

Puolan Suomalainen Kauppakilta - Finnish Trade Guild in Poland

BOARD ACTIVITY REPORT JANUARY 1, 2014 – DECEMBER 31, 2014

I. General

The following persons were elected to FTG Board at the **2014 Annual General Meeting** on February 11, 2014.

Board Members:

Johan Puotila (Confero Consulting, Managing Director) Chairman
Piotr Pruś (ECOVIS Milczarek & Partners Law Firm, Partner) Deputy Chairman
Anna Maria Kalamaja (Suomen Unipol Poland, Key Account Manager)
Harri Reiman (Leinonen Poland, Managing Director)
Pauli Rumbin (HT Laser, Managing Director)
Kari Vähäkangas (Finpro, Head of Finpro Poland)

Deputy Board Members:

Marcin Bruszewski (Fortum, Head of Legal Affairs Region Poland)
Mika Leppänen (Lemminkäinen Polska Sp. z o.o., Managing Director)
Pekka Männistö (OpusCapita, Business Development Manager)

The FTG 2014 Annual General Meeting also elected **three FTG representatives to the SPCC Board**: *Johan Puotila, Piotr Pruś* and *Harri Reiman* (Deputy Board Member).

Johan Puotila was elected by the SPCC Board as one of the three Vice Chairmen for SPCC Board.

During 2014, FTG was represented in all SPCC Board meetings by at least one FTG representative.

The FTG Board held **8 regular meetings** during the year, and several informal working meetings. In the first meeting on February 27th the Board updated the 2013 SWOT analysis for FTG and based on that set as its **objectives for 2014**:

1. Retain current members and attract new members (goal to grow + 5 members net);
2. Raise FTG profile among members and potential members;
3. Successful implementation by SPCC of basic legal advice services.

To achieve this, the Board adopted the following **key strategies**:

- Organize high quality FTG social/business events of interest to members, building on past experiences;
- Engage also potential new members in FTG activities, using events as a membership recruitment tool and for spreading information on FTG and SPCC.
- Plan for and aim at media coverage of FTG/SPCC activities and events where ever possible;

- Work closely with SPCC board in order to achieve successful implementation of new services provided by SPCC for its members (like basic legal advice).

II. FTG Membership

During the year, **FTG net corporate membership grew by 1 member**, from 61 to 62. While six new companies joined FTG, five however resigned from membership during the year. In addition FTG had three honorary members; *Embassy of Finland, Embassy of Estonia and Finpro*.

New members joining FTG were *Coreflect Oy, Paulig Coffee Poland Sp. z o.o., Ahola Transport Sp. z o.o., Snazzy Marketing, Alteams Poland, Miilux Poland Sp. zo.o.*

Resigning were *Treston Sp. z o.o., Wydawnictwo Kojro, Accace Sp. z o.o., Oras Oleśno, Tikkurila Polska SA.*

SPCC corporate membership increased in 2014 from 337 to 341.

III. FTG Activities During 2014

The below summary covers **events organized by FTG**, not those of any of our cooperation partners or any of the numerous events organized by SPCC.

FTG organized its **Annual General Meeting** on February 11th, 2014 at the premises of the Embassy of Finland in Warsaw. Present were 21 representatives of FTG member companies. During the meeting Ambassador *Jari Vilen* presented a topical review of European and bi-lateral issues of interest, and the meeting was followed by a cocktail event hosted by Ambassador Vilen.

On the occasion of 2014 **Winter Olympic Games in Sochi**, FTG organized on February 16th a hockey event at Champions Sports Bar in Warsaw. 15 FTG members and friends of Finnish ice hockey gathered to watch the Canada - Finland game, and also a few Canadian supporters showed up. A similar FTG event was organized also in Krakow with the support of local SPCC representative *Ilkka Cristian Niemi*.

On the occasion of **2014 Ice Hockey World Championships in Mińsk**, FTG organized on May 24th a hockey event at Pure Sky Club's private cinema in Warsaw. 10 FTG members and friends of Finnish ice hockey gathered to watch the Czech Republic - Finland game, with former Finnish National Team forward *Harri Tuohimaa* providing expert commentary and insights to the game.

On June 11th FTG members visited EU **Border Agency Frontex**. Administrative Division Director *Sakari Vuorensola* introduced Frontex and gave an update on recent activities in the field of European border security. The participants had also the opportunity to enjoy a buffet dinner and the Frontex sauna. The event was attended by 15 members.

The traditional **“FTG Summer Picnic”** was organized at *Wilanow Golf Parks* on June 14th with more than 200 participants, despite of the less than optimal weather, including HE Ambassador of Finland Mr *Jari Vilen* and Ms *Eva Söregi-Vilen*. The participants enjoyed the picnic, the program as well as the good food and liquid refreshments. Many

of them participated in the Kemira Polish Open “Mölkky” Championship contest and the Ecovis “Mökkitikka” – Finnish darts - contest. Also a lottery with prizes donated by member companies was organized and lottery proceeds of 3 150 PLN were donated in full to the Jan Mela Foundation for handicapped persons.

A warm thank you goes to the event's **Main Sponsors** *Kemira* and *Nordea*, **Gold Sponsors** *Barona*, *Ecovis*, *Polar Logistics* and *StoraEnso*, **Silver Sponsors** *HT Laser*, *OpusCapita* and *Wärtsilä* and **Cooperation Partners** *Cargortec*, *C.K. Fish*, *Dobre Wina*, *Finlandia*, *Finnair*, *Fiskars*, *Paulig* and *Tactic Games*.

