

# FIATA

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## GENERAL MEETING

**Doc. 70/123**  
**2012-10-26**

To: Association Members of FIATA

cc: Individual Members  
Members of the Extended Board  
Honorary Members of the Board  
Honorary Members of FIATA  
Delegates to the General Meeting  
Auditors

From: Marco Sorgetti, Secretary to the General Meeting on behalf of FIATA President Stanley Lim

**Subject: General Meeting, Ordinary Session  
at Hyatt Regency Century Plaza  
12 October 2012 in Los Angeles, United States of America**

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## **Praesentia**

as per Annex I

## **Minutes**

### **1. Opening of the ordinary General Meeting, the President's welcoming address**

President Stanley Lim opened the meeting at 09:40 in the Los Angeles Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza in Los Angeles and welcomed all delegates present.

#### **1.1 Statement – Competition legislation compliance**

President Stanley Lim read out the following competition compliance statement:

*FIATA policy strictly prohibits any discussion or other communication the purpose or effect of which is to set prices, allocate markets or customers, engage in tying arrangements or refrain from purchasing any goods or services from any particular supplier or vendor. It is mandatory that you familiarize yourself with FIATA's written antitrust policy which the secretariat made available to all participants.*

### **2. Acceptance of the List of Delegates entitled to vote (Doc. 70/116) pursuant to Article 5.2.7 of the statutes**

The credentials of delegates in attendance at the meeting had been reviewed and found to be in order. Delegates holding a total of 148 voting rights were present or represented by proxies.

The President informed all Members that in future no paper copy of the call of meeting and its attachments would be sent from the Secretariat to FIATA members. All documentation would be sent by FDSS and duplication would be sent by SuperMailer or similar electronic mailing service.

The Director General explained the reasoning behind this change sighting the high costs and inefficient distribution of these documents by conventional mail as core reasons. This would

also be an environmentally friendly solution, which is compatible with the language contained in FIATA's Statutes.

The President verified that no member was contrary to this procedure by show of hands. This motion was carried.

**3. Adoption of the Agenda (Doc. 70/121a)**

There were no objections to the proposed agenda. The agenda was adopted as distributed.

**4. Approval of minutes of the previous General Meeting (Doc. 70/120) held in Cairo on 21 October 2011**

The minutes of the ordinary General Meeting held on 21 October 2011 in Cairo, Egypt had been sent together with the call of meeting and agenda. Mr Robert Voltmann from TIA noted that the minutes should have reflected that TIA had voted against the 2012 budget. The President accepted that this information would be duly noted. As there were no further comments the minutes were approved with the amendment requested by Mr Robert Voltmann of TIA.

**5. Admittance and exclusion of Association Members according to article 4.2.1 and Article 5.2.1 (b) of the Statutes**

At the President's request, the Secretary General announced that two associations in Australia (AFIF and CBFCA) had become a single member of FIATA as a confederation some years ago, but that they had since commonly decided that they would like to discontinue this and ask for individual membership for both organisations. This had been discussed with the Presidency and with the Extended Board and had been found to be in line with the Statutes. The Secretary General ascertained that nobody was contrary to such a procedure by show of hands. The motion was adopted unanimously.

**i. Admittance**

Since there were no objections to the proposal from Australia, a separate vote for the admittance of each organisation was conducted. It was unanimously decided to accept CBFCA as an Association Member. It was also unanimously decided to accept AFIF as an Association Member.

Representatives from the Customs Brokers and Forwarders Council of Australia (CBFCA) and the Australian Federation of International Forwarders (AFIF) came forward to express their gratitude for the acceptance of their proposal and briefly explained the reasons for the change.

The Secretary General continued by announcing that FIATA had received ABADT's application for membership from Burundi. This had been verified and checked and all requirements had been met. Since there were no comments or objections from the floor, as ascertained by the Secretary General, it was unanimously decided to accept Burundi's application. ABADT was then accepted as association Member.

**ii. Exclusion**

The Secretary General, Mr Heiner Rogge, announced that in pursuit of the decision taken by the Presidency on October 7th the General Meeting was to consider the expulsion of Association Members from Nepal, Togo, Rwanda, Tunisia and Yemen for having failed to meet their financial obligations for more than two years. The Secretary General said that the Secretariat had tried continuously to contact them asking for payment but no response had been received. Therefore no other choice was left but to exclude these association members.

After hearing that there were no objections to the motion to exclude Nepal, it was unanimously decided to do so.

There was an objection from the floor to the exclusion of Rwanda from the President of the Tanzania Freight Forwarders Association and Secretary General for Federation of East Africa Freight Forwarders Associations. While this intervention was appreciated both the President and the Secretary General observed that it was too late. The Rwanda Freight Forwarders Association would anyway have the possibility to re-apply for membership if they chose to do so. Since there were no further objections to the motion to exclude Rwanda, the motion was carried.

Since there were no objections to the motion to exclude Togo, it was unanimously decided to do so.

Since there were no objections to the motion to exclude Tunisia, it was unanimously decided to do so.

Since there were no objections to the motion to exclude Yemen, it was unanimously decided to do so.

The Secretary General noted that our community would always be open and any member would be welcome at any time, should they feel they are ready to come back.

