



## Executive Board Member Statement to all WFTGA Members:

At the 16<sup>th</sup> WFTGA Prague Convention from January 26<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015, 41 countries were present with participants and Delegates. World Federation of Tourist Guide Associations at this moment has 50 member-countries, and if all had sent Delegates or Proxies to Prague, a maximum of 50 votes would have been possible. Thirty-two (32) officially accepted country votes by physically present Delegates took part in the General Assembly; these Delegates had the written supporting letters from their Federation and/or Association, brought/sent to Executive Board by the Opening of the General Assembly on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 9AM.

The countries present were (*Countries which gave correct proxies are marked with \**):

Albania	Egypt	Italy	Singapore
Armenia	Estonia	Japan	Slovakia
Australia	Germany	Latvia	South Africa
Austria	Great Britain	Netherlands	Spain*
Canada	Greece	Peru	Sweden
Cyprus	India*	Philippines	Thailand
Czech Republic	Indonesia*	Russia	Turkey
Denmark	Iran	Serbia	USA

The General Assembly is the highest legal entity according to the WFTGA Constitution. Any election – either for individuals standing for Executive Board or the Bidder for the next WFTGA Convention - needs to be done in secret ballots, with a minimum of 50% plus one vote. Out of the 32 present votes, this minimum was  $16 + 1 = 17$  votes.

The bidders for the 2017 convention were Denmark, Iran and Singapore. Each had given intensive research and man-power to prepare and fulfil the official bid document and cover all deadlines. Already in the first round of secret ballot, the winner received 18 votes: it was in favour of Iran. The 17<sup>th</sup> WFTGA Convention will be held in Tehran from January 28<sup>th</sup> – February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

The vote was checked and recounted by the officially appointed Parliamentarian and Aides; the original papers are filed and they are all correct. The proven legal process was followed by all members sitting in the General Assembly of WFTGA's Prague Convention.

With every General Assembly, the majority of Delegates decides the next WFTGA convention location. The Prague General Assembly decided upon Iran as the destination for WFTGA's 2017 Convention. It is the free choice of each individual member whether to travel to any destination, including WFTGA conventions.

WFTGA is a Non-Governmental, Non-Commercial, Non-Political Federation: these principles were signed by each Member when applying for WFTGA membership. We support UNWTO Ethos, have our Code of Conduct, stand for quality and professionalism: Please fulfil our own principles by accepting the democratic vote and join in borderless qualified tourism as a unifying peace- bringing tool!

The Executive Board of World Federation of Tourist Guide Associations - WFTGA  
February 2015