

Meeting notes

Date 2nd June 2020
Location: Via Conference & Video Call

Attendees:

Committee Chairs: **Victoria Moorhouse - Costa, Krisztina Szalai - Taylors of Harrogate**

BCA: Paul Rooke – BCA Executive Director
Tracy Brown – BCA Secretariat

Committee: Roxy Rocks-Engelman – Cafédirect
Dominic Spencer - Costa
Jenny Breadmore - FFI
Nigel Hallam – FFI
Joanne Caffrey - JDE
Julie Gallacher – Nespresso
Kathryn Patchett – Taylors of Harrogate
Colin Robertson – Taylors of Harrogate
Alice Tolan – Taylors of Harrogate

SHED: Sebastian Stokes
Alice Sinclair

Presenters: Tom Campbell-White - European Strategic Development Director - DS Smith Recycling
Francesca Micallef - Senior Sustainability Consultant – Salter Baxter
Huw Maggs - Deputy Managing Director and Head of Strategy – Salter Baxter

Apologies: Tom Blackwall – Finlays (BCA Chair)
Louise Lloyd-Rossi – FFI
Hannah Eatough – Taylors of Harrogate

Subject **BCA Sustainability Committee Meeting**

1. Competition Law Rules

It was proposed that the meeting would run under the revised FDF competition law compliance rules previously distributed.

PR noted the Anti-trust statement during the meeting.

2. Notes from the Last Meeting

The minutes were approved.

3. Welcome & Introductions

VM went round the virtual room and introductions were made.

4. News Round-Up

(led by Sebastian Stokes)

SS noted that no surprise that C-19 has dominated the media.

The BCA has seen coverage has been seen in The Grocer, with a focus on coffee supplies under strain in producing countries, coordinating interviews with members on how the industry has been working hard on continuing supplies into the UK.

Allegra and the World Coffee Portal have been putting together some interesting perspectives on how technology and focussing on quality could actually lead to a more resilient industry in the future. This is very much the sentiment of the FDF who have been calling on the Government and businesses to put together a recovery plan on more green and sustainable practices.

The Sunday Times did a negative piece on coffee shops refusing reusable cups during the pandemic.

SS noted that as lock down eases the sustainability issues will come front and centre once again around the circular economy practices.

SS added that the BCA has been engaging with the plastics tax consultation with Public Affairs consultant Matthew Orman. The consultation has been extended to the 20th August, and the BCA are seeking views of the Members in regard to our submission to this.

SS noted that Brexit is again on the agenda, and stated that the UK Trade Tariff Policy has been released. If no deal with the EU by the end of the year then we will switch to these tariffs.

SS added in regard to Brexit the other piece is around the immigration policy, and the points-based system that will be reviewed in Parliament in the coming months. What the C-19 virus has shown is that low skilled workers are fundamental to the UK.

The BCA has been partnering with NHS Coffee Appeal with over 900 machines donated to the NHS and nearly 2 million cups of coffee. We have been running a campaign called #CoffeeCheer – support pours in from coffee companies to help fuel NHS staff in the UK.

5. Presentation from Salter Baxter (Presentation Attached Separately)

VM introduced Salter Baxter.

HM introduced himself FM, and gave a brief overview of the work that Salter Baxter undertake, such as strategy reporting and sustainability consultancy.

- HM noted that there has been a sea change of opinion in the last 5-10 years.
- 2020 was set to be a year of momentum then C-19 hit!
- HM noted for a number of companies there has been no change in ambition to become a carbon neutral company, but we will have to see how things will flush out.
- But, because of C-19 there has been a pause on the regulatory and policy agenda at this time.
- What is interesting is the convergence that we are just starting to see with pandemic and wider climates crisis, many are becoming aware of the risks to the long-term wellbeing of the planet and its people. When we look at the coverage there is the clear links between C-19 and the climate crisis.
- There could be some interesting challenges ahead.
- But there is a desire to re-build but better and to have a green recovery.
- There are silver linings, and corporate stakeholders to reposition/reboot for the future.

