



## Minutes 117 - 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

**Date:** May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**Venue:** Hotel Bloom, Brussels, Belgium

1. Greetings to all members by RTRS President, Olaf Brugman. Introduction of the agenda. No other issues are added.

### **2. GA9 Review:**

- Strategy Highlights: government engagement projects, strategic alliances and work with other schemes (eg MoU with Proterra). Focus on specific sectors.
- Activities: Mapping Project complete in Brazil and Paraguay, now working on the project in Argentina; TF Europe; Field Trip to Brazil and CGF workshop support. A new trip is planned; IT development for physical trade; NI Canada and Bolivia, working in Paraguay where there is a new representative (Enrique Molas); communication agency in Europe and market research, with support from IDH.
- KPIs: improvement in the amount of Members, growth of certified tonnes and hectares, as well as sales.
- P&C Review ongoing. Executive Director, Agustín Mascotena, mentions the KPIs on amount of producers is not shown because the EB is discussing solutions for India.

### **3. Introduction to the voting system and its use.**

### **4. VOTING TEST. Where do you recommend organizing the RT11?**

Europe	27%
South America	20%
North America	7%
Asia	13%
South Africa	33%

Agustín explains it is not a final decision, but guidance for the EB to decide. Producers' constituency is taken as sample to test the system again.

### **WORKING**

### **5. Do we have quorum?**

Producers	76%
Industry, Trade & Finance	61%
Civil Society	81%

### **QUORUM CONFIRMED**



## 6. Approval of Draft Minutes of the 8th General Assembly

In favour	87%
Against	0%
abstain	13%

John Landers (APDC) mentions his quotes in the minutes were not accurate enough. He adds it is not easy to measure the cubic hectares; it is easier to count the trees. Agustín explains John's comments were taken as input for the P&C Review process, and adds that the University of Minas Gerais said it is possible for them to make the measurement through satellite pictures.

### APPROVED

Olaf highlights last years' Bylaws modification, which states that members will report on their progress for responsible soy. As only a few of them were received, members are not complying completely with the governance. Olaf asks to commit to our own agreements and send the reports, fulfilling the duty as members. The example of RSPO is mentioned, where lack of reporting was taken as not caring. It is a good opportunity to know what members are doing and if some information cannot be disclosed, members only need to say that. Nicole (GFO) mentions that from the producers' side, some of the questions are irrelevant to them. As a result, they do not include information on it. She asks for the opportunity to update the template. Olaf asks all members to submit their specific comments so that different templates can be developed. Michelle asks where the annual reports will be included. They will be at each member's profile.

## 7. Approval of Financial Audit Report 2014

Gert Van Der Bijl, RTRS' treasurer, provides a general overview of 2014's financial balance. The balance is negative as it was a choice to invest additionally for communication and marketing. Expenses are explained. The highest is the Secretariat. The financial situation is safe enough, RTRS is not endangered, and it is important to invest in the future of RTRS. Market development had an increase, as it is the largest area; communication also had an increase; RTRS invested in owning the IT Platform; and the Credits fee is now going to RTRS itself. Agustín explains his last point. GA8 approved to change how the Certification fee is paid. It is now paid for sold quantities instead of produced quantities. Michelle Morton (Shell) asks why the projects funding and the projects themselves do not coincide. It is explained that sometimes the budget is received but the timing of the project is different. Belinda Howell (RSG) asks why membership fee decreased. It is explained that very small portion were 2013 fees, not 2014. It is asked about the difference in marketing development. It is explained that a new representative in Paraguay was hired, and the European one (who receives Euros) increased his hours.



In favour	91%
Against	0%
abstain	9%

**APPROVED****8. Appointment of Audit firm for 2015: Estudio Dechiara**

In favour	91%
Against	0%
abstain	9%

**APPROVED****EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS****9. Producers Constituency: Juliana Lopes (Amaggi)**

Words: Amaggi is part of RTRS since its foundation and believes in its future. It is working with producers who are part of RTRS, and are working in trying to increase the amount of producers and Certifications of Amaggi's producers.

In favour	89%
Against	0%
abstain	11%

**APPROVED**

John Landers (APDC) asks why if RTRS has 4 candidates for 4 places, voting is needed. It is explained that it is a formality to approve candidacies.

**10. Producers Constituency: Gisela Introvini (FAPCEN)**

Words: since her first election she has committed through hard work. She believes RTRS is the solution for a new way of making agriculture. The major success was to take RTRS to the Minister of Agriculture of Brazil, and she is thinking to continue working as a bridge between people and her organisation.

In favour	89%
Against	0%
abstain	11%

**APPROVED****11. Producers Constituency: Alejandro O'Donnell (Aapresid)**

Words: Aapresid considers very important to participate in this initiatives and they will try to continue working for the organisation.



