

# Meeting notes

**Date** 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021  
**Location:** Via Conference & Video Call

**Attendees:**

**Committee Chairs:** **Krisztina Szalai - Taylors of Harrogate**  
**Roxy Rocks-Engelman – Cafédirect Plc**

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

**Committee:** Nigel Hallam - FFI  
 David Short – JDE  
 Sadie Walton – Ringtons  
 Kellem Emanuele – Sustainable Harvest Limited  
 Kathryn Patchett – Taylors of Harrogate (*Part of Meeting*)

**Apologies:** Hannah Eatough – Taylors of Harrogate

**Observer** Matt Leggett - Associate Director – Commodities and  
 Private Sector Engagement, Wildlife Conservation Society

**Speakers** Emma Piercy, Head of Climate Change & Energy Policy, FDF  
 Isabelle Lemmens, Sustainability & Communications Manager, ECF

**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.

KS noted the Anti-trust statement at the start of meeting.

## 2. Welcome & Housekeeping

KS noted that this will be her last meeting as Co-Chair, as she will be stepping down from the Sustainability Committee after today.

KS introduced RRE to the group and that she would pass on Chairmanship to RRE for the minutes.

RRE noted how she is looking forward to working with the Members of the Sustainability Committee as we go through 2021 and beyond.

Introductions round the virtual room were also made.

## 3. Notes from the Last Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

The minutes were approved.

## 4. Sustainability News – Presentation Attached Separately

### • EPR & DRS Consultations

PR noted that the consultations finished the end of last week, and our response has now been submitted, having shared the draft response to the Committee. There were concerns

around bringing in of business waste recycling and that this is already done very cost effectively and there is a danger of increase cost to no great benefit. The other area is the whole issue of litter, the aim to change the cost of litter control directly from local authorities into the cost of EPR and managed that way, concerns are on how much it would cost and very little how we stop this problem occurring in the first place i.e., education, littering is actually an illegal act! If people have not seen the final draft PR is happy to provide it.

- **UK Environmental Bill**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the bill was heard yesterday 7<sup>th</sup> June in the House of Lords. It remained possible that the Lords would introduce further amendments, possibly around forest commodities, and deforestation aspect in Schedule 16. Members of the House of Lords are looking for the Due Diligence aspect to be 'beefed up'. The bill and the act it will become is a framework, the framework does not talk about specific commodities, and this will come in through in secondary legislation.

PR noted that there is a slight difference to European level, in the UK coffee was not originally mentioned as a forest risk commodity, but it remained possible this could change.

PR added that when Catriona joins us next week will be looking at building up parliamentary activity.

- **UN Food Systems Summit**

The UN is running the summit in September and looking to each individual country to make their submission as to what they are doing. Defra are leading the UK submission into the UN Food Systems Summit, and our aim is that Defra recognises products that are also brought into the UK, so the position is not wholly UK centric.

- **Sustainable Food Trust**

Sustainable Food Trust, led by Patrick Holden, they are looking at the standardisation of metrics for managing sustainability, and are working on a global approach. It was developed in the UK, but pilots are now being run in other countries. As a first step, next week, PR is facilitating a meeting between Sustainable Food Trust and Global Coffee Platform. There is potential for an opportunity to both understand what each other area doing.

- **Single Serve Units**

From a UK point of view on SSU, some of you will be aware we now have the Podback organisation, initially set-up by JDE and Nespresso, with others joining, to establish/develop recycling infrastructure with local authorities.

The ECF have set-up a task force/working group of Members, who are looking at contracting a consultant to understand what is being done in other countries in Europe and what progress they are making, on a product that currently does not have a high recycled rate.

## 5. Sustainability 2021 Priorities Update

RRE noted following on from the poll conducted during the last meeting in March and to the wider Sustainability Committee after that, there were some clear key winners that the Committee wanted to focus on.

- **Carbon/Climate Change Action/Resilience**
  - Deforestation – working group
- **Waste & Recycling**
  - Infrastructure – Podback support
- **Focus on Importance of Net Zero**
  - Collaboration with UKTIA?
    - Energy use survey
    - Consumer energy use actions

It seems that many companies have set their own internal Net Zero targets, and there is an ambition to understand with an Association what this generally looks like in the UK, in the run up to COP26.

Following the poll, we are therefore looking to put together a light touch working group, so as not to take up too much of Members time on Deforestation. RRE added that we are looking to feed into the House of Lords, while the bill is still live.

KS noted that the ECF has also setup separate working groups and one of these is on Deforestation which IL will talk to us about a bit later.