- FM noted that initial responses from business that were focused on finding ways to protect workers, families and broader communities. These are short-term initiatives but it is hoped that longer term activities will be enacted.
- Companies have shifted to respond to changing consumer demands, with health and wellbeing at the centre of the conversation
- Sustainable consumption is on the rise, and an opportunity for a more sustainable lifestyle.
- Consumers are looking to brands they trust, 60% turning to those companies. Some brands more trusted than Governments.
- FM noted how existing trends have further impacted by C-19.
- HM noted that the road will continue to be bumpy and be difficult to predict, but for companies that to commit to sustainability, will come out stronger as we come through the crisis.

PR asked what HM thoughts are on the willingness and the ability especially for coffee in the origin countries if their Governments and Companies might be seeing things, are they seeing things from the same perspective. PR asked FM noted that the longer supply chains have proved themselves to be more flexible during the pandemic than those with shorter supply chains.

- HM noted that historically origin countries will necessarily align to that view and will likely be dealing with other challenges, and should likely not be expected in the short-term, but to push on with dialogue with those Governments.
- FM noted in regard to supply chains, there will be exceptions to the rules, but if you are more flexible with shorter supply chains you will likely be more resilient.

PR noted that the industry will need to get to grips with challenges over the next 18 months–2 years.

6. Presentation from DS Smith (Presentation Attached Separately)

TCW gave a brief overview of DS Smith.

- They are a FTSE 100 packaging company.
- They have been redefining packaging for a changing world.
- Sustainability is therefore becoming more and more important, and part of their core strategy.
- DS Smith have joined the Ellen MacArthur Foundation as a global partner, and working with them on various projects.
- TCW that a good example of the work being undertaken by DS Smith is that with coffee cup recycling, which initially DS Smith thought were not recyclable.
- Kemsley Mill can accept 2 ½ billion cups and possibly more now.
- DS Smith have for sale on their website the 'coffee cup drop box'.
- TCW noted that as reusable cups will likely not be able to be used for the not too distant future, the recycling of paper cups will become more important.

KS noted that she was really fascinated by the solutions being provided. In the video consumers will have to remove the lid and ensure that there is no liquid inside them, what is proposed as we know some consumers might not follow the guidelines. Is there provision for the liquid and the lids? TCW noted that often the drop boxes will be placed where the liquid

could be disposed of and likewise the lids, there is not a one size fits all with waste management in the UK, it will also depend on what the lids are made of. There have been very few issues with liquid coming back through, people do seem to have been sensible with the recycling process. The couriers have been notified that if there is a heavily contaminated boxes, they have been asked not to take them.

6. AOB

KS noted that the International Coffee Organization have started issuing a series of papers since the start C-19 pandemic, the one issued in March was on the consumption and demand side. The second report has just been released focussing on the volatility of coffee prices and market fundamentals. They also have a webinar on Wednesday 3rd June, giving a macro economic review.

ICO Virtual International Coffee Council 1-5th June -

<https://www.internationalcoffeecouncil.com/>

ICO Coffee Break Series 1 - <http://www.ico.org/documents/cy2019-20/coffee-break-series-1e.pdf>

ICO Coffee Break Series 2 - <http://www.ico.org/news/coffee-break-series-2e.pdf>

10. Dates of Next Meeting

- **Tuesday 8th September 2020 – Sustainability Committee Meeting – 1:00pm – 4:00pm –**
TBC FDF, 6th Floor, 10 Bloomsbury Way, London, WC1A 2SL – Rooms Cleminson & Bodinnar
- **Tuesday 1st December 2020 – Sustainability Committee Meeting – 1:00pm – 4:00pm -**
TBC FDF, 6th Floor, 10 Bloomsbury Way, London, WC1A 2SL – Rooms Cleminson & Bodinnar