

## **Minutes 8<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

**Date:** May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Venue:** Rafain Palace Hotel, Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil

### **Agenda:**

#### **1. Welcome, Agenda and Materials. Presentation 2013/14 Activities. Quorum and rules for GA.**

- Welcome and Introduction by Alex Ehrenhaus (RTRS President): RTRS numbers and updates & biggest news of last year.
  - First Certification in the USA
  - PES Project was launched in Brazil
  - Beginning of the Canadian National Interpretation Process
  - Approval of the Chinese National Interpretation
  - RTRS Credits Logo launch
  - China receives its first RTRS Certification
  - Credits purchase: Ruchi Soja Industries, Marks & Spencer
  - 100% RTRS Soy Commitments: HKScan and the entire Swedish food chain.
  - Full presence on the UK retailers sector
  - First Indian soy processing company joins RTRS
  - HSBC joins RTRS
  - New secretariat structure, focused on increasing demand.
  
- Agustín Mascotena (Executive Director) organizes de activities of the Assembly and goes through the agenda.
  
- System check: Where should the RT10 be?
  - **Europe: 36,3636% (24 votes)**
  - South America: 13,6364% (9 votes)
  - North America: 13,6364% (9 votes)
  - Asia: 24,2424% (16 votes)
  - Africa: 12,1212% (8 votes)

**CONCLUSION: Europe**
  
- Quorum check
  - Producers: 53,8462% (14 votes)
  - Industry, Trade & Finance: 58,2278% (46 votes)
  - Civil Society: 61,1111% (11 votes)

**CONCLUSION: Quorum is checked**

#### **2. Minutes approval GA 2013:** Agustín Mascotena goes through each page of the Minutes requesting comments if needed. No comments.

- Approval Draft minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> General Assembly:

- **In favor: 91,4286% (64 votes)**
- Against: 0% (0 votes)
- Abstain vote: 8,5714% (6 votes)

**CONCLUSION: Minutes approved**

*\*Note: Minutes voting results appear in the "Audit 2013 report approval" slide.*

**3. Report and Audited Accounts 2013:** Gert Van Der Bijl (RTRS treasurer) presents the Financial Report 2013.

- Overview of expenses and IT Platform overcomes. 40% of its expenses had to be paid for once. Now, RTRS has to see the incomes. The Secretariat is the second cost in the budget.
- Budget 2014: there are lower figures for project funding than 2013 budget because of the ending of some projects such as SALSA. This is a conservative figure as RTRS is looking forward to start new projects. Market development should be one of the priorities and RTRS is working on that with the European Representative.
- Overview of RTRS situation: Income – membership fees are slowly increasing. There is lower donation dependence because of sold quantities and fee collection. Expenses: savings at office rent which is moving out, new European Representative, communication agency hiring and last year of IT Platform maintenance. Ashis Mondal (ASA) considers this is a deficit budget for 2014, as it is very modest in relation to the work to be done. He considers RTRS should not determine it does not need grant money. Agustín points that it is not a deficit, but a result of a balance, and that the RTRS is being financed by its own activities. The search for new projects can be more selective now, as RTRS has received the payments for results of projects that happened on 2013. That explains the difference between income and expense. Ashis suggests arranging different accounts for the projects. John Landers considers the investment in the European market is low. Agustín explains Lieven is going to work part time as the EB approved: 3 days a month in the beginning, now 4 and next year he will have more availability.
- Audit 2013 Report Approval:
  - **In favor: 95,7747% (68 votes)**
  - Against: 0% (0 votes)
  - Abstain vote: 4,2254% (3 votes)

**CONCLUSION: Audit 2013 approved**

*\*Note: Audit 2013 voting results appear in the "Approval Draft Minutes of the 7th General Assembly" slide.*

**4. Elections Executive Board Members:** each candidate introduces himself.

- Producers Constituency (2 candidates for 2 available seats):
  - **Alex Ehrenhaus** (Los Grobo): first RTRS certified producers, involved since 2006. Want reelection to continue working and investin gin the RTRS.
  - **In favor: 92,8571% (13 votes)**
  - Against: 0% (0 votes)
  - Abstain vote: 0% (0 votes)

**John Landers** (APDC): represents farmers looking to be sustainable, with 12 million hectares in Cerrado region. Manifesto for election: full time professional in Europe; certification for the feed industry; European campaign to reverse negative image of South American soy producers; critical review of the mapping project; RTRS indicator of sustainable evaluation. Agustín added John was recognized for his contribution to RTRS.

- **In favor: 85,7143% (12 votes)**
- Against: 0% (0 votes)
- Abstain vote: 7,1429% (1 votes)

• **Industry, Trade and Finance Constituency (1 candidate for 1 seat):**

**David Pendlington** (Unilever): Terence Baines (Unilever) proxies and clarifies he will be representing David and Unilever at Latin American meetings.