In favour	100%
Against	0%
abstain	0%

**APPROVED****12. Producers Constituency: Ismael Trevisan (Agrex)**

Video: Ismael is responsible for the sustainability area of Agrex. Agrex goes through the entire soy supply chain in Brazil. Sustainability is based in environment, society and economy. Environmental issues always come first, but they also take into account the other two important aspects of sustainability. They have a commitment and also they want to help certify other areas and increase their own certified area. Agrex understands they can do more for RTRS in the Executive Board.

In favour	94%
Against	0%
abstain	6%

**APPROVED****13. Industry, Trade and Finance Constituency : Olaf Brugman (Rabobank)**

Words: Rabobank has published an intense sustainability agenda for 2020 with explicit commitments to share knowledge and participate in networks to make commodities' chains more sustainable. Rabobank has also committed to endorse and implement a complete alignment for the sourcing guidelines of the BEI.

In favour	98%
Against	0%
abstain	2%

**APPROVED**

Agustín thanks Olaf as he took the challenge to be interim President since October.

**14. Industry, Trade and Finance Constituency: Belinda Howell (RSG)**

Words: 1 vote equals 10 members. Belinda says RSG has three targets ahead. They are committed to submit the annual report, make sure retailers participate and bring feedback to the P&C review, and each of the members are trying to make sure that they implement their commitments. Belinda hands out the voting devices to other members to vote, as retailers cannot do it without the rest of the companies (dairy, feed, food...).

In favour	94%
Against	4%
abstain	2%

**APPROVED**



## 15. Industry, Trade and Finance Constituency : Christophe Callu Mérite (Feed Alliance)

Words: Feed Alliance has become a member recently and is trying to be part of the game in Task Force Europe. They are also to participate at RT10 and represent feed. Being between producers and retailers, he hopes to be able to bring experience to all stakeholders of RTRS.

In favour	94%
Against	6%
abstain	0%

**APPROVED**

## 16. Civil Society: Gert Van Der Bijl (Solidaridad)

Words: Solidaridad has been part of RTRS since the beginning and he joined the board 3 years ago. Solidaridad works in improving sustainability of soy in Europe, South America and Asia. There is a lot to do and certification is not going to solve the problems but it can play an important role in driving sustainability and we need to move beyond certification and look for other options, too.

In favour	94%
Against	6%
abstain	0%

**APPROVED**

## 17. Civil Society: Ashis Mondal (ASA)

Video: ASA works in India for promotion of farmers. Ashis is candidate to become Executive Board member as he has been there for some time and would like to continue contributing. He will promote the agenda in India as smallholders have issues and will work to engage the government.

In favour	94%
Against	0%
abstain	6%

**APPROVED**

## 18. Civil Society: Sandra Mulder (WWF)

Words: she has been Executive Board member for the last two years. WWF is a founding member of RTRS and is active along the whole supply chain, as well as in the EB. They work in producing and consuming countries. She would like to continue the journey for 10 million and over, also participating in projects and trying to get RTRS in the market and also making other work in the field.

In favour	88%
Against	0%
abstain	12%

**APPROVED**



## 19. Civil Society: Ulises Martinez (Fundación Vida Silvestre)

Words: They have been participating in many projects and after all these years they have decided to increase their commitment and apply as Executive Board Members. They believe in the next years there are important tasks to develop, such as the P&C Review and the Mapping Project in Argentina. That will be their focus in the next years.

In favour	100%
Against	0%
abstain	0%

**APPROVED**

**CONCLUSION: all candidates are approved, so RTRS Executive Board members are:**

### Producers

Aapresid: Alejandro O'Donnell (Aapresid re-elected)

Agrex do Brasil: Ismael Trevisan (new member)

Amaggi: Juliana Lopes (re-elected)

APDC: John Landers

FAPCEN: Gisela Introvini (re-elected)

### Industry, Trade & Finance

Feed Alliance: Christophe Callu Mérrite (new member)

Rabobank: Olaf Brugman (re-elected)

Retailers' Soy Group: Belinda Howell (re-elected)

Unilever: David Pendlington

### Civil Society

ASA: Ashis Mondal (re-elected)

Earth Innovation Institute: Oswaldo Carvalho

Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina: Ulises Martínez (new member)

Solidaridad: Gert Van Der Bijl (re-elected)

WWF: Sandra Mulder (re-elected)

**\*\*\*END OF VOTING SESSION\*\*\***

**OPEN FLOOR SESSION: all members are invited to make their comments.**

- **Pramel Gupta (Vrutti):** even with the upcoming P&C Review, consider redesigning the Standard to address climate change issues.

- **John Landers (APDC):** asks to include in the P&C Review an obligation to adopt zero tillage and biological controls, as zero tillage has proven to be the most sustainable way to cultivate. Looking at responsible soy should imply considering responsible soy management, which is the worst seen so far. Agustín mentions these comments have already been included in the Review Process.

- **Ulises Martínez (Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina):** they want to keep "non regression" as a principle, and add it is accepted internationally. This means that we



should not go steps back from those commitments already made in terms of improvements for the environment.

### **Conclusions & Closing.**

**\*\*\*GENERAL ASSEMBLY CLOSED\*\*\***