and Michael Fivet (from 4:45 to 5:45)

Excused: Gabriella D'Amico

**Chair: Estelle Vanwambeke**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Issue</b>
2:30 – 2:35	1. Welcome and approval of minutes
2:35 – 3:45	2. Final preparation of Members' meeting and AGM
3:45 - 4:45	3. FTAO - upcoming priorities and strategic objectives (Sergi)
4:45–5:45	4. Strategical discussion on finances (Michael)
5:45-6:00	5. next Board meeting and AOB

**1. Approval minutes of previous Board meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved. The Coordinator also took this opportunity to give a general update on the office and the main tasks hold.

**2. Final preparation of Members' meeting and AGM**

The Coordinator went through the programme of the 2 day "Connect & Act" Members meeting by addressing some pending organisational issues regarding specific workshops and giving an update on some aspects of the meeting. The Board also discussed the Annual general meeting and the responsibility per person.

**3. FTAO - upcoming priorities and strategic objectives (Sergi)**

The Chair welcomed Sergi Corbalàn, Executive director of FTAO and already thanked Sergi for the great collaboration and work done over the past years. Sergi shared with the Board a graph summarising the main activities and priorities of the FTAO. Based on this presentation, Board members asked for clarifications and discussed what WFTO-Europe would prioritise among all the tasks illustrated. Important topics were raised up: when exploring and researching about the future of the FT movement, it was stressed the added value of taking into account the success but also the failure of the movement, in order to be constructive. EU advocacy was unanimously mentioned as a key priority for FTAO as well as the capacity building activities the office does for WFTO-Europe members in campaigning and advocacy along with the fundraising support.

**4. Strategical discussion on finances (Michael)**

The Chair welcomed Michael Fivet, WFTO-Europe consultant on finances. The Coordinator briefly introduced the financial overview document for 2021- 2023 shared beforehand. She also spent some words clarifying the 5 scenarios foreseen. The Coordinator warned the members on the bad financial situation of the organisation from 2021 on and the need to take a quick action to ensure the financial sustainability of the organisation. From mi-2020, the organisation will not receive anymore the financial support from WFTO Global on decentralisation and application fees (due to the governance changes) and the current European Commission project (Trade Fair Live Fair) will end in September 2020. It was stressed how the membership fees (main income from members) only cover a bit more than 60% of core costs of the organisation. Out of the 5 different scenarios, the Board agreed on discussing more in depth the scenario 3 and 4 and in particular to:

- Consider as a core cost of the organisation the one including 1 FULL time person,
- Propose a % increase of the membership fees, whose threshold did not change since 2013,
- Look at other possible source of income – e.g. possible new ad-hoc services for members, voluntary fund, WFTO Global contribution for specific tasks the region does in some areas.

The Board also agreed that this discussion should take place along with the one on strategic plan. A further look at the finances will then be planned in the next physical meeting in October 2019. From his side, Michael

also shared his experience in working on finances with several Belgian NGOs. He stressed that a good sustainable organisation is one where core income covered 100% of the core costs.

## **5. AOB**

The coordinator informed the Board members about her 3 months pregnancy. The Board welcomed the news and agreed to hold an extraordinary Board meeting at the end of June/beginning of July to discuss the organisation of the office during the maternity leave. The Coordinator will circulate a doodle to set up a meeting.

The next physical meeting to discuss the strategic and financial plan will take place in October, most likely during the annual FT marathon organised by FTAO.