



Meeting Notes

Date 8th December 2021
Location: Via Conference & Video Call

Attendees:

Committee Chairs: **Roxy Rocks-Engelman – Cafédirect Plc**
BCA: Paul Rooke – BCA Executive Director
 Catriona Balfour – BCA Communications & PA Manager
 Tracy Brown – BCA Secretariat
Committee: Jenny Breadmore – FFI
 Rebekah Kettrick - Finlays
 Oliver Ellis – JDE (*part of meeting*)
 David Short – JDE
 Kathryn Dixon – Taylors of Harrogate

Apologies: Nigel Hallam – FFI
 Mary Child – Nespresso
 Sadie Walton - Ringtons
 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.

2. Welcome

PR welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. Notes from the Last Meeting 8th September 2021

The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

4. Sustainability News – *Presentation Attached Separately*

RRE noted that within the slides deck notes there are some useful links for Committee Members.

RRE noted that take home message from Glasgow was the COP26 would keep the world's 1.5C limit within reach.

RRE noted that there is a move to simplify carbon labelling on pack.

The Environmental Bill was launched during COP26.



The Food and Drink Federation launched its Achieving Net Zero handbook by 2040, to support food and drink manufacturers, a link to this has previously been sent out in the BCA newsletter.

The Grocer's story on how environmental labelling on food could be the antidote to greenwashing.

There was also interest in the press story on 'Deforestation-Free' coffee.

5. COP26

- **Feedback from Attendees and Issues Raised**

RRE asked anyone on the Committee if they attended COP26, none had attended.

RRE noted that there was significant of conversation around nature positive, climate resilience that relate to our sector. There as a lot of positive outcomes regarding funding being made available for initiatives around deforestation. Also, several NGO and private sector partnerships to share best practice and initiatives.

RRE noted that there have been several conferences recently summing up their COP26 experience, and one conducted by The Innovation Forum, talking about the relationship around livelihoods and forest frontier space. It seems that there is now a good opportunity for the BCA to convene a 'COP for Coffee' type of conversation, as we know there is going to be a food day at COP27. The opportunity to talk about innovations that are already present that different commodities are undertaking.

Regarding the 'Food Day' of COP27 it was felt there were opportunities to develop this beyond the UK coffee sector and building in the initiatives that members have already undertaken

RRE added that the COP part of the Cabinet Office are trying to understand the journey to Net Zero and their transition to that, and they are looking for engagement from different sectors to showcase their initiatives.

RRE noted that our BCA Chair, Andy Kerr, had spoken with the SCA hosting the World of Coffee in Dubai there were opportunities of COP27 related activities there in March.

PR noted that when having conversations at European National Association Level, the feedback is that businesses are not talking to their Associations at a European level at this time, which is perhaps a bit concerning. Do we have to do some 'internal work' first to get all our ducks in a row from a coffee industry perspective before we look to roll out from a COP27 perspective. It was noted that whilst global businesses had generic goals, there would be more local issues and approaches that fitted under this.

RRE asked those on the call if a separate working group on this would be a better way to go. It was felt there was also a need to engage with other organisations to better understand current positions compared to where we all needed to get to.



RRE thought that there was a role for engagement at Association level with the high-level Champions who act as Non-State Actors the UK one is Nigel Topping. There will need to be a need for transparency as to what companies/businesses declare and to what is fed into and declared as the country statistics. RRE believed that there could be some similarities with other associations, and we can foster these conversations in the run up to COP27 it may help to accelerate some of these conversations and knowledge sharing.

RRE noted for reference COP26 - Fact (Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade) – over 140 countries have supported the Glasgow Leaders Declaration on Forest and Land Use, to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030. The LEAF Coalition and Regen10 were additional initiatives developing out of the COP event.

RRE added that perhaps we look at this in the new year as to how we can take things forward.

PR noted that he will be having a conversation with Sugar, Cocoa and Soya later this month, and hopes to have some feedback before Christmas as to where they see things.

6. Deforestation

PR noted that the proposals have now come out at EU level and with more detail than what we have in the UK currently.

There is an ECF conversation happening prior to Christmas as to the EU position.

PR noted that the Environment Act has now been passed through Parliament, we have had quite quickly the consultation in relation to secondary legislation, coffee has now been referenced as a potential forest risk commodity.

Regarding the UK consultation there were a number of questions which had been pre-circulated which included a position on coffee being included in the list and the overall timing of how the named commodities might be legislated.

The Committee debated several the questions and whilst a number of those present were only able to give initial reactions, there was a broad consensus that it would be better for coffee to be included in the list of forest risk commodities. There was a recognition that UK trade continued to be part of a wider EU landscape and therefore being in line with EU requirements would be a necessary position.

Recognising however the relative risks of the different commodities it was agreed that if the legislation was to apply sequentially that coffee should be one of the last commodities to be brought within the scope.

In supporting the potential inclusion of coffee, the Committee did however recognise the current lack of information in the consultation as to the level of information which would be required from



within the supply chain, and it was felt there would be an overwhelming need to ensure implementation needed to see a minimal level of bureaucracy.

The Committee also felt there was a need to better understand how existing sourcing structures and the use of certification standards would play a role in delivering the necessary level of confidence that products were not coming from deforested areas. It was agreed there would be a need for more detail in this area. Linked to this the Chair also noted the need to avoid unintended negative impacts on smaller farm holders in terms of applying a broad brush from a regulatory perspective.

