



Minutes EB Conference Call n°108

Date: August 6th, 2014

Attendees:

Producers: Alex Ehrenhaus (Los Grobo), Juliana Lopes (André Maggi)

Industry, Trade & Finance: Belinda Howell (Retailers' Soy Group) - proxy David Pendlington, Unilever-, Olaf Brugman (Rabobank)

Civil Society: Ashis Mondal (ASA), Gert Van Der Bijl (Solidaridad), Sandra Mulder (WWF).

Secretariat: Agustín Mascotena, Jimena Couto, Jimena Froján, Verónica Chorkulak.

1. **Opening:** Alex Ehrenhaus, RTRS President, greets the attendees and introduces them to the topics in the agenda. Documents were sent prior the meeting. Also, he announces he will leave his position in the EB and therefore as RTRS President in October, due to representing a new organization. Alex commits to draft a proposal on how to cover the position until the new elections in May 2015, in order to make a final decision on the next EB Physical Meeting (October), as Ashis suggests. [1] Gert adds that producer members should make a proposal on who could cover Los Grobos' place. [2]
2. **Next RT Annual Conference & GA:** Alex reviews the possibilities of the EU places where it could be, according to the decision of the GA. The week of May 4 is dismissed as it is a holiday in Europe, and the week of May 18 is suggested. Sandra suggests UK as the best place. Other EB Members would rather have the RT in a place where it has never done before (Gert and Alex: Belgium & Belinda, Olaf and Ashis: NL). Alex suggests the creation of a survey for EB Members to vote the best place to do the RT. [3]
DECISION: May 19th and 20th, city to be confirmed.
3. **ProTerra-RTRS MOU:** Agustín Mascotena, RTRS Executive Director, explains the context of the ProTerra debate and the work done to date to accept ProTerra as a valid demonstration of a sustainable supply chain (NON GM) for members report, and increase cooperation and dialogue. The main concern is that, if in the future ProTerra decides to certify GM too, they would take all the work done from RTRS, as they are a cheaper and easier Standard. Their new Executive Director, Sibyl Anwander (ex-coop Switzerland), said ProTerra is not interested in GM. The MOU draft is open for discussion. Belinda suggests changing the term equivalent to acceptable to get to the goal of sustainability. She adds both standards could learn from each other and bring advantages to both, as this would be a practical cooperation. Sandra and Gert agree on avoiding the term equivalent. Olaf supports. Sandra asks about conduct of impact studies and suggests working together on this. The Secretariat will create the new draft to keep exchanging with ProTerra until a decision is reached. [4] Agustín reminds that there is a level up to the demands to the RTRS, such as the public display of the reports. Alex says this is why it was decided to create the MOU. Sandra adds the Danube situation (they have an agreement with PT) to the debate and Agustín explains RTRS is working in separate with them and the acceptance of PT doesn't mean immediate acceptance of their agreement with Danube.



4. **Purchase of credits:** RTRS was demanding membership to purchase Credits, so the proposal is to dismiss this requirement for all companies, which is not written in formal documents. This would align with the strategic objective: increasing demand. Other Round Tables’ examples show no membership requirements (e.g Green Palm). Physical Material situation is different as buyers need to certify Chain of Custody. Sandra is against letting big companies buy credits without being members. Ashis makes the distinction that *members* set the standard for certified soy and credits enable RTRS to sell its product. Belinda suggests RTRS should avoid barriers which are not written in the rules, and allow companies to purchase credits before insisting they become members and make them go for a 100% commitment. Sandra suggests looking at Green Palm’s requirements for buying credits and creating a draft to regulate credit purchases in RTRS, and highlights that companies can be audited if they make claims. Agustín suggests this would scare companies. Ashis and Belinda suggest on approving the Purchase of Credits topic and only make the announcement once clear rules and conditions for credit purchasing are approved in the Physical Meeting. **[5]**

DECISION: APPROVED (Sandra against). Requirements will be discussed on the next Meeting prior making an announcement.

5. **OSI membership situation:** They were accepted in the first place and then gave an explanation on their situation. RTRS needs to re-confirm what measures will be taken (just approval, removal, suspension...). The EB agrees on approving the membership without further actions, as OSI reacted accordingly to the situation.

DECISION: APPROVED.

6. Any other Business:

- a. Belinda suggests to start discussing and planning the cooperation between Task Forces. Alex reminds this information is in the methodology sent when new TFs were created. It is agreed that Alex will arrange the discussion for the next EB Meeting. **[6]**
- b. Sandra reminds there was another EB Call Conference before the Physical Meeting. 23 Sept conference call - confirmed.

16.36 CET

-----MEETING CLOSED -----

Activity	Responsible Party	Deadline
1 Draft Proposal on how to cover President position	Alex	October 28
2 Proposal on new Producer Members	EB	October 28
3 Survey creation to decide RT10 location	Secretariat	ASAP
4 New RTRS-ProTerra MOU draft	Secretariat	October 28
5 Requirements for Credits Purchases	Secretariat	September 23
6 Presentation of cooperation between TFs	Alex & Secretariat	October 28