

Meeting notes

Date 3rd December 2019
Location: Room Cleminson & Bodinnar
 Food and Drink Federation, 10 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2SL

Attendees:

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

BCA: Tracy Brown – BCA

Committee: Tom Blackwall – Finlays (BCA Chair)
 Priscilla Daniel – DRWakefield
 Mohit Gordhan – Equatorial Traders
 Jenny Breadmore - FFI
 Richard Price – Menshen UK
 Julie Gallacher – Nespresso
 Hannah Eatough – Taylors of Harrogate

SHED: Sebastian Stokes

Speakers: Haydn Cornish-Jenkins - Stop The Traffik
 Jack Nunn - Stop The Traffik
 Prof Carlos Oya - Professor of Political Economy of Development, at Development Studies Department of SOAS, University of London

Observers Roxy Rocks-Engelman – Cafedirect
 Chris Thompson - Cafedirect
 Katie Messic Maddox - Producers Direct
 Eloise Savill – Stop The Traffik

Apologies: Louise Whitaker – Bewley's
 Oliver Rosevear – Costa
 Richard Williams – Falcon Coffees
 Louise Lloyd-Rossi – FFI
 Toby Bevans – JDE
 Amy Oroko- Matthew Algie
 Howard Crosskey – Nestlé
 Danny Diver – Ringtons
 Stephen Drysdale – Ringtons
 Sadie Walton – Ringtons

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, copies were made available within the conference room. If Members would also like this to be re-circulated please do ask the Secretariat.

2. Notes from the Last Meeting

The minutes were approved.

3. Welcome & Introductions

KS asked if everyone could do a quick round the room introduction as we have a few new Members and observers attending this meeting.

VM ran through the topics for the meeting today, and what was highlighted from the last meeting was the subject of Modern Slavery.

4. News Round-Up

(led by Sebastian Stokes)

SS gave a quick round-up on key, recent coffee and sustainability news.

- SS noted that all the political parties' manifestos have 'sustainability' as part of their core manifesto, pledging zero plastic to be exported from the UK, and extending producer responsibility. Whichever party wins the election we can expect a significant scaling up of policy on plastics and the environment.
- McDonalds USA communicated that it has reached its goal of having 100% of its coffee sourced from sustainable sources, one year ahead of its 2020 goal.
- Sustainability labels – an article in the coffee trade media highlighted consumer confusion amongst the labels and what work is being done by the labels to adapt themselves to become more impactful

5. Presentation from Prof Carlos Oya – Presentation Attached Separately

KS introduced [Prof Carlos Oya](#) - Professor of Political Economy of Development, at Development Studies Department of SOAS, University of London - to the group. Carlos is an expert in agrarian political economy and development aid and has done extensive research on living and working conditions, certifications and wages of agricultural workers, including coffee in Ethiopia and Uganda.

Following Carlos' presentation, a discussion was held around wages received in certified and uncertified production systems, the definition of smallholders and the issues around hired labour in smallholder production systems.

*After the meeting, Professor Oya has shared the following resources referenced in his presentation – all in the public domain:

- Attached two peer-reviewed documents that may not be easily accessible/downloadable. These are to illustrate the findings from the two projects mentioned during the presentation.
- The link for the summary report of the systematic review: <https://www.3ieimpact.org/sites/default/files/2019-05/srs9-agriculture-certification-scehmes.pdf> and <https://www.3ieimpact.org/sites/default/files/2019-03/srs9-agriculture-certification.pdf>
- For the full technical report, see <https://www.3ieimpact.org/sites/default/files/2019-05/sr34-certification-schemes-agricultural-production.pdf>
- FAQs on the Fairtrade research mentioned: <http://ftepr.org/wp-content/uploads/Frequently-Asked-Questions-core-9-June-2014-final.pdf>

- Responses to Fairtrade following publication of report: <http://ftepr.org/wp-content/uploads/Response-to-Fairtrade-Statement-on-FTEPR-Final-Report-Posted.pdf>
- All this is in the public domain at <http://ftepr.org/>

KS asked in what forums has this research been shared? Prof. Oya noted with Fairtrade, ICO and with some retailers.

