



Minutes No. 177 of the Executive Board Meeting held on

Thursday, December 17, 2020, 15:00 to 18:00 CET time (in accordance with article 21, section [1] of the RTRS Statutes).

Agenda:

1. Approval of the Executive Board meeting minutes No. 176.
2. (a) November 2020 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
(b) Priorities update.
3. Approval of June 28, 2021 as target date for the meeting with RTRS Participating Members.
4. Actions to be adopted in connection with Members in default of certain obligations: approval of their suspension.
5. Approval of RTRS participation in Balsas Region PCI Compact.
6. Approval of the RTRS Standard on Responsible Soy Production Draft V4.0, to be further submitted to public consultation.
7. Update on the discussions related to the working group on the stepwise approach standard.
8. Update on the RTRS participation in the international “Working Group on Biodiversity Communication” within the One Planet network Programme on Consumer Information (CI-SCP) coordinated by the United Nations and the R&D project on communicating biodiversity and eco system services, funded by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)/Federal Ministry for the Environment (BMU).
9. “Beyond 2020” RTRS Strategy: approval of Project Draft 3.
10. Any other business.
11. Closing.

A. Introduction

The meeting of the Executive Board of Round Table on Responsible Soy Association (RTRS) starts on Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 15:00 CET time.

Participants: RTRS Executive Board members:

- Luiz Carlos Iaquinta Filho, Bartira (constituency: Producers):
liaquinta@brookfieldbr.com
- Gisela Regina Introvini, FAPCEN (constituency: Producers):
giselaintrovini@hotmail.com



ROUND TABLE ON RESPONSIBLE SOY ASSOCIATION (RTRS)

UTOQUAI 29/31 | 8008 ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

- Hernan Zunino, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) (constituency: Civil Society Organizations): hernan.zunino@tnc.org
- Ulises Martínez Ortiz, Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina (FVSA) (constituency: Civil Society Organizations): ulises.martinez@vidasilvestre.org.ar
- Lieven Callewaert, Soy4Brands, (constituency: Industry, Trade and Finance): lieven.callewaert@soy4brands.org
- Jochem Bouwmeester, Rabobank, (constituency: Industry, Trade and Finance): jochem.bouwmeester@rabobank.com
- Stefan Heinke, Bayer AG, (constituency: Industry, Trade and Finance): stefan.heinke@bayer.com
- Jorn Jasper Schouten, ACT Commodities (constituency: Industry, Trade and Finance): JSchouten@actcommodities.com

RTRS Secretariat based in Zurich:

- Evert Raymakers, RTRS's Europe Outreach and Engagement Manager: evert.raymakers@responsiblesoy.org

RTRS Secretariat based in Buenos Aires:

- Marcelo Visconti, RTRS Executive Director: marcelo.visconti@responsiblesoy.org
- Laura Villegas, Communications Officer: laura.villegas@responsiblesoy.org
- Daniel Kazimierski, Technical Unit Officer: daniel.kazimierski@responsiblesoy.org
- Ana Laura Andreani, Technical Unit Analyst: ana.andreani@responsiblesoy.org

Special guests invited:

- Ana Carolyne Ribeiro Queiroz, FAPCEN: (constituency: Producers): ascom@fapcen.org.br (Alternate for Gisela Regina Introvini, FAPCEN): giselaintrovini@hotmail.com
- Cid Sanches, RTRS External Consultant: cidsanches64@gmail.com
- Mabel Fernández, RTRS Financial External Consultant: mabelau.fernandez@gmail.com
- Constantin Malik, Malik Institute: constantin.malik@mzsg.ch
- Josef Coellen, Malik Institute: josef.coellen@mzsg.ch



Lieven Callewaert, Vice-President of the RTRS Executive Board, chairs the meeting and welcomes the participants to the Executive Board meeting. The agenda is presented, and participants are asked whether any additional topics should be included. No other topics are included. The meeting begins.

B. Quorum and proposals

Lieven Callewaert ascertains that the quorum required to validly pass resolutions has been reached. The Executive Board considers the following items on the agenda:

1. *Approval of the Executive Board meeting minutes No. 176.*

Minutes No. 176 are reviewed page by page.

In the absence of any objections, Lieven Callewaert confirms that the Executive Board approves the resolution.

The RTRS Executive Board resolves the following:

“The Executive Board meeting minutes No. 176 are approved (by consensus).”

2. *(a) November 2020 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and (b) Priorities Update.*

November 2020 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are presented to the Executive Board members. It is informed that there was a 27% increase in uptake (credits and mass balance) compared to figures year to date November 2019. Additionally, the Executive Board members are informed that it is forecasted an increase in the total certified production volume of 2020 compared to the total volume of 2019. Furthermore, it is reported that 11 new producers from Argentina, Paraguay and India have applied for RTRS certification in 2020.

It is also reported that RTRS has already achieved the budget expectations; the final figure for 2020 should be defined in the remaining weeks of the year.

Moving to the June 2019-November 2020 Priorities, an update is presented to the Executive Board members.

First, it is informed that RTRS has officially become an ISEAL Community Member on December 2nd, 2020, which was publicly announced on December 15, 2020.

Second, it is confirmed that RTRS is participating in the CSI Steering Committee with a voting capacity as agreed by the Executive Board members at the meeting held on June 25, 2020. A legal analysis of the CSI current status will take place at the beginning of 2021, which will be presented during the next Executive Board meeting.