RRE asked if Members might be putting in their own individual consultation, would it be worth doing a survey in the new year to understand what the BCA position is and if Members will be responding directly. PR noted that he would be more than happy for people to rebadge whatever the BCA produces and submit.

PR added that following conversations at ECF level there was a strong focus on what work can be done pre-competitively so that the information channels can be standardised as we are all in it together.

PR summarised that he is now starting to get some good background information that will allow him to start putting some details together.

7. Product Environmental Scores

- **IGD/Wrap**

PR reminded member of the previous discussions on the French Eco-Score work and the issues that created for coffee from the work that had been done in France, and irrespective of the commodity everything was treated the same.

PR explained who IDG are, and that they have mainly a larger retail membership and they are looking at an industry led approach to labelling. PR noted that following a conversation with them as to where they are and where they might be going. PR added that they are looking at doing a pilot in Q2 2022 with around 10 products that currently have not been identified.

They are taking the line of using something almost like a daily intake approach. They are trying to frame this with the traffic light approach which seems to work better in the UK.

They are trying to frame around 4 categories

- Climate Change
- Biodiversity
- Water Consumption
- Water Pollution

PR noted that he will forward the document recently received from IDG to the Sustainability Committee.

Action: PR



- **ECF Activity (PEF)**

PR noted that the ECF have gone back to look at the Product Environment Footprint for coffee, something that they had try to look at a few years ago.

The Italians have been doing some work around PEFs, one for coffee and the other for ice cream.

PR showed for information examples of a Moka, Espresso and a Single Serve Espresso and the impacts per life cycle phase.

This is just the start of the journey and there is more work to be done on this.

PR summarised from his point of view it was interesting to sit on the workshop and understand the work that has started.

PR noted a question was raised at the BCA Executive Committee on whether we had a particular view or position on environmental scoring. The Committee consensus was that results should be based on a per serving basis. Ideally companies would be permitted to determine the level of serving, particularly thinking about the impact dairy and non-dairy milks would have on the figures. It was recognised however that it may come down to national standard figures.

8. Net Zero

- **Member Expectations & Next Steps**

RRE noted that the Food and Drink Federation launched its Net Zero Handbook, with an explanation of it. This is a very useful guide that the BCA has previously circulated, but we can resend this out.

Action: BCA

RRE noted that in terms of UK Government Resources, 'Race To Zero' - depending on the size of business and certification corporation, there is an indication as to what you can sign up for and resources that are available.

CB noted when we launch the new BCA website, there will be a Resources Section, and these types of materials could be loaded into.

OE noted that the announcement during COP was that UK businesses needed to announce their Net Zero plans by 2023, had anyone else seen anything further on this?

RRE noted that following a conversation with someone from the high-level champions and the COP representative from the Cabinet Office, as to any further updates on this. There is obviously an aim to start publishing their ambitions and move this forward.

PR noted that although there was announcement by the Chancellor at COP, we are still waiting for this to be put into a legislative format.



PR added that if you were doing anything under a government contract you would need to declare your net zero position, this was back in the summer. RRE perhaps we can find this out.

Action: PR

9. Renewable Energy Survey Update

• Update on Responses & Future Analysis

RRE noted that we have now sent this out in a much more succinct format. PR noted that we have had around 14 responses, some responses were very varied. We would need some more input into this, to try and understand the main issues and what the solutions might be before we could do a statistical analysis.

RRE asked if we could perhaps incentivise Members to complete this. PR noted that we adapted the survey from the UKTIA, but the UKTIA did note that it did take some time for their members to be able to collate all this information and return.

10. What To Focus On in 2022?

RRE ran through suggestions for 2022 including:-

- Defra's Consultation – Deforestation / Due Diligence
- Net Zero
- Packaging (Labelling)
- Participation in COP27. Proposal for a 'Cop For Coffee' or Convening a Cross-Commodity Conference
- Sustainable Landscapes / Regenerative Agriculture – call for Examples of Best Practice
- Webinar Series
- GRI? Standards

DS noted on packaging the scope is beyond labelling, and it would be good to include circularity.

PR noted regarding COP27, there is a meeting in January with the NCA, SCTA, Canadian Association etc. it might be good to idea to test the COP27 principle with those other organisations to see if they might be supporting, with the aim to get feedback by end of January 2022.

RRE noted that regarding webinar series, whether there was an opportunity to send out a survey as to what topics Members might want content on around sustainability.

CB explained some of the topics on the table already around molecular coffee, coffee alternatives, milk non-dairy alternatives, creating energy from coffee waste etc. CB added that we have started our 'In Conversation With' series with our 2 scientists from Kew, is the appetite for hour-long webinars becoming tiring, we could perhaps intersperse and do a series of shorter 2-3 minutes updates, all suggestions welcome. CB noted that she has Rick Hindley to do an 'In Conversation With' from Podback and Donald McCalman who is heading up DRS in Scotland potentially lined up.

Action: ALL



11. Dates for 2022 Meetings

- **Wednesday 2nd March 2022**
1.30p.m. – 3.30p.m. - FDF, 10 Bloomsbury Way, London - Rooms George & Machin
- **Wednesday 6th July**
1.30p.m. – 3.30p.m. - FDF, 10 Bloomsbury Way, London - Rooms Bodinnar & Cleminson
- **Tuesday 15th November**
1.30p.m. – 3.30p.m. - FDF, 10 Bloomsbury Way, London - Rooms George & Machin