6. Presentation from 'Stop the Traffik' – Presentation Attached Separately

VM introduced the team from Stop the Traffik.

Haydn Cornish-Jenkins and Jack Nunn from Stop the Traffik, presented on what modern slavery is and common misconceptions about what it means. An introduction was given about the work Stop the Traffik do to support organisations in mitigating the risks of modern slavery across their value chains and then deep dived into some risk areas within the coffee supply chain covering growing, processing, exporting, roasting and retail. Some of the risk areas within certification systems at farm level were also discussed and included the nature of sample size and audit frequency meaning gaps could be missed. These areas are common across all certified commodities and it was noted that although standards are not perfect, they help act as a baseline to tackle human rights issues.

After the presentation both Jack and Haydn said that they would be happy to provide further information on the topic. www.stopthetraffik.org

7. Round Table Discussion on BCA Position Statement on Modern Slavery

(led by Krisztina Szalai and Victoria Moorhouse)

KS asked those present if the BCA should or should not have a position statement on Modern Slavery. As an organisation we do not have to report on this. Alternatively, do we need to just have a top line statement, perhaps links to members own CSR reports.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that the BCA should have an external position on the topic, but this should be relatively top line.

ACTION: SHED to develop a simple top line position with support from KS and VM

8. Member update on a topic linked to one of our 3 Sustainability Pillars

(led by Krisztina Szalai and Victoria Moorhouse)

JB noted that FFI as a private label company, don't have their own brand, but retailers are now dictating the colour of the lids on bottles.

HE noted that as recently announced at a conference in Rotterdam, Taylors has committed to making sure living wages and living incomes are paid across their supply chains by 2025 and have already started to work with their supply chains on this.

JG noted that at Nespresso they work directly with the farmers, recently the farmers are now doing dual certification with RFA, if beans do not meet the Nespresso AAA rating they still have certified coffee that can also be sold on for a higher premium. JG noted that technology such as blockchain, definitely opens up transparency for the consumer which is a good thing.

VM noted that, importantly, certification schemes can do a lot of good, and without them we would perhaps not be aware of some of the issues. There just needs to be greater awareness of how they can be improved

Cafédirect noted that they are looking at the living wage, and something that they would be willing to collaborate on in asking businesses to support momentum.

Producers Direct noted that speaking from a farmers / small holder's perspective there is much duplication of certification.

Menshen, who work on plastic, injection moulding, they are looking at polymer that has food safety approval. There is limited capacity in the market at this time. So for them looking at technologies and getting over the hurdles is key.

Costa noted they are looking at reducing food waste coming out of store, as well as coffee grounds. There is the 'step up to the plate' – government challenge which Costa signed up to in May.

Finally, it was noted that Taylors have conducted a second round of lifecycle assessment across both their tea and coffee supply chain and as of 2019 all their tea and coffee products have achieved Carbon Neutral certification through investing in long-term programmes within their supply chains that generate carbon credits (i.e. carbon insetting).

9. AOB

- TBlack noted that the BCA is currently going into the final stages of interviewing for a new Executive Director. Face to face interviews are scheduled for 10th November. The BCA is aiming to have an Executive Director by the end of Q1 2020.
- KS noted that the BCA is undergoing significant organisational change, and once the new ED recruitment process has been completed, attention will turn to exploring how to further increase the value created for existing and potential new members.
- TBlack noted that we are looking at re-categorising the membership categories thereby making the BCA more accessible to a wider range of stakeholders within the UK coffee industry.,
- KS noted that the ECF organised a Sustainability Stakeholder Workshop on the 27th November in Brussels, bringing together key organisations and NGOs who actively engage with sustainability issues within the global coffee industry. As

soon as a summary paper is available, it will be shared with the BCA Sustainability Committee.,

10. Dates of Next Meeting

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