



**WYSE Travel Confederation
Annual General Meeting
29 October 2020
Online**

Welcome and call to order

The Director General and AGM Secretary, David Chapman and Chairman of the Board and Chairman of the AGM, Russ Hedge welcomed members and called the meeting to order. A short explanation of the online voting process was given, and members of the Management Board of WYSE Travel Confederation were introduced.

The Chairman announced that elections for Management Board and Panel service would be delayed until March 2021 or at another meeting online in 2021 due to the uncertainty and challenges faced by Members in 2020.

The Secretary presented revised draft agenda for the meeting. The Chairman called for a motion to adopt the agenda and previous minutes. The motion was carried.

Report on activities

The Secretary provided a report on the activities of WYSE Travel Confederation. The main aims behind activities of the past year revolved around growing the membership base and growing event attendance. Increases in communication engagement, number of members and event sponsorship revenue were noted as strong activities for 2019, with consistent growth since 2014. COVID-19 interrupted this growth beginning the first quarter of 2020 and as a result, spending was put on hold.

A shift in activities to respond to COVID-19 related needs of members resulted in a compilation of resources by country, weekly webinars, monthly business impact surveys, digital marketing campaign, daily news and the WYSE 10-point plan for governments regarding youth travel. The sector panels and the management board have met routinely to provide updates. A working group in the Cultural Exchange sector is preparing a best practices guide. The accommodation sector has created a safety standards self-declaration system for hostels.

In response to COVID-19, WYSE Travel Confederation set up WYSEservices.org to create alternative revenue streams through offering services such as web design, research, and marketing services. The WYSE jobs board is also in development.

WYSTC was moved online and attracted approximately 400 attendees. Feedback was generally positive given the circumstances.



The Secretary concluded the report. The Chairman called for a motion to accept the Report on Activities. The motion was carried.

Report on finances

The Secretary invited the Finance Committee Chairman, Dave Dahl, to address the Members. The Finance Committee Chairman noted that the annual audit had taken place according to regulations and with no warnings or advisories other than the obvious concern regarding drop in revenue due to COVID-19 and the inability of WYSE Travel Confederation to host its usual annual conferences and membership dues not being received in 2020. The Finance Committee has helped to identify opportunities to reduce costs for WYSE Travel Confederation in light of the circumstances, including the closure of the office. The Dutch government support for wages was noted as a ‘saving grace’ to keep WYSE staff employed. Keyman insurances had also been taken up in the previous year. Cash reserves that had been built up by WYSE Travel Confederation over the last few years have been essential to managing this year’s financial difficulties.

Accounts

The Secretary thanked the Finance Committee Chairman for his report and then proceeded to present the 2019 Accounts of WYSE Travel Confederation. The final position for 2019 was a surplus of EUR 45,221.

The Secretary concluded the report. The Chairman called for a motion to accept the 2019 Accounts of WYSE Travel Confederation. The motion was carried.

Forecast

The Secretary then presented the 2020 Financial Forecast for WYSE Travel Confederation. A 60% drop in income for 2020 is forecast, potentially worse if membership dues are not paid later in the year. The Secretary explained how the Dutch government’s wage scheme works. The final position for 2020 is forecast to be a loss of EUR 177,826.

Question from the audience

Abraham Hostels asked how many Members have paid their 2020 fees? The Secretary answered that of the Members who were due to pay from March, only around 14-15% of Members have paid their fees.

Budget

The Secretary then presented the 2021 Budget for WYSE Travel Confederation. The final position for 2021 is forecast to be a loss of EUR 104,996. Membership dues not being paid and the possibility that WYSE Travel Confederation will not be able to host WYSTC 2021 present serious risks to the organisation’s financial viability.

The Secretary concluded the report. The Chairman called for a motion to accept the 2021 Budget of WYSE Travel Confederation. The motion was carried.



Balance Sheet

The Secretary then presented the Balance Sheet of WYSE Travel Confederation as at 31 December 2019.

Extension of Period for Annual Accounts

The Secretary requested an extension for the presentation of annual accounts, as has been done in previous years. The Chairman called for a motion to accept the extension of period for annual accounts. The motion was carried.

Release of Liability for Directors

The Secretary requested the release of directors' liability. The Chairman called for a motion to accept the release of directors' liability. The motion was carried.

Independent Finance Committee Member

The Secretary noted that Astrid Ludemann, had served in the capacity of Independent Finance Committee Member for the last four years, but would not continue to serve in this capacity. The Finance Committee Chairman and the Secretary thanked Astrid for her work on the WYSE Management Board's Finance Committee.

Appointment of Auditors

The Secretary reported that the Finance Committee had decided on a change in auditing partner within Van Hier of Amstelveen, The Netherlands. The Secretary recommended the re-engagement of Van Hier of Amstelveen, The Netherlands as auditors for 2021. The Chairman called for a motion to approve the appointment of auditors. The motion was carried.

Report on Membership

The Secretary explained that WYSE Travel Confederation's membership had been massively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and disruptions to travel and business. There are currently 91 members that have not paid their fees for 2020 despite efforts on the part of WYSE Travel Confederation to speak with them about their financial position. A number of members have been suspended. Options to spread payments over six months and take a 35% discount on membership fees have been offered to members. Lists of unpaid and suspended members were privately published for members to review for 48 hours only.

A list of new members was presented. The Secretary requested acceptance of new members. The Chairman called for a motion to accept the new members. The motion was carried.

A list of unpaid members was presented for disaffiliation. The Secretary requested the disaffiliation of the unpaid members. The Chairman called for a motion to accept the disaffiliation of unpaid members. The motion was carried.



Any Other Business

WYSTC 2021 is scheduled for 14-17 September 2021.

Date of next AGM

The date of the next AGM is 14 September 2021 in conjunction with WYSTC 2021 in Lisbon, Portugal.

The Secretary asked the Chairman to close the meeting. The Chairman adjourned the 2020 Annual General Meeting of WYSE Travel Confederation and invited attendees to join an informal townhall session.