Thereupon, reference is made to the remaining priorities. The Executive Board members are informed that the RTRS Standard for Responsible Corn Production V.1.0, the “Beyond 2020” RTRS Strategy and the RTRS Umbrella Story have been conducted as planned.

Since no further comments or questions are posed on the subject, the Executive Board members decide to move to the next item of the agenda.



3. *Approval of June 28, 2021 as target date for the meeting with RTRS Participating Members.*

A proposal to divide the RTRS General Assembly 2021 into two decision making moments or milestones is presented to the Executive Board members.

It is explained that the proposal has the aim of being better organized in order to: (i) not overload RTRS Participating Members with lots of topics and technical documentation, (ii) split the presentation into two parts, on the one hand, the institutional aspects and, on the other hand, the technical aspects, and (iii) accomplish the revision processes and working groups timelines and deadlines.

In this regard, June 28, 2021, is proposed as an informal virtual meeting with the Participating Members where the results of the first voting will be shared. October 2021, is proposed as the month in which the second decision making process step will take place. It is expected that the second voting includes the approval of the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production V4.0 and ancillary technical documents, the RTRS technical documents in order to comply with ISEAL's membership requirements, the RTRS Standard for Responsible Corn Production V1.0 and ancillary technical documents; the RTRS EU RED technical documents package, the RTRS Chain of Custody Standard Version 3.0, and the RTRS Use of the Logo & Claims Procedure V5 and ancillary files.

In light of the foregoing, a timeline proposal is presented to the Executive Board members.

In the absence of any objections, Lieven Callewaert confirms that the Executive Board approves the resolution and agrees with the proposal of splitting resolutions to be passed by the RTRS Members during 2021 into two different voting stages having October as target month for the second stage related to technical documents while the first will be focused on institutional aspects.

The RTRS Executive Board resolves the following:

“June 28, 2021 as target date for the meeting with RTRS Participating Members is approved (by consensus).”

4. *Actions to be adopted in connection with Members in default of certain obligations: approval of their suspension.*

A list of RTRS Members having debts overdue for more than 6 months is presented to the Executive Board members in order to consider their suspension.

In the absence of any objections, Lieven Callewaert confirms that the Executive Board approves the resolution.



The RTRS Executive Board resolves the following:

“The immediate suspension of the RTRS Members in default of its obligations included in the list attached as Annex #4 to the Agenda for this Executive Board Meeting is approved (by consensus).”

The Executive Board members further agree that if these members continue to be in default of their obligations by the date for which the first Executive Board meeting to be held after April 1st, 2021 is scheduled, then the Executive Board members will approve their expulsion in accordance with Article 8(1) or RTRS Statutes.

5. Approval of RTRS participation in Balsas Region PCI Compact.

Context and background on the Balsas Region PCI Compact Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between IDH (The Sustainable Trade Initiative) and FAPCEN (Foundation to Support Research of the North Export Corridor) is presented for approval to the Executive Board members.

It is remarked that the version of the MoU includes a general goal regarding certification which is to “*increase the area of RTRS certified soy, Soja Plus and other quality standards in the Balsas region by up to 30%, by 2025.*” Furthermore, it is confirmed that there is no specific goal with regards to the growth of RTRS certification in the region in this version of the MoU.

After a brief exchange of views about the initiative and the potential role of RTRS, Executive Board members stress the importance of RTRS taking part of Balsas Region PCI Compact from its very beginning and, therefore, RTRS Executive Board members agree to sign the MoU and work collaboratively with Balsas Region PCI Compact to encourage the incorporation of a specific goal for the growth of RTRS certification in the region.

In the absence of any objections, Lieven Callewaert confirms that the Executive Board approves the resolution.

The RTRS Executive Board resolves the following:

“RTRS participation in Balsas Region PCI Compact is approved (by consensus).”

6. Approval of the RTRS Standard on Responsible Soy Production Draft V4.0, to be further submitted to public consultation.

Background and overview of the RTRS Standard on Responsible Soy Production revision process is presented to the Executive Board members.

In relation to the presentation of the new indicator, *4.4.3 Minimal levels of conversion are allowed for specific cases and producers must have a restoration plan implemented at the time of the audit*, Luiz Carlos Iaquina Filho states that an important issue is that any converted area (in accordance with RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production V3.1 cut off dates) for



agricultural production will be deducted from the total amount of hectares and tons to be certified.

The next steps of the revision process are explained, and the submission of the document to Public Consultation is approved.

After a brief exchange of views and in the absence of any objections, Lieven Callewaert confirms that the Executive Board approves the resolution.

The RTRS Executive Board resolves the following:

“The RTRS Standard on Responsible Soy Production Draft V4.0, to be further submitted to public consultation is approved (by consensus).”

7. Update on the discussions related to the working group on the stepwise approach standard.

Background and overview of the on-going discussions related to the working group on the improved stepwise approach is presented to the Executive Board members.

It is explained that the aim of having an improved stepwise approach is to (i) optimize the certification as a tool for soy supply chain stakeholders neither leaving behind RTRS holistic approach nor jeopardizing the level of assurance, and (ii) transform the “RTRS certification” implementation strategy into a tool to improve its scalability.

Moving to the approach itself, it is explained that the improved stepwise approach would imply:

- (i) the need to develop a new step to the Progressive Entry Level (PEL). This new PEL will be divided into a baseline criteria entry level requiring the accomplishment of a certain percentage of the RTRS production standard indicators and two additional entry level stages requiring compliance with the remaining percentage of the RTRS production standard indicators