**6. Approval of the annual report 2010/2011 on the activities of FIATA (Doc. 30/290) pursuant to Article 5.2.1 (c) of the Statutes**

The President explained the main lines of the annual report 2010/2011 that had been distributed together with the call of meeting and agenda. He ascertained that there were no objections or abstentions to accept the report as submitted, and declared that it was unanimously approved.

**7. Financial matters:**

The President asked the Treasurer to take the floor to deal with this item of the agenda.

**7.1 Approval of the financial statements 2011 (Doc. 85/13B and 85/13C) pursuant to Article 5.2.1 (d) of the Statutes**

Treasurer William Gottlieb referred to the balance sheet and profit and loss statement of the fiscal year 2011. These documents had been circulated with the call of meeting and the agenda. He reported that FIATA remains financially sound. The financial year 2011 closed with a surplus of CHF 57,708.00 despite the 2011 budget having anticipated a deficit of CHF 67,000.00. After ascertaining that there were no questions or objections from the delegates the Treasurer took note that the financial statements had been unanimously approved.

**7.2 Approval of the budget 2013 (Doc. 85/13A) according to article 5.2.1 (d) of the Statutes**

The Treasurer continued by stating that the budget for the financial year 2013, showing a deficit of approximately CHF 41,000.00, had been circulated with the call of meeting and the agenda. The Treasurer apologised for the missing explanatory notes which normally accompanied the budget, these would be included in the future. The budget was put to the floor for approval. There was an objection from Robert Voltmann of TIA, who was not in favour of deficit budgeting. Having taken this into account the budget was approved by show of hands with one vote against its approval from TIA, United States.

**7.3 Acceptance of the auditor's report on the annual accounts 2011 pursuant to Article 5.2.1 (d) of the Statutes**

The auditor's report had been circulated with the call of meeting and the agenda. Since there were no comments, objections or abstentions the auditor's report was unanimously accepted by show of hands.

**8. Granting of discharge for the Presidency pursuant to Article 5.2.1 (g) of the Statutes**

At the President's request, the Director General said it was good practice in all associations that the General Meeting grants discharge to the work done by the Presidency in the previous year. At the director's request, BIFA (UK) proposed the motion to grant the Presidency members discharge from their responsibilities, while the association from Ghana (GIFF) seconded it. As there were no objections or abstentions, as ascertained by the Director General, the granting of discharge for the Presidency was carried.

**9. Ratification of Members' annual subscriptions for 2012 and adoption of Members' annual subscription scheme for 2013 pursuant to Article 4.7.2 and 5.2.1 (l) of the Statutes**

The Treasurer explained that the present membership fees scheme, as it had been used in the last few years, had been proposed for the year 2012 and there was no reason to suggest it should be changed for 2013. After ascertaining that there were no comments, objections or abstentions, the Treasurer took note that the ratification of the scheme for 2012 and its adoption for 2013 had been unanimously approved by the General Meeting.

**10. Granting or cancellation of Honorary Membership, if any**

At the President's motion, FIATA granted Honorary Membership to Mr Hermann Donker and Ms Christine D'Arcy by acclamation.

**11. Information on the FIATA Foundation Vocational Training**

Mr Da Ros took the floor and thanked the TIA delegation and the Secretariat for the success of the raffle, and the high number of tickets sold. He reported that individual members were still increasing their contributions which helped the foundation to achieve its mission. He also reported that this year a TOT course had been held in Tanzania. A note of thanks was extended to Thomas Sim for all his efforts in this organisation.

Mr Thomas Sim was then asked to take the floor. He briefed the delegation on the recent course in Tanzania. A video of the highlights of the course was screened. The President of TAFFA Mr Stephen Ngatunga thanked FIATA for making the programme possible and for its contribution to the development of knowledge in Tanzania.

**12. Any other business**

The President thanked Mr Frank Huster for his contributions and services to FIATA, and explained that he had taken up a new position in the German association and would be stepping down as Chairman of the ABDG.

The President presented the motion to obtain the General Meeting's endorsement to nominate Dr Yang Yuntao as deputy chairman of ABLM. At the President's request it was noted that there were no objections or abstentions from the floor and the nomination was unanimously endorsed.

A delegate from the floor requested that FIATA and TIA coordinate to ensure that all delegates who were denied visas to the US were refunded partially or in full for the amounts paid to attend the conference.

Mr Issa Baluch, chairman of the congress committee, announced that the 2015 FIATA World Congress would be held in Taiwan. He reported that the world congress handbook would be uploaded on the FIATA website in due course, that there would also be a hard copy available at the HQ Session in Zurich, and that the guide details the application and processes that are supposed to take place in preparation of the bid for the World Congress. He reported that WC 2016 was still open for those who were still interested in hosting the event, and that interested parties should submit their letters of intent by 31 December 2012 to the Secretariat. He added that at the HQ Session three candidates would be shortlisted, who would then present their bid at the 2013 World Congress in Singapore.

The President announced the date and place of the next meeting: 19 October 2013 in Singapore.

Finally President Stanley Lim closed the meeting at 10:40 and the session continued with the Congress's closing ceremony.