



**WYSE Travel Confederation  
Annual General Meeting (AGM)  
15:30 WEST Thursday, 14 October 2021  
Corinthia Hotel, Lisbon, Portugal and online via Zoom**

**Minutes of the AGM**

**1. Call to order**

The Director General of WYSE Travel Confederation welcomed Members and guests to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of WYSE Travel Confederation and the 30<sup>th</sup> annual World Youth and Student Travel Conference. Attendees in Lisbon were asked to vote with their voting cards. Online attendees were asked to vote by raising their virtual hand.

**2. Introduction of AGM Chairman and Board Members**

The Director General introduced Russ Hedge, Chairperson of the Management Board of WYSE Travel Confederation and invited him to address the audience. The Chairperson of the Management Board serves as the AGM Chairperson and the Director General of WYSE Travel Confederation serves as AGM Secretary.

The AGM Chairperson noted there would be eight motions during the meeting and encouraged voters to move and second the motions.

The AGM Chairperson recounted the main take-aways from the WYSE Management Board meeting regarding the current challenges for the association. These were:

- Financial pain, but still here.
- Close attention to financial details.
- Innovation in the face of adversity.
- Confidence in the future.

The AGM Chairperson introduced the WYSE Management Board Members and reviewed the agenda.

**3. Approval of minutes of previous Annual General Meeting**

The AGM Chairperson called for a motion to accept the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting of WYSE Travel Confederation. James Bell (Alliance Abroad Group) motioned to accept the minutes. Scott Curry (International Exchange of North America) seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a vote of the Members and the minutes were approved.

**4. Adoption of the Agenda**

The AGM Chairperson called for a motion to adopt the agenda of the meeting. Pieter van der Zeeuw (Hans Brinker) motioned to accept the agenda. Carye Duffin (CIEE) seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a vote of the Members and the agenda was adopted.

**5. Report on Confederation activities**

The Director General of the meeting reviewed activities of the last 12-18 months. An explanation regarding “normal” activities and new activities that have been required as a result of the COVID-19



pandemic conditions was presented. New activities included: collecting and providing COVID-19 business resources for Members and modifying existing events to online versions.

- online version of the Global Youth Travel Awards
- representation at ITB Berlin NOW event
- WETM-IAC Online
- creation of the NXT digital venue
- creation and hosting the Re-start Travel event
- hybrid WYSTC
- COVID-19 Business Impact Survey
- creation of the Ask Us Anything podcast
- creation of the hostel Safety Standards self-certification programme
- development of the Best Practices for Crisis Management Working Group
- launch of WYSE Services digital marketing services
- creation of the WYSE jobs board
- update of WYSE brand assets

The AGM Chairperson called for a motion to accept the report on Confederation activities. Dave Dahl (WISE Foundation) motioned. Bastian Weinberger (Smaller Earth Group) seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a vote of the Members and the report was accepted.

## **6. Report on Confederation finances**

### **Accounts 2020**

The Director General presented the final results for 2019 and 2020, noting that income from membership, research and events had decreased significantly in 2020. Costs related to salaries were reduced through elimination of some staff, but also via support from the Dutch government. Further savings were made in office costs, travel, bank charges and research. The net profit (loss) for 2020 was reported at (EUR 194,089).

The AGM Chairperson called for a motion to accept the WYSE Travel Confederation 2020 accounts. Dave Dahl (WISE Foundation) motioned. Nick Pound, (World Nomads) seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a vote of the Members and the WYSE Travel Confederation 2020 accounts were accepted.

### **Forecast 2021**

The Director General presented the forecast for 2021 in comparison to the 2019 forecast. Membership was noted to be “massively down” at close to (EUR 350,000) change since 2019 and a significant level of non-renewals of membership this year. Incentives that have been offered to maintain Members were noted. Decreases forecast for association management fees, research income and conference income were also noted. On the costs side, the Dutch government support for salaries helped keep salary costs down in 2021. All other costs had decreased too. The forecast net profit (loss) for 2021 is (EUR 90,107).

The Director General updated Members on ISTC, noting that the Members of ISTC had recently voted to close the association. WYSE Travel Confederation owes ISTC “three last payments of 35,000” and the AGM Secretary has made it clear to ISTC that WYSE Travel Confederation does not have the financial capacity to pay these. ISTC Members have expressed a desire that the residual



debt be gifted to the ISIC Association, but this has not been discussed between WYSE Travel Confederation and the ISIC Association. The remainder of the debt will cease to exist on the books of WYSE Travel Confederation upon ISTC's closure. The Director General noted that WYSE Travel Confederation was now cleared of debts with other associations, which had been taken on between 2012 and 2013.

