

Meeting notes

Date 8th September 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: Helen Ireland – Costa
Laurence Webb - Costa
Nigel Hallam – FFI
Oliver Ellis - JDE
David Short – JDE
Mary Child – Nespresso
Sadie Walton - Ringtons

Apologies: 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, Apologies, Housekeeping & Intros

PR noted that he will lead the meeting today and RRE will be commenting on subject matters as we go through the agenda.

Introductions were made around the virtual room.

3. Notes from the Last Meeting 8th June 2021

The minutes were approved.

4. Sustainability News – *Presentation Attached Separately*

PR noted that earlier in the year we had the EPR and DRS consultations. Further updates from Government were awaited but it was noted some work is being looked at in relation to mandatory take back for cups.

ECF was increasing its focus on single serve units and had commissioned Deloitte to undertake a study across certain Member States. Whilst BCA would feed in the UK position it was noted we now have the Podback scheme which is up and running and talks are continuing with a wider group including local authorities to widen this scheme.

The EU is working on an impact assessment for the Packaging and Waste Directive, a more recent development seemed to suggest that single serve units should be from compostable products. It seems to conflict with the current legislation which defines what packaging is. If this was to go forward, there would appear to be a number of challenges. There is an ECF Exec coming up in the next couple of weeks, and we will certainly feedback after this.

RRE asked those on the call had already read the IPPC report that came out in August. The top line summary is that climate change is worsening and has an impact all regions. RRE noted if you were

not aware that IPCC does there are links in the presentation to the report and a 2-minute video. It was agreed all links would be circulated with the Minutes.

PR noted that the UK Climate Change Committee, had reported that Government still does not have a coherent plan to reduce emissions this decade despite its net-zero pledge.

5. Deforestation

• Environment Bill Update

PR reported on the revised draft position paper following a Working Group meeting. He noted the Environmental Bill is now at the report stage in the House of Lords, it can take a little while to get through which will be followed by a 3rd reading, it then goes back to the Commons for final consideration. We would possibly see this as an Act of Parliament by the end of this parliamentary session.

As part of this is forest risk commodities, there is some difference as to where the UK and the EU sit on this. The EU identified coffee as one of those forest risk commodities, whereas in the UK it was not. But it is entirely possible that it will get brought into the scope of the secondary legislation that will follow the Act.

• Deforestation Working Group Report Back and Consideration of Draft

We set up the Working Group to discuss this position paper, and a number on this working group are on the call today, and to report back as to where we are regarding content.

Quite importantly there is a need to include what best practice looks like. We are very keen to have as many members as possible input into this, and to demonstrate the range of activities that Members have been undertaking to mitigate climate change.

PR summarised if these case studies could be forwarded to the BCA over the next few weeks it would be much appreciated.

Action: ALL

RRE reiterated that due to the wide variety of Members we are very keen to include as many case studies as possible in the annex.

CB noted that if any of the Members have information but not formatted this could be sent through to the BCA to be adapted.

OE noted that they have been working on a project in Vietnam to avoid deforestation, that they could send through. DS confirmed that this has now been forwarded to the BCA.

HI asked if certification was deliberately left out of the paper, such as Rain Forest Alliance. RRE asked if HI had any visibility of data on impact, HI noted that they can certainly look at what they had.

PR noted within the Working Group spoke about certification, and we have made a reference to it which we wanted to quantify the quantity, but we have struggled to get this information and a figure. Do people feel that we could be in danger of overplaying the quantities and percentages could these be significantly small? Or do Members have a different understanding on this. Also, some companies are going above and beyond relying on certification. HI noted she will certainly go back and try and quantify.

Action: HI

HI noted that perhaps people may have seen is the accountability framework initiative which has brought together multiple environmental NGOs and Governments, looking at the whole best practice. HI noted that she is happy to share the link - <https://accountability-framework.org/>

SW asked are we looking for case studies specifically that have already been carried out, or plans/strategy for the future. PR noted that in his view it would be a combination of both, to show the innovative way business is working with its suppliers and supply chains.

RRE noted that with COP coming up, any points for collaboration would also be great to share in any format that you may have.

Action: ALL

MC noted that they are very happy to send through examples of their AAA scheme.

Action: MC

PR asked those on the Working Group, where there still areas that needed more work on. DS added that perhaps to keep an eye on the ECF developments and how their position statement develops, PR noted that he is liaising with Isabelle Lemmens at the ECF.

RRE asked those on the call, was there a desire to explore or further advice required on deforestation. CB added that she would certainly been very keen to learn more.

CB asked if the Coffee Forest Climate Agreement would be something to link into the paper, [Coffee Forest Climate Agreement - Colombia](#), PR noted that he would review and come back on this.

DS noted if we were to do a FAQ on deforestation and with climate change would we include the possibility of coffee growing areas having to move because of climate change. RRE noted that she completely agrees that this should be included.

6. Product Environmental Scores

• Foundation Earth

PR noted that we had a request to look a bit more at Foundation Earth as an example of an initiative to develop environmental product labelling and concerns at how figures for coffee might be presented in such initiatives. Certainly, from an EU perspective, the Commission are looking again at the product environmental footprint that they which to see things going. The ECF are looking at this again from a Coffee perspective across Europe and what industry has already done. Trying to understand the way this information is put together, the criteria used and how information presented. This has come to light with an initiative that is being run in France, based on the The French Ecoscore initiative and on 16 LCA indicators, results were determined in terms of a unit score per kg of product, and presenting coffee in that way is quite misleading rather than doing on a per serving basis.

Recently there was a discussion with the coffee trade associations - BCA, NCA, SCTA, Canadian Coffee Association, DKV and the ECF, there was concern about information required and how this was presented.

