Executive Board Member Statement to all WFTGA Members:

At the 16th WFTGA Prague Convention from January 26th – 31st, 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 25th, 9AM.

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

Albania    Armenia    Australia    Austria    Canada    Cyprus    Czech Republic    Denmark

Egypt      Estonia      Germany      Great Britain      Greece      India*      Indonesia*      Iran

Italy      Japan        Latvia       Netherlands      Peru        Philippines      Russia       Serbia

Singapore  Slovakia     South Africa  Spain*        Sweden      Thailand       Turkey       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 17th WFTGA Convention will be held in Tehran from January 28th – February 1st, 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