

**Dear Finnish Trade Guild Member,**

**The 2015 Annual General Meeting of the Finnish Trade Guild (FTG) took place on February 24th at the Finnish Embassy in Warsaw. Participating 20 members approved the Guild's 2014 activity report and finances and the 2015 activity plan, elected the 2015 FTG Board members as well as nominated the FTG representatives for the Board of the Scandinavian-Polish Chamber of Commerce (SPCC).**

The meeting also adopted **a unanimous motion** addressed to the Board of the SPCC, and **a unanimous opinion** concerning a proposed change to the SPCC statutes.

The meeting was followed by a reception hosted by Ambassador Mrs. **Hanna Lehtinen**, during which she shared with participants a topical update on Finnish-Polish cooperation and upcoming events.

#### FTG Annual General Meeting rejects proposal to change SPCC statutes

FTG Board members informed participants of a proposal to change the SPCC statutes so that SPCC Chairman's current statutory term limit, maximum four consecutive years, is abolished. This means that **a person representing one of the national sections could become lifelong SPCC Chairman**. The proposal was put forward by a majority vote, 3-2, at the SPCC Board meeting on February 3, 2015, with the aim of having it approved and passed at the **SPCC Annual General Assembly on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015**.

Members noted with major concern that SPCC Board members proposing to abolish the SPCC Chairman's statutory maximum term limit also stated their view that the agreement regarding periodical rotation of the SPCC Chairmanship between the four founding national sections should not be respected anymore, even if they would have qualified and interested candidates.

The above proposal to change the SPCC statutes was **unanimously rejected** by the meeting participants. With an eye on the upcoming SPCC Annual General Assembly, the meeting participants **approved unanimously of a related opinion**, addressed to fellow members of the Chamber. To read and to download and share this opinion with your fellow SPCC members, [please click here](#).

#### The 2015 FTG Board

The following persons were elected to the 2015 FTG Board:

**Johan Puotila**, Confero Consulting, Chairman, [jpuotila@conferopr.com](mailto:jpuotila@conferopr.com)

**Anitta Koskio**, ExpatHouse, Vice Chairman, [anitta.koskio@expathousesolutions.com](mailto:anitta.koskio@expathousesolutions.com)

**Piotr Prus**, ECOVIS Milczarek I Wspólnicy Kancelaria Prawna, Board Member, [piotr.prus@ecovis.com](mailto:piotr.prus@ecovis.com)

**Anna Maria Kalamaja**, Suomen Unipol, Board Member, [suomen.unipol.pl@unipol.fi](mailto:suomen.unipol.pl@unipol.fi)

**Pauli Rumbin**, HT Laser, Board Member, [pauli.rumbin@htlaser.fi](mailto:pauli.rumbin@htlaser.fi)

**Kari Vähäkangas**, Finpro, Board Member, [Kari.Vahakangas@finpro.fi](mailto:Kari.Vahakangas@finpro.fi)

**Marcin Bruszewski**, Fortum, Deputy Board Member, [marcin.bruszewski@fortum.com](mailto:marcin.bruszewski@fortum.com)

**Mika Leppänen**, Lemminkäinen, Deputy Board Member, [mika.leppanen@lemminkainen.com](mailto:mika.leppanen@lemminkainen.com)

**Pekka Männistö**, OpusCapita, Deputy Board Member, [pekka.mannisto@opuscapita.com](mailto:pekka.mannisto@opuscapita.com)

**Johan Puotila**, **Anitta Koskio** and **Piotr Prus** were nominated as FTG representatives to the SPCC Board, for the Chamber's upcoming Annual General Assembly.

On behalf of the newly elected Board I want to thank our members for their trust.

#### Adding concrete value to SPCC membership

Adding further concrete value to SPCC membership is the only way to secure the Chamber's future in terms of membership retention and attracting new members across Poland. FTG therefore warmly welcomes the **basic legal advice service to SPCC members** that started in late spring of 2015.

The idea of offering SPCC members basic legal advice services was presented to the SPCC Board in form of a unanimous resolution adopted by the FTG Annual General Meeting in 2011. Corresponding member service was already in place since a long time in numerous Chambers of Commerce located in the Nordic countries, having become one of their most valued membership benefits. FTG therefore felt that if introduced, such a concrete member service could over time become as popular and appreciated also in Poland.

We encourage our members to sign up and to capitalize on this new member service where needed, especially as it can be benefited from equally, no matter a member's location in Poland.

#### The role of Finnish Trade Guild

FTG has a distinct and important role to play in bringing the Finnish business community and friends of Finland in Poland together and in providing a Finnish context, angle and edge to their SPCC membership. This the FTG Board will continue building on, together with our members, and with the crucial support of our corporate sponsors.

We will continue looking into opportunities **to promote our members and their legitimate business interests** in Poland, both through active participation in the work of the SPCC Board and our own distinct activities. In doing so the Chamber can learn from corresponding activities by Chambers of Commerce in Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Norway. FTG events such as the *Summer Picnic* and the *Independence Day's Night* continue to be important in bringing a large number of our members, business partners and friends of Finland together and in enhancing **social and business networking**.

FTG continues to support and to cooperate with all parties sharing the goal of renovating and preserving at least some of Warsaw's so called **Finnish houses, or "Suomitalot"**, erected soon after WWII and constituting a genuinely historical part of the Warsaw that was rebuilt following the devastating destruction of the capital. The preserved houses could contain for example a permanent exhibition of the re-building of Warsaw, serve as meeting premises and promote different Finnish products, services, know how and design.

We look forward to an active and productive year 2015. If and when you as a member have ideas on the development of FTG and the Chamber's activities and services or cooperation opportunities between your company and FTG or the Chamber, please feel free to contact me or any of the other FTG Board members at any time.

Tapaamisiin!

Johan Puotila  
Chairman