PR noted regarding Net Zero we are looking to work in collaboration with the UKTIA with a Member Energy Use Survey. PR noted that what the UKTIA are keen to look at is energy use at home, and renewable energy use. PR asked perhaps we look to explore the survey that UKTIA have put together to get a handle whereas a coffee sector Members are at this time.

**Action: BCA/ALL**

## 6. Update on ECF/ICO Structure

PR noted that KS has worked very closely with the ECF Sustainability Committee for quite sometime, but now KS is stepping down PR will take direct representation for the BCA. The ECF now has two distinct working group one looking at deforestation and one on due diligence. Although the topics are important, the focus is from an EU perspective and it was therefore right for us not to be on the working groups, but continue to be on the main ECF Sustainability Committee where we will see the outputs from these working groups.

## 7. Road to Net Zero – FDF Roadmap Project – Emma Piercy, Head of Climate Change & Energy Policy, FDF – Presentation Attached Separately

PR noted that he recently joined an FDF webinar on the launch of their Road to Net Zero project, to help the FDF Membership to understand what this means. Following this PR asked if Emma could join us today to explain a bit more about the FDF Roadmap Project.

The launch of FDF Net Zero by 2040 Ambition happened on 27<sup>th</sup> April.

3Keel presented, they have recently worked with the BRC.

The FDF are working quite closely as a cross-sector body under the Broadway Initiative.

- **The outline of the Overview Document is:-**
  1. Introduction to the UK F&D Sector
  2. Climate change and emissions reduction targets
  3. Business case for FDF's net zero commitment
  4. Understanding GHG emissions in the F&D sector

5. What would net zero targets mean for FDF members?
6. Overview of sustainability initiatives in the food and drink sector
7. Introduction to FDF 'Achieving net zero' handbook

- **The outline of the Achieving Net Zero Handbook is:-**

1. Executive Summary
2. Introduction
3. Ingredients
4. Packaging
5. Manufacturing
6. Distribution & Storage
7. Customers
8. Carbon Offsetting
9. Call to Action
10. Summary of Actions

The handbook will touch on areas such as meat and dairy consumption, and alternative proteins such as processed foods.

- **Roadmap Steering Group**

- Consisting of FDF Steering Members
- FDF Member Steering Group Members
- Steering Group Observers

The greenhouse gasses model is building upon the work already undertaken by WRAP.

- **Roadmap Launch**

The project is due to complete in August, and due to publish the full report at COP26, with chapter events in the lead-up.

There are also 2 proposed COP26 panel events, one UK focus with BRC and second and international focus with FIA and ALAIAB, likely the international one will be online whereas the UK panel may still be in person.

At COP26 there is a dinner planned on the 8<sup>th</sup> November, 25 invited VIPs, and the 9<sup>th</sup> November a networking reception with around 200 capacity.

- **Post Roadmap Activities**

There will be a Food and Drink Sector Council role.

Post COP26, there will be a half day event at the Emex in London to explore the roadmap chapters (24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> November).

EP noted that she is very happy to put some more detailed slides together to send across.

RRE noted that having engaged with 3Keel and working with WRAP, are science-based targets an explicit part of the roadmap? EP noted that what they would like to see is an alignment with Courtauld, and this is what they are very much looking at.

PR noted that it seemed quite remarkable that there is not consistency in metrics and is a big challenge.

PR asked within the definition of supply chain did FDF include the final customer fell into the definition. EP noted yes it does fall within this definition. The general principal are what actions food and drink manufactures can take to encourage consumers to waste less.

PR noted that given where FDF are in the process now, is there anything that you would need specifically from us as like tea we are fundamentally an import business. EP noted not at this stage, but it is a question that she has been asked by other Members as well. EP noted that she would be happy to touch base in a couple of months when she is further down the line.

EP noted regarding recommendations and governance, where there are shared topics, they would look to work together with other organisations to make sure there is alignment and that they are not contradicting.

RRE thanked EP and noted that she and PR will catch up with offline.

#### **8. EU Development of Deforestation Legislation – Isabelle Lemmens, Sustainability & Communications Manager, ECF – *Presentation Attached Separately***

RRE introduced IL.

IL gave a brief background on the commitment.

The commitment was reiterated European Green Deal, by putting Europe on a pathway to a sustainable future and become the first climate neutral block by 2050.

This commitment was further re-iterated in the:

- European Green Deal (December 2019)
  - EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030 (May 2020)
  - Farm to Fork Strategy (May 2020)

#### **• Impact on Producing Countries**

The impact on producing countries, with the biodiversity strategy of reducing pesticides by 50% by 2030.