On September 27st 32 FTG members and friends of Finland attended the **10th Anniversary FTG “Rapujuhla” - Crayfish Party** in Warsaw at the Hotel Intercontinental Hemisphere Bar. Guests enjoyed the beautiful set-up, traditional singing, the tasty crayfish and the creamy salmon soup prepared by *C.K. Fish*, the event sponsor. In attendance as guests of honor was also Mrs. *Hanna Lehtinen*, the Finnish Ambassador to Poland.

On October 23rd FTG organized in cooperation with and courtesy of the Finnish Embassy and Finpro a **meeting with Aalto University Professor Sixten Korkman**, one of the top economic thinkers in Finland who served previously as Director of the Research Institute of Finnish Economy (ETLA) and Director General at the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers in Brussels. Mr. Korkman shared his views on the economic situation and trends in Europe, the history and future of the Euro, Poland's upcoming Euro membership and the Finnish experience of the European Monetary Union, among other. His interesting and direct views were followed by many questions and a lively discussion with an audience of 33 participants.

On December 5th FTG organized the fifth **“Independence Day's Night”** event at *Pure Sky Club*, to celebrate the 97th Anniversary of the Finnish independence. During the evening participants had the opportunity to socialize, listen to music of all sorts, to dance and to enjoy good food and drinks. The event proved once again very popular, with 115 members and friends of Finland in attendance. The Independence day celebration was importantly and kindly supported by **sponsors** *Fortum*, *Barona* and *Martela* and **cooperation partners** *Finlandia* and *Finnair*.

To see pictures of these 2014 FTG events, members can visit:

<http://www.spcc.pl/en/sekcja/finlandia/2014>

IV. Actions aimed to execute the resolution adopted by 2011 FTG Annual General Meeting regarding providing basic legal advice services by SPCC.

The AGM of SPCC included in the 2013 budget funds for providing basic legal advice services to members during 2013.

In 2013 the SPCC board decided by majority of votes, 5 to 2, to provide this services to members by outsourcing it to a law firm, as opposed to having one employee with a legal degree on the Chamber's payroll, as proposed by FTG.

The related tender process, initiated in December 2013, was finalized in the Spring of 2014. FTG representatives Piotr Prus and Johan Puotila took active part in the drafting of required documentation and in interviewing interested law firms.

Following the recommendation of a SPCC Board Working Group, the Board decided to retain law Firm *Smolarek Rogala, Caban – Attorneys at law (SRC)* to provide the service, under agreed terms. First information on the new service went out and the providing of advice services to SPCC members started in May 2014.

This concluded the initiative presented by FTG to the SPCC Board in the Fall of 2010 and formalized through a unanimous motion to the SPCC Board by the FTG 2011 Annual General Meeting, asking the Board to take action to provide basic legal advice services to members, following the popular and well established model set by numerous Chambers of Commerce in the Nordic region.

FTG Board believes that this can over time become a much appreciated and important added-value service to members also in Poland, especially as it can be provided equally to all members, no matter their location.

V. Amendments to SPCC statutes

The SPCC Board decided during the year to look into proposing some clarifications to the current statutes of SPCC. FTG representatives took active part in the subsequent review of the statutes.

The aim was mainly to clarify language and procedures, without material changes to principles set forth in statutes. A two person working group including Piotr Prus from FTG was set to come with necessary proposals.

However, during the related Board reviews of the Working Group proposals in Fall of 2014 it was suggested by representatives of the Norwegian Business club that the statutory term limit for the SPCC Chairman – *“may be re-elected for the next term however for a maximum period of four consecutive years”* – should be interpreted in a way that enables a four-time re-election following the initial first election, thereby applying a maximum term of 5 consecutive years.

FTG contacted a previous SPCC Board member who participated in drafting and deciding on the current version of the statutes. He confirmed that the purpose of the SPCC AGM approved statutes in 2008 had been to limit any Chairman to a maximum term of four consecutive years, to avoid the risk of stagnating the Chamber. FTG shared this information with the rest of the SPCC Board.

It was also proposed during the Board's statute review discussions that moving forward and as of 2015, the existing reference to a SPCC Chairman's term limit should be abolished altogether from the SPCC statutes, thereby enabling the same Chairman to be re-elected by majority of his Board colleagues “as long as he feels like continuing”.

The FTG Board discussed the issue and rejected unanimously this idea. FTG presented its statute review related views and related justifications to the SPCC Board in a written statement dated November 12, 2014.

No unanimity on the matter of whether the SPCC Board will propose abolishing the SPCC Chairman's four-year term limit from the SPCC statutes was achieved by the end of the year. Any SPCC Board decision on this issue is unlikely to be unanimous or supported by all the National Sections represented.

VI. Other

FTG continued to open many of its events also to “friends of Finland”, to increase awareness of the Guild, its activities and Finnish culture, business, know how and traditions and to attract new members.

Circa 470 persons attended different FTG events during the year, compared to ca. 600 in 2013, 490 in 2012 and 460 in 2011. Biggest difference compared to last year's event attendance number was the Summer Picnic, due to rainy weather. Participation in FTG events was maintained free of charge for members, with the exception of the Crayfish Party.

During 2014 FTG received an annual budget allocation of 18 000 PLN from SPCC for organizing national section events. In addition corporate sponsors kindly provided a total of 41 260 PLN in support of specific FTG activities. This corporate support was crucial to achieving the 2014 activity level with broad participation.

Warsaw 5th of February 2015

Board of Finnish Trade Guild

Johan Puotila

Piotr Prus

Anna Maria Kalamaja

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