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Minutes of the Sustainability Committee Meeting
Wednesday 5th July 2023

Hybrid Meeting – OCR Commodities, London & Via Teams

Present at Meeting:

Paul Rooke	BCA Executive Director
Thomas de Freitas	BCA Media & PA Manager
Krisztina Szalai	Caravela Ltd (BCA Chair) (Via Teams)
Roxy Rocks-Engelman	Cafédirect (Sustainability Chair)
Stephanie Larre	Costa Coffee (Via Teams)
Mary Child	Nespresso (Via Teams)
Tomas Aldaya	Nestlé (Via Teams)
Cavin O'Driscoll	RicCoffee (UK) Ltd (Via Teams)
Sadie Walton	Ringtons
Susan Turner	Taylor of Harrogate (Via Teams)
Katrine Biret	Trade in Space (Via Teams)

Speaker:

Kate Jones – CENTA PhD Student – Cranfield University

1. Apologies for Absence

Tracy Brown	Secretariat
Nick Martell-Bundock	Cafédirect
Jenny Breadmore	Cafea UK

2. Competition Law Rules

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

3. Notes from the Last Meeting

The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

4. Matters Arising

No matters arising.



5. Presentation on Fertiliser Price Increases impact on Adoption of Climate-Smart Techniques – Kate Jones – Presentation Attached Separately

KJ advised that the presentation was a PhD project based on farmer interviews but was not yet finalised or published. The background was the increase in fertiliser prices from February 2022 and a focus on the extent to which this had influenced the decision making of farmers. Questions posed to farmers looked at how they viewed not only their future coffee production but also whether they saw opportunities to change production methods to reflect climate change pressures.

KJ noted that some of the main points coming out of the work suggested many farmers did not connect their own practices with the wider global challenges of climate change. It was noted however that this was one of several areas where responses differed depending on whether farmers were working with a certified co-op or not.

The differences in response between certified and non-certified co-ops was noted across a number of different areas but one of the central points seemed to be around the availability of training for producers. It was felt training could also positively impact on farmers improving their knowledge of how changing their techniques could have positive climate impacts.

Questions were also asked around the opportunity for improving the level of in-country assistance and the potential for technical advice and guidance which could apply to other sectors as well – i.e. in some countries there might be the opportunity to transfer advice across other crop sectors, e.g. tea.

The Committee appreciated the presentation and were keen to understand what further steps might be taken going forward to broaden the knowledge base.

Presentation Attached Separately

6. Deforestation

PR gave an update on the current deforestation situation noting the EU legislation was now in place with the major requirements now coming into play at the end of 2024. Despite this there remained significant areas where more information was required, and it was noted that there were a number of third parties now offering mapping services.

Allied to that, ECF was continuing its work with the EU Space Agency who were looking to develop a comprehensive mapping base which companies and third-party satellite providers could then use to verify their information.

It was felt that the most important step which companies now needed to take was to ensure they captured as much geo-location/polygon as possible as, for some origins, the timetable was much tighter than the whole of the 18-month implementation period.

PR referred to the meeting held in early June with origin country representatives. From that there were two main action points; working with representatives to increase the amount of communication within origins to ensure all parts of the supply chain were making appropriate preparations; and to develop some of the points on which further information was still required and



which it was hoped could be developed as part of the implementing guidance which was due to be published. In response to a question, it was confirmed that there was still no timetable for these implementing measures to be finalised and introduced.

Finally, it was noted that despite chasing there was still no information from Defra on developments for the UK secondary legislation on deforestation. Work had begun on developing the data system although feedback from members had raised concerns at the approach being taken by the contractors and their apparent lack of understanding of the market. Further developments were awaited on that front.

7. Environmental Labelling

PR updated the Committee on the most recent developments with the IGD led environmental labelling project. It was noted that having completed a first stage, virtual shopper assessment of labelling choices, the project was now moving on to a second stage where an assessment of the environmental labelling options would be made in a product category where other labelling existed, e.g. organic, food safety and food quality assessment labels.

A major point of concern had been raised with the decision by IGD to drop the option of environmental impact being assessed on a 'per portion' basis and work only on a 'per 100g' option. It was felt this was inappropriate for the beverage sector and parts of the dairy sector where an assessment per 100g gave no meaningful information to the consumer about the best environmentally performing products within that category. BCA and others had raised concerns about this, and it was hoped there would be a reversion to the 'per portion' option once the current stage of the project was completed. The Committee supported this approach.

8. EPR Update

It was noted that whilst industry concerns against elements of the EPR package remained, including the overall costs and the failure to ring fence EPR payments for the benefit of packaging innovation, the EPR process was now underway. A reminder was given that the first data collection period ended on 30th June, with future reporting periods being subsequent 6-month periods. Reporting information into Defra would begin in mid-September and template submissions would be available for guidance from mid-August onwards.

9. ECF

PR reported on developments at EU level on the Green Claims Directive which was seeking to tighten the rules on product environmental claims. This would include independent assessment of claims and claims only being allowed where there was evidence the product outperformed other products in that category with regard to the claim being made.

With the upcoming EU Parliament elections and new Commission appointments in 2024 it was currently expected that this legislation would not be finalised before the end of 2026.

An update was also given on progress towards legislation on forced labour which was currently being debated within several EP Committees. Again, it was understood this would be something



which would be finalised under the new Commission and Parliament with current understanding being that it would require companies to prove that their products were not being produced/developed with forced labour. The Commission was expected to develop a database of high-risk areas and products against which this proof would need to be given.

It was noted that some of the requirements were likely to be consistent with deforestation legislation and the over-arching due diligence requirements being developed at EU level.

10. Date & Time of the next 2023 Meeting

Date	Meeting	Location
Wednesday 15 th November 2023	Sustainability Committee 11.15a.m. – 1.15p.m. Hybrid Meeting	FDF, 10 Bloomsbury Way, London, WC1A 2SL – Room Machin