Farm to Fork strategy attempts to accelerate the transition to Sustainable Food Systems.

In the new EU Biodiversity Strategy, the Commission made a strong announcement: "The Commission will also present in 2021 a legislative proposal and other measures to avoid or minimise the placing of products associated with deforestation or forest degradation on the EU market"

#### **• Regulation on Forest Commodities**

For the EP report, the procedure was led by the EP ENVI Committee and Delara Burkhardt (S&D Germany) was the rapporteur.

MEPs made use of their prerogative in the Treaty to ask the Commission to come forward with legislation. According to the MEPs, the EU legal framework should cover:

- **mandatory due diligence**
- **reporting, disclosure and third-party participation requirements**
- **liability and penalties** in case of breaches of obligations

- Palm oil, soy, meat, leather, cocoa, **coffee**, rubber, and maize + all derived products + products that contain these commodities.

- **Public consultation: Respondent profile:**

Almost 1.2 million public responses:

- 1,150 answers from companies, business organisations and business associations
- All the rest were from the campaign carried out by a group of NGOs (Client Earth, CI, Environmental Investigation Agency, Greenpeace and WWF) with pre-filled answers

The first conclusions of the EC are based on the first category!

- **What Options are Considered**

UNFCCC = United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

The **High Carbon Stock (HCS)** Approach is a methodology that distinguishes **forest** areas for protection from degraded lands with low **carbon** and biodiversity values that may be developed

- **ECF Position and Activities**

**Deforestation**

- A smart mix of measures is needed, including through an inclusive approach promoting education, empowerment and incentives
- An approach based on collaboration and framework agreements with governments of producing countries, which would include time-bound deliverables and technical and capacity-building assistance
- Financial support from the EU and promotion of "green investments"
- The EU approach should support the development of existing schemes for forest-risk commodities with more robust verification rather than developing a new EU label or certification scheme
- An approach that scales up demand for deforestation-free and sustainable products to drive transformational change along supply chains, but not allowing sustainability to become a marketing tool

RRE thanked IL for her concise update.

RRE asked Is the overarching plan for coffee and those other commodities mentioned that they could not be imported into the EU. IL noted that the idea is not to reach the point that these commodities could not be imported but to work with these countries. This will be applicable to all sectors and companies that operate within the EU.

PR noted that the EU is approaching this from a number of different angles, the last meeting of FDE and how sustainable food systems are being built into trade negotiations. The UK will approach this differently, but we do not necessarily expect us to end up in a completely different position.

PR asked IL about the idea of extending of the scope of existing certification schemes - how easy will this be to do and to get alignment. IL noted that the EC have noted that certification schemes as they currently exist are not good enough. So, brainstorming will need to take place to make sure the certification schemes are stronger rather than creating new ones.

KS noted what about companies who have interests/offices in both the UK and the EU, and the UK have something slightly different legislation for deforestation will there be separate rules for the UK and EU bases. IL noted that there will be no graphical discriminating in the measures, we are not sure how the definitions will be formulated, we need to see what the results of the impact assessments are, although this will be legislation and applicable in the same way in all Member States.

DS asked if the impact assessment will look scientifically the commodities listed and rank them and will there be different measures for different crops. IL noted that they have done a literature review on which will be targeted. They looked at 15 commodities and took the 10 with the worst results and chose those, the impact assessments should be fact based.

## **9. Discussion on Working Groups**

RRE noted that we would like to ask for volunteers to work on a working group on deforestation.

PR noted just listening to the plans that the ECF have over the next few months, and with Catriona coming on board, how with the working group and look at we can sell our story on the work that is already being done by industry to address deforestation. We can look to put this into a document and building a parliamentary group specifically for coffee.

DS asked if there is any linkage that we can tap into with the ECF, work that they may have already done. PR noted we would be taking that information and building it into UK specific document that can be shared wider.

NH asked what the workload might be, PR noted that he could do quite a bit of the legwork but would like a working group who can critic, embellish or improve what the Secretariat is producing. NH noted that he would be willing to participate. DS also offered his support. SW offered her support.

## **10. Special Thanks**

PR noted that as KS mentioned this is her last meeting as a Co-Chair, she has been onboard for some 4+ years. He wanted to extend his thanks to KS for her work with this Committee and outside of this, and thanks on behalf of the Committee. KS noted it has been a fantastic experience, she remains contactable and will keep in touch informally and formally.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

- **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021 - 1.30p.m. – 3.30p.m.** - FDF, 10 Bloomsbury Way, London, WC1A 2SL - Rooms Cleminson & Bodinnar