
Putting members at the heart of the association

Information for members on upcoming governance changes

December 2017
Our vision is of a world where all trade delivers social, environmental and economic benefits for everyone – what we call ‘Trade with Purpose’. Strong and dynamic governance will help make that vision a reality. We want you to be a part of it.

Help make us fit for the future

Vision 2030 – our long-term strategy to take our organisation forward – starts in January 2018. Our new vision will put us on a strong footing to take on new challenges and answer the needs of your businesses. It has meant questioning how we do things, including how we are governed. We have reshaped our structure to support this vision and give you a clearer voice. Play a part in ensuring that your voice is heard.

We have adapted our governance system to take account of the growth of our Networks and diversity of our operations. Our evolved structure is simpler, more flexible and coherent; and reflects our more integrated approach and shared purpose. It will increase information sharing and further support a transparent decision-making process. It will enable us to expand our global reach and improve our local impact. To interact better to you.

Putting members at the heart of the organisation

Good governance is about finding the best possible process for making good decisions. For us, that means giving members a strong voice in the development of our organisation. We want you to participate actively in the way amfori evolves and in the strategy that we follow. To become the change-makers that take our organisation into the future.

What it means for you

The new governance structure will benefit our members. Your voices will come through more strongly through the Member Advisory Council (amfori MAC), Project Groups and Networks – put yourself forward to be part of one of these bodies and help to drive our shared future. We will be better able to meet your needs through our simpler governance, and our new structure makes it clear how to let us know what you think. It puts you at the heart of the organisation.

Objectives for good governance

1. Lead the organisation with a participatory approach
2. Exercise control over the organisation
3. Be transparent and accountable
4. Work efficiently
5. Behave with integrity

The new governance structure means that you are able to make a difference to all our futures. To help us all do better business. To trade with purpose.

We will have better participation and integration of the Networks

Our Networks and Network Committees will ensure that the views from every region are reflected and improve the information flow to and from members.

There will be stronger dialogue between stakeholders

The Stakeholder Advisory Council (amfori SAC) will have a wider scope and ensure we get input from a broad range of organisations.

It provides greater clarity around roles and responsibilities and gives members greater answerability

The new overall structure makes it clearer what each part of the governance structure is for, creates a simpler feedback mechanism and puts members at the heart of the organisation.

We will be able to increase our adaptability and efficiency to meet members’ needs

The internal rules translate our by-laws into simpler language and allow us to take decisions more quickly, in a way that responds to both our rapidly changing world and our members’ views.

Our members’ voices will come through even stronger as the change-makers that guide our organisation forward

You will guide the shape, strategy and activities of amfori as part of our Member Advisory Council (amfori MAC), Project Groups and Networks. You will be an active part of our governance and drive our decision-making from a strategic and practical perspective.
The New Structure

Our governance structure

- Defined in by-laws, adopted by the General Assembly
- Defined in internal rules, adopted by the Board of Directors

General Assembly

Board of Directors
- President
- Vice President

Financial Committee

Ad hoc Committees and Councils

Member Advisory Council

Networks

Secretariat

Stakeholder Advisory Council

Project Groups

We will be able to increase our adaptability and efficiency to meet members’ needs

The by-laws are complemented by the internal rules. We have developed them to be more flexible and agile, so that we can reflect members’ views more accurately in our ongoing decision-making process. We are able to fine-tune the rules over time to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

Be a change-maker

We want you to put yourself forward for membership of the amfori MAC, Project Groups and Network Committees. You can submit your candidacy in January 2018 and appointments will be made in March 2018. Seize the opportunity to take part and make sure the members’ voice is heard.
Join Our Governance and Become a Change-Maker

Put your candidacy forward for the following groups:

Member Advisory Council
The Member Advisory Council (amfori MAC) means that all our members’ interests will be better represented. Members will provide the Board with expert strategic guidance from a business perspective – on long-term issues related to the type of members, services, and trade and sustainability matters. amfori MAC will be made up of up to nine members who will seek to represent all sizes, geographies and sectors of our membership. Why not put yourself forward?

Project Groups
The overall purpose of the Project Groups is to provide operational advice to the association on particular topics from an implementation perspective. They are an evolution of our existing Working Groups, but more focused. They will be created by the Secretariat on an ad-hoc basis, and their powers, purpose and composition will be determined accordingly. They will enable us to respond in a timely manner as particular issues arise and ensure that members’ views are taken into account. They will be more specific, efficient and aligned with the organisation’s overall objectives.

Networks
The importance of our Networks has grown each year and this new structure reflects by giving them a formal role within the organisation’s governance, which recognises their increased support to our members. This new structure is designed to provide country- or region-specific guidance to the association on both strategic issues and operational aspects. The Secretariat can create a Network and Network Committee to respond to a specific need. Their key role will be to mobilise, consult with and communicate to members in their area. This means that views from each region will be better reflected and will improve the information flow to and from members.

The following other governance groups exist to support our organisation:

General Assembly
amfori will be governed by the General Assembly, which is made up of all ordinary and associate members. The General Assembly takes decisions on issues including the appointment and dismissal of directors, approval of the annual accounts and the appointment of the statutory auditor.

Board of Directors
The Board is responsible for the running of amfori and is the decision-making authority, taking advice from the amfori MAC and amfori SAC. Its composition reflects the diversity of our association, including retailers, importers and brands from different sectors and geographies.

Stakeholder Advisory Council
The scope of the Stakeholder Advisory Council (amfori SAC) is much wider than the current council – it will be able to provide advice on any sustainable trade-related issues, giving us much broader input from the key organisations we work with. amfori SAC will provide the Board with expert guidance from an external perspective, bringing a broader view on current developments. It will be made up of up to nine members and up to five observers, representing amfori’s key partners and reflecting its diverse geography, size and activity.

Secretariat
The amfori Secretariat comprises experts across all aspects of open and sustainable trade, as well as staff to manage the day-to-day of the association, and provide operational support. We are here to serve you, our members.

Ad-Hoc Committees
Our ability to respond to new challenges is crucial for the world today. To be able to be responsive to changes that occur and issues that arise, the Board will be able to set up ad-hoc committees and councils as appropriate.
Help amfori step forward with purpose
Time to be a change-maker.
Next steps.

2017

Mid-December
Release of communication to members, including governance brochure, FAQs and webinar

End December
BSCI Steering Committee and current Working Groups will finish their mandate

2018

January
FTA becomes amfori

amfori
Trade with purpose

Release of communication to members, including webinar around new governance

Launch of candidacy phase for amfori MAC, Project Groups and Network Committees in some countries

Mapping of amfori SAC candidates by Secretariat

February
Start of pre-selection via online voting

March
Appointment of amfori MAC and amfori SAC by the amfori Board
Appointment of Project Groups and Network Committees by the amfori Secretariat
All bodies ready to work

12–13 June
amfori Unleash Opportunity Conference in Amsterdam
For more information about amfori, please visit our website or contact us:

**Email** info@fta-intl.org

**Phone** +32 2 762 05 51

www.fta-intl.org

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