

**WYSE Travel Confederation  
Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

**Date:** 24 September 2024

**Time:** 15:30 WEST

**Location:** Alfama suites 1-2-3 , Hyatt Regency Lisbon  
Rua da Junqueira, 63, Lisbon, Portugal, 1300-343

**1. Call to order**

Chairperson of the Management Board, Sebastien Leitner (Cloudbeds), introduced members of the Management Board.

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

Sebastien Leitner (Cloudbeds), Chairperson of the Management Board, was appointed AGM Chairperson and David Chapman, Director General of WYSE Travel Confederation, the AGM Secretary.

**3. Approval of minutes of previous AGM**

The AGM Chairperson called for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous AGM.

Motion: Dave Dahl (Wise Foundation)

Second: Carye Duffin (CIEE)

The minutes of the previous AGM were approved.

**4. Adoption of the Agenda**

The AGM Chairperson called for a motion to adopt the agenda for the AGM.

Motion: Diogo Vaz Ferreira (Clink Hostels)

Second: Bill Gertz (AIFS)

The agenda for the AGM was adopted.

## 5. Report on Confederation activities

The Director General provided a report to members on the activities of the association over the past year. The report is summarised as follows:

**Events:** The 2024 events, STAY WYSE Munich, ITB Berlin and WETM-IAC Krakow, were successful. WETM-IAC is scheduled to take place in Alicante in 2025 and move to a week-day schedule. Attendance for WYSTC 2024 is up, including many new buyers and sponsorship. A new registration system and pricing scheme was successfully implemented. The local Volunteer Project, WYSE Up and Thirty under 30 ticket continued, though with limited pick up on the Thirty under 30 ticket. New this year is an AI chatbot for conference attendees. Efforts to reduce food waste at social events, especially the GYTAs, continue to be implemented.

**Education:** A variety of educational sessions and “other stuff on the buffet” (podcasts, webinars, online content and social media) had been organised and published for members over the year, including a new ‘how to’ theme at WYSTC. Some of the notable speakers were mentioned.

**Sector Panels:** There has been increased activity of some of the Sector Panels this year, especially in generated articles about industry developments.

**Research:** New Horizons research findings have been published throughout the year in more ‘bite-sized’ articles and graphics. We completed two bespoke research projects, one for New York City Tourism + Conventions and the other for HI USA.

The AGM Chairperson called for a motion to accept the report on association activities.

Motion: Jacqui Fox (TWIN Group)

Second: Patricia Brunner (IAPA)

The report on association activities was accepted.

## 6. Report on Confederation finances

The Director General explained that efforts were being made to increase automation and better integrate and streamline systems and administrative process.

The recent move to outsource finance administration has resulted in delays in the audited accounts and budget. An EGM will be scheduled to take place online in December 2024 in order to approve the accounts and new candidates for currently empty seats on Sector Panels.

The association's financial performance was summarised as an increase for some and a decrease for other costs (2024 vs 2023) with a EUR 64,000 profit predicted for year end 2024.

Questions from the floor:

Bill Gertz (AIFS) remarked that a 'big bang' could be made if you could take many organisations and put them together on a working group to figure out how to avoid "all these small conferences".

The Director General responded that these 'other' 'small conferences' answer business needs for specific sectors and product cycles and that getting rid of them did not make good sense.

The balance sheet for WYSE Travel Confederation year-end 2023 was displayed for information.

The AGM Chairperson called for an approval to extend the period for presenting annual accounts, delaying until the EGM in December 2024. The 2024 accounts would be presented at WYSTC 2025.

Motion: Dave Dahl (Wise Foundation)

Second: Pieter van der Zeeuw (Omniboost)

An extension to the period for presenting the annual accounts was approved.

## 7. Appointment of auditors

The AGM Chairperson called for a motion to approve the appointment of auditors Voragen Finance Control Risk Management and KIK.

Motion: Carrye Duffin (CIEE)

Second: Diogo Vaz Ferreira (Clink Hostels)

The AGM Chairperson called for a motion to approve the appointment Voragen as auditors for 2023

Motion: Dave Dahl, Wise Foundation

Second: Pieter van der Zeeuw (Omniboost)

## **8. Membership report**

The Director General provided an update on membership levels for the past year, noting that numbers were still not at 2019 levels, but likely would be within the next few years. The type of membership that organisations were choosing to take has differed since the pandemic, with more organisations choosing the cheapest option possible.

A list of new member organisations was displayed.

The AGM Chairperson called for a motion to ratify the new member organisations.

Motion: Nick Pound (World Nomads)

Second: Jacqui Fox (TWIN Group)

The Director General noted that roughly 20 organisations would be disaffiliated.

## **9. Panel and Board vacancies**

The Director General explained that the Accommodation, Cultural Exchange and Study Abroad Sector Panels have vacant seats open to new candidates and that interested members could contact him about the opportunities.

## **10. Appointment of Nominations Committee for 2025**

The Director General noted that the Nominations Committee for 2025 is open for new committee members and to contact him about this if there is interest in participating.

## **11. Any other business**

The Director General commented on future destinations for WYSTC, explaining that WYSTC will remain in Lisbon for the foreseeable future in order to de-risk the financials of the activity. However, bids from new destinations are always welcome for consideration.

## 12. Date of next AGM and EGM

An EGM will be held online on 12 December 2024. The next AGM will be held at WYSTC in Lisbon on 23 September 2025.

The meeting was adjourned.