



CHARTER OF THE « FAIR TRADE IN EUROPE » FAIR

Objectives of « Fair Trade in Europe » fair – aim of this charter

Fair Trade in Europe aims at gathering the different stakeholders of the Fair Trade movement, in order to make the Fair Trade offer visible, to allow matching with demand, to develop this demand, to foster commercial partnerships and to give reliable information in the field of Fair Trade.

Moreover, Fair Trade in Europe aims at having a balanced representation of Fair Trade stakeholders coming from different European countries. The fair is open to stakeholders of all countries that wish to participate, and participants from Southern countries are most welcome.

Finally, Fair Trade in Europe seeks to show a diversity of stakeholders, projects and products in the field of Fair Trade, solidarity tourism and finances.

Guarantees

Exhibitors of Fair Trade in Europe must guarantee that their practices meet the standards of Fair Trade. Therefore, applications will be examined by a selection committee.

The organisers of Fair Trade in Europe are relying on the definition of FINE (2001) – which is the most widely recognised definition of Fair Trade:

« Fair Trade is a trading partnership, based on dialogue, transparency and respect, that seeks greater equity in international trade. It contributes to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions to, and securing the rights of, marginalized producers and workers – especially in the South. Fair Trade organisations (backed by consumers) are engaged actively in supporting producers, awareness raising and in campaigning for changes in the rules and practice of conventional international trade.

Fair Trade's strategic intent is:

- deliberately to work with marginalised producers and workers in order to help them move from a position of vulnerability to security and economic self-sufficiency*
- to empower producers and workers as stakeholders in their own organisations actively*
- to play a wider role in the global arena to achieve greater equity in international trade».*

See <http://www.fairtrade-advocacy.org/documents/FAIRTRADEFINITIONnewlayout2.pdf>

The organisers also refer to the national certification and acknowledgement systems existing in the different countries.

Finally, the organisers will take into consideration, if needed, a series of complementary information (on the basis of a questionnaire worked out by the Collectif des Associations de Développement en Rhône-Alpes) that will allow to highlight the main characteristics of the applicant's practices, such as minimum prices, work with groups of producers, pre-financing, development premium, environmental aspects...

The organisers will also ensure that the different approaches of Fair Trade are represented, that nationalities, types of stakeholders, projects and products in the fair are balanced.

Exhibitors' commitment

Each exhibitor certifies that his practices meet the Fair Trade criteria, in the spirit of this charter, of the FINE definition and of the organisations cited in the ANNEX 1.

Selection process / validation of applications

A selection committee (see ANNEX 2) will examine the application files, which must be filled out by all stakeholders wishing to book a stand. Applications are examined and validated according to their date of receipt.

Criteria to be met by merchant exhibitors :

The applicant must be able to guarantee its Fair Trade practices, by referring to recognised certification systems or acknowledgement networks (see ANNEX 1). If not, he will be invited to provide complementary information by filling out an extra information sheet. The selection committee will take a decision after examining the answers to this questionnaire.

The projects / activities of the applicant must have a North-South dimension.

For stakeholders non 100% specialised in Fair Trade : all products /activities presented at the fair must be Fair Trade.

The applicant must have a legal existence of at least one year when submitting the application.

Note : Some applicants can be accepted if proposed by a member of the steering committee.

Criteria to be met by non merchant exhibitors :

Non merchant applicants must show an obvious link with Fair Trade, such as working in the field of : promotion, education, surveys, procurement, producers' support, financing, human rights,...

Partners

Partners of the fair can be accepted as exhibitors : the partnership indicates that they are in coherence with the spirit of the fair.

Balance of the fair's composition

The organisers are reserving the right to put on a waiting list or to refuse any applicant that would be in a category already over-represented at the fair.

ANNEX 1 :

List of plat-forms and organisations of which membership grants acceptance to the fair :

- Europe / International: NEWS, Worldshops associations, IFAT, EFTA; TEN, DANTE, Oxfam
- France : PFCE, Artisans du Monde, Minga, ATES; regional Fair Trade organisations
- Germany : Forum Fairer Handel, Eine-Welt-Netz, Weltläden
- Spain : Coordinadora Estatal (CECJ)
- Italy : Agices
- Switzerland : Helvetas
- UK : BAFTS

This list is not exhaustive and can be broadened by the selection committee.

Certifications, labels or brands constituting a guarantee :

- FLO (Max Havelaar, Transfair, Fairtraide)
- IFAT (FTO Mark)
- Ecocert / ESR
- Bioéquitable
- Step, Rugmark

This list is not exhaustive and can be broadened by the selection committee.

ANNEX 2 :

Members of the selection committee

The members of the selection committee are chosen as to represent a diverse group and having a good knowledge of Fair Trade, and are linked to the steering committee :

- one representative of Equi'Sol
- one representative of PFCE
- one representative of CADR
- one representative of IFAT
- one representative of the City of Lyon