PR noted that Costa has been one of the companies highlighted as being involved in Foundation Earth who look to provide an environmental score on pack on a range of products.

HI noted that it is a non-profit organisation, and Costa is taking part. Costa are currently looking a couple of food products to trial and one coffee. It is an opportunity to learn and to understand the process and the challenges.

This method assesses a product's environmental impact by assessing the farming, processing, packaging and transport. The impacts are weighted 49% to carbon and 17% each for water usage, water pollution and biodiversity loss.

RRE asked the question about sustainability green washing and the confusion for consumers and if this was a concern or not. HI noted that they are interested in it from a food and drink perspective, and it is very much a pilot but would be happy to share further information when we have it.

Action: HI

OE asked as this seems to be industry led does anybody have a view on the regulatory landscape, if it is to be impartial does it need to be Government led.

PR noted that as far as he is aware the European Commission is looking at environmental claims more generally, and how communicated to consumers, and going down the route of the PEF and where Europe wants to put itself from a regulatory point of view. This is why the ECF wants to look at this more from a coffee perspective so we can use the same calculations to come out with results based on the same formulas. As yet we do not have a timetable as to what the Commission is working too, but this seems to have stepped up and we hope to see some clarity on the European side, but as yet no further clarity from the UK side.

DS noted that the French are looking at the way the calculations work, looking at scoring whatever type of coffee was measured they came out similar as the unit score is per kg and not per consumption. Serving size is another issue around serving size, as this cannot be agreed and varies from country to country. The question is do we want to tell the consumer that coffee is bad for the planet or say that this coffee is better than this coffee.

PR one of the questions raised before that perhaps industry needs to be working more pre-competitively together to input information in, and the route we want to go down and invest in the knowledge that we need to do that. PR added that we need to be guided by the membership.

RRE noted that she would find it very helpful and informative if companies are able to share some of the hot spots and what benchmark looks like, before you get to claims on pack stage we all want to reduce our negative impact and better understand some of the challenges that could be shared.

HI noted that she supports what RRE has said, there are so many different options, and it would be great to be able to share any hot spots or some of the key definitions and see if we can align and support that.

PR added that perhaps we need to rely on some of the ECF's expertise and knowledge base as to how we can move forward on this.

7. Sustainable Plantation Agriculture

• Report of Cranfield Led Discussion

PR noted RRE joined as part of her Sustainably Chair role.

This was something that Cranfield approached the BCA about, they were looking at a number of crops not coffee specific, looking at a vision for Sustainability Plantation Agriculture.

RRE noted that it was a 3-hour webinar, mainly around soil, was extremely fascinating.

Cranfield have 20 academics working across soil health, and 50 Phd students.

• Consideration of Coffee Specific Session

One of the examples they used was on Ethiopian coffee, and how overtime they have realised 5 out of 6 coffee producing areas their yield had deteriorated.

Dr Toby Waine, talked about using satellite images and statistical modelling so that you can work tree size. Working across multiple scales looking at a country perspective food security, taxation and micro level of understanding, to waste, preventing diseases, asset management and precision farming.

Another interesting case study around using precise irrigation, presented by Dr Jerry Knox, as we know water management is on the radar for businesses as a business risk. They explored ways to improve this, such as weather stations with soil monitoring sensors to set-up and SMS service to receive text message to know when to irrigate their crops.

RRE noted that what was again interesting was a case study with avocados looking at post-harvest loss.

RRE noted that bringing in a lecturer to discuss cross-commodities at a future meeting might be interest and were some of the topics discussed were something that Members might also be exploring.

PR asked if there was likely to be an appetite for us to run something along similar lines but more coffee specific, either at a speaker at this meeting or something more bespoke like a workshop.

RRE noted that there was a post meeting discussion to discuss what barriers there were to create sustainable plantations, these were:-

- Pest & Disease
- Fertilizer Use
- Soil Health
- Gene Editing
- Consumer Price Expectation

RRE noted that throughout it was very much focussed on environmental matters, and a very noticeable absence of income.

MC noted that she was very interested in this topic, but these topics tends to be managed by HQ, MC will see if they would be interested to join.

DS noted that again this managed more by their central coffee sourcing team but was happy to reach out to them if a similar academic programme has been done.

SW noted that it would be really useful to have this insight even though quite niche and specific, whether they could focus on deforestation, intercropping and crop health. There also seems to be a lot of synergy with some of the soil health projects that are being led at origin.

PR noted that this is perhaps a push for business as well as for us to learn and understand, as some of the issues they are talking about are perhaps more developed in other commodities and ideas could be transferred over rather than reinventing the wheel.

RRE added that Cranfield had followed up to help with student research, and that the BCA might well see a direct approach.

8. Renewable Energy Survey Update

PR noted that we have referred to this at the last couple of the meetings, something we discussed working with the UKTIA ahead of COP26, which is just a little bit simpler for tea when looking at energy use at the consumer level. We took the survey that had been developed by the UKTA and CB redesign this it into a Mailchimp survey, the draft was circulated in August. So far we have not seen any responses, is there no great interest in doing this, what do we need to do next, getting something together for COP26 has perhaps now passed us by in getting things together, but understanding where people are in their own organisations.

RRE added that the survey went out in August we did try to make a bit more top line, and what we would like to understand is where our Members are at and how they would want to move forward with this. RRE asked if Members would like this recirculated, CB noted that she was happy to resend this out. PR added that if Members did not have this specific knowledge, please do forward this survey on as you see fit.

Action: CB/ALL

9. Date of Next Meeting

- **Wednesday 8th December 2021** -1.30p.m. – 3.30p.m. - FDF, 10 Bloomsbury Way - Rooms George & Machin, or a Hybrid meeting or Via Teams.