- **In favor: 91,3044% (42 votes)**
- Against: 4,3478% (2 votes)
- Abstain vote: 4,3478% (2 votes)

• **Civil Society Constituency (1 candidate for 2 seats):**

**Oswald Carvalho** (Earth Innovation Institute): This new organization is part of IPAM which has been involved since the beginning.

- **In favor: 100% (11 votes)**
- Against: 0% (0 votes)
- Abstain vote: 0% (0 votes)

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

**Producers**

Aapresid: Martín Descalzo  
 André Maggi: Juliana Lopes  
 APDC: John Landers (reelected)  
 FAPCEN: Gisela Introvini  
 Los Grobo: Alex Ehrenhaus (reelected)

**Industry, Trade & Finance**

ACSOJA: Patricio Watson  
 Agrifirm: Cornel Boere  
 Rabobank: Olaf Brugman  
 Retailers Soy Group: Belinda Howell  
 Unilever: David Pendlington (reelected)

**Civil Society**

ASA: Ashis Mondal  
 Earth Innovation Institute: Oswaldo Carvalho (reelected)  
 Solidaridad: Gert Van Der Bijl  
 WWF: Sandra Mulder

**3 bis. Appoint Auditors for Financial year 2014**

- **In favor: 90,1408% (64 votes)**

Uruguay 1112, 3º Piso (C1016ACD) Buenos Aires, Argentina. Phone: +54 11 4519 8005.

- Against: 0 1,4085% (1 votes)
- Abstain vote: 8,4507% (6 votes)

**CONCLUSION: Auditors approved**

**5. Bylaws Modification:** on previous GAs one point was not approved: reports from members every year and 100% commitment. This year, members supported a motion for new bylaws. Explanation of the voting methodology. Michelle Morton (Shell) asks what the changes are and where the reports are going to be. The proposal is shown and Agustín explains the reports will be public in the website. This year RTRS published everything received. Chris expresses worry about what other industries cannot achieve because of their characteristics. Agustín explains each member reports about its own scope of activities stating N/A if needed. Ashis asks for a standard template which will be used, and Alex asks it to be more specific on the constituencies differences, as well as Belinda. Marizete Zuttion (Sindicato Rural de Luiz Eduardo Magalhães) is concerned about the preservation of members' information, what will be reported. Agustín explains that Bylaws do not include the reporting form. Reporting is based on members sharing the RTRS spirit, showing with transparency what they are doing for the RTRS. Chris adds that confidential information would not be requested. Gert comments that what should be added are activities which contribute. Giovana Baggio (the Nature Conservancy) understood transparency arguments, but expressed that as civil society is volunteering, reporting should not be compulsory. According to Juliana Lopes (André Maggi), reporting is a must because of the RTRS spirit and it does not depend on what you do in the organization. Sandra Mulder (WWF) agreed and proposed to accept the change in the bylaws and correct the text later as this is good for transparency. Belinda added this text is almost identical to the one last year with the difference that it does not include the 100% commitment to RTRS. Then, better templates to suit constituencies can be arranged.

- Bylaws Modification (Voting in General)

**Producers**

- **In favor: 85,7143% (64 votes)**
- Against: 0% (0 votes)
- Abstain vote: 7,1429% (1 votes)

**Industry, Trade & Finance**

- **In favor: 69,5652% (32 votes)**
- Against: 17,3913% (8 votes)
- Abstain vote: 13,0435% (6 votes)

**Civil Society**

- **In favor: 72,7273% (8 votes)**
- Against: 9,0909% (1 votes)
- Abstain vote: 18,1818% (2 votes)

**CONCLUSION: Bylaws Modification approved with no article modification**

- 6. Any other business:** Agustín closes the meeting mentioning that nowadays RTRS has much news and can afford to chose what to include in the newsletter. Ashis asked for an activity plan to be presented in the next GA. Agustín referred to an existing activity plan that could be opened for the members. Michelle approved this decision. Ulises (Fundación Vida Silvestre) asked for the EB to consider the mapping project as a priority for the credibility and transparency of the standard. He added they wanted to do it in Argentina and the delay in the Brazil mapping resolution is attempting against that. John mentioned making the newsletter bigger. Agustín explained RTRS selects the most relevant news fo the newsletter and publishes everything in the website. John added he is not satisfied with the mapping Brazil project. Agustín explained that the criteria are the ones from the university and they use an specific convention, but RTRS is dealing with the differences.
- 7. Closing of the meeting:** Thanks for the feedback, greetings and meeting closure.

----- **MEETING CLOSED** -----