

Minutes EB Physical Meeting n°105

Date: May 6th, 2014

Venue: Rafain Palace Hotel, Foz do Iguacu, Brazil

Attendees:

Producers: Alex Ehrenhaus (Los Grobo); Juliana Lopes (Grupo André Maggi); Martín Descalzo; John Landers (APDC)

Industry, Trade & Finance: Cornel Boere (Agrifirm); Patricio Watson (ACSOJA); Belinda Howell (Retailers' Soy Group); Olaf Brugman (Rabobank); Terence Baines (Unilever)

Civil Society: Sandra Mulder (WWF); Gert van der Bijl (Solidaridad); Ashis Mondal (ASA); Oswaldo Cavalho (Earth Innovation Institute).

Secretariat: Agustín Mascotena; Daniel Kazimierski; Daniel Meyer; Facundo Cativiela; Jimena Couto; Jimena Frojan; Lieven Callewaert; Verónica Chorkulak.

Observers: Jan Gilhuis (IDH); Iehuda Maltz (WWF); Patricia de Vries - van Loon (Dutch Embassy)

1. **Introduction:** Agustín Mascotena, RTRS Executive Director, introduces the agenda to the attendees, which included 2 annex documents (RTRS Report & Pro Terra) sent to the EB prior the meeting.

2. **Update on RTRS:** a context analysis is presented:
 - **SALSA Project:** RTRS has finished the project as well as the networking and knowledge sharing process with universities.
 - **Mapping:** a new budget is needed for making the arrangements WWF proposed. Costs will be shared. Gert asks about learning experiences from Brazil mapping project. Consultation with FVSA is only for preliminary phase.
 - **Katoomba:** Alex notes that all these events foster lobby and good relationships with institutions
 - **PES:** BVRio will participate on this project.
 - **WRI:** open to find more utilities to maps.
 - **ProTerra:** discussions on transparency
 - **Fefac:** benchmark to have a roadmap. From informal conversations, this would mean that RTRS would be the "platinum" standard and others would be accepted as stepwise. The benchmark is still not done, but they will consider less strict standards. Cornel points that this depends on individual companies and countries. For a lot of countries it is unclear what RTRS is. Fefac's objective is to make that and commitments clear. Fefac says it is committed to RTRS by buying product. This would be a step by step approach, and it is also a commercial discussion.
 - **Industry, Trade & Finance status:** to create a financed group (as the retailers). There are difficulties to supply non-GM.

3. Certification Barriers:

- **Proposal Certified to Sold:** nowadays the fee is a key factor for getting into certification. For now, fee collections had been flexible to avoid producers leaving the standard. A proposal to change fee payment from certified to sold quantities was presented. In this case, if a buyer wanted to pay the fee, the invoice could be arranged between RTRS and the buyer. RTRS would be subsidizing producers and taking the risk until the farmer sells. Gert noted that something should be taken into account to avoid neglecting the rules. Olaf asks about the practical implications of approving this change. Physical flow changes will cover. Producers who have not payed yet, should be clearly informed that their obligation is still due.

DECISION: APPROVED

- **Proposal benefit audit scheme for best performance:** A proposal to make possible desk audits according to the producer's evolution is presented, as audit costs are an important issue and this would be a good message to deliver to producers. Concern about challenge to credibility is stated. Alignment with other schemes: most have 5 years as certificate duration. Olaf added that audits should accompany the producer that is starting with certification, as being out of touch for the second year is worrisome. Juliana considers this as a good proposal on the producer side, but not physically visiting the field reduces the possibility to improve. Ashis supports the change.

DECISION: IMPROVE THE SYSTEM (A1)

- **Proposal ChoC facilitation:** Concern about feed industry on low premium. Impact will be on facilitating access to the Chain of Custody certification. Sub-units: agreement. Converting physical flow into credits: agreement. Pros and cons and final details should be presented to EB to have a decision. **(A2)**

4. RT9 and GA8: Daniel Meyer presents the organization for the next days.

- **RT9:** There will be a professional moderator and the Secretary of Agriculture of Foz do Iguaçu will open the conference. Changes: Oswaldo Carvalho will present instead of Daniel Nepstad, and Adrienne Gardaz may send a video as she won't be at the conference (to be confirmed). Agustín explains the breakout sessions dynamics.
- **GA8:** past activities will be presented and there will be place for open discussion. Consider changing GA quorum basis- like RSPO. Belinda asked on the role of the EB on getting quorum. It is stated that EB members should be referents for their constituency **(A3)**. Agenda for GA has not been sent to observers.

5. **New website** is presented.
(change in the agenda)

6. **EU Representative:**

- **Report:** Lieven presents activities done. There is positive feedback for his role but lack of knowledge on what he is doing. Communication needs to be improved (A4). He has the institutional video and the trading guide as support material. John suggests making RTRS a green indicator in stock markets as a future option. Until the end of the year, Lieven will have 4 days a month availability.
- **Task Force Europe:** It is seen as an opportunity to empower members to further develop RTRS in a global way. A proposal should be presented to the EB for approval. (A5)

7. **Retailers Statement:** Minimum requirements that retailers request for soy. RTRS and ProTerra fulfill those requirements. It is agreed to share this document in the RT9 bags.

- 6.00 pm –

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

Activity	Responsible Party
1 Improve audit system	Secretariat
2 Prepare Pros & Cons CoC	Secretariat
3 Become referents of their constituency	EB Members
4 Improvement of EU rep communication of activities	Secretariat
5 Proposal of TF Europe for EB approval	Lieven presents it and EB decides.