### **Budget 2022**

The budget for 2022 was presented by the Director General alongside the 2019 actual and 2021 forecast. Modest growth of membership income over 2021 is projected, as well as conference income. On the costs side, salary costs are budgeted to go up due to the cease of Dutch government support. Other costs projected for 2022 are in line with 2021. The net profit (loss) position projected for 2022 is EUR 4,848.

Vicki Cunningham (BUNAC) motioned. Dave Dahl (WISE Foundation) seconded. The motion was carried by a vote of the members and the WYSE Travel Confederation budget for 2022 was accepted.

### **Balance sheet**

The AGM Secretary presented the balance sheet as at 31 December 2020. Total assets for 2020 were reported at EUR 298,187. Total liabilities for 2020 were EUR 298,178.

### **Extension of period for presenting annual accounts**

This is an extension of the period for presenting the annual accounts from six months to WYSTC 2022.

Dave Dahl (WISE Foundation) motioned. Kevin Morgan (Academic Language Solutions) seconded. The motion was carried by a vote of the Members to extend the period for presenting the annual accounts.

### **Release of liability for directors**

Nick Pound (World Nomads) motioned. Pieter van der Zeeuw (Hans Brinker) seconded. The motion was carried by a vote of the Members to release the liability for directors.

### **Introduction of independent Finance Committee member**

The Director General asked Dave Dahl, Chairperson of the Finance Committee of the Management Board, to introduce the new independent Finance Committee member. Dave Dahl welcomed George Gvazava to the Finance Committee, providing biographical and background information to Members about Mr Gvazava and his role on the Finance Committee.

## **7. Appointment of auditors**

The Chairperson called for a motion to accept the proposal to re-engage Van Hier of Amstelveen, The Netherlands, as auditors.

Dave Dahl (WISE Foundation) motioned. Carye Duffin (CIEE) seconded. The motion was carried by a vote of the Members and the appointment of auditors was accepted.

## **8. Membership report**

The Director General presented an update on membership levels between 2015 and 2021, noting



that the association had experienced a nearly 60% drop in Members since the COVID-19 pandemic. The current number of Members in good standing is at 190 fully paid, 7 on payment plans, and 10 in payment grace period. Ninety-nine organisations have not paid their 2021 membership fees.

The AGM Secretary noted that a list of suspended Members would be available for 48-hours and that there would not be any disaffiliation of Members in 2021.

James Bell (Alliance Abroad Group) asked if it is required by the statutes of the association that this information be published. After checking the Rules and Regulations, the Director General responded that the rules “reserve the right” to publish this information.

The AGM Chairperson asked Members for a motion to suspend the publishing this year.

James Bell (Alliance Abroad Group) motioned. Bastian Weinberger (Smaller Earth Group) seconded. The motion was carried by a vote of the Members to suspend for this year the publishing of information regarding suspended Members.

#### **Ratification of new Members**

New Members were presented for ratification:

- Get Away to Education (Ireland), Associate Member
- Au Pair Mexico & Training (Mexico), Buyer Member
- Travel Capital (Mexico), Subsidiary Member
- Ozman International Education (Turkey), Buyer Member
- Australian Working Adventures/Visitoz (Australia), Full Member
- AASHA (Sri Lanka), Associate Member
- RM Consulting (Thailand), Associate Member
- RTTAX (USA), Associate Member

Bastian Weinberger (Smaller Earth Group) motioned. Kevin Morgan (Academic Language Solutions) seconded. The motion was carried by a vote of the Members to ratify the presented organisations as new Members.

## **9. Any other business**

### **EGM**

An extraordinary general meeting (EGM) will be held on 16 December 2021 (15:00 CET) for the WYSE Travel Confederation Panel and Management Board elections.

### **Honorary Member**

The Director General announced that Callum Kennedy would receive an honorary membership with WYSE Travel Confederation for outstanding contributions to the youth travel industry over the course of his career. Mr Kennedy thanked the AGM Chairperson, the Director General and the Management Board of WYSE Travel Confederation and expressed his thoughts on the evolution of association and the professional value of the World Youth and Student Travel Conference (WYSTC) over its 30-year history.



#### **10. Date of next AGM**

The next AGM of WYSE Travel Confederation is scheduled to take place on 27 September 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal in conjunction with WYSTC.

The Director General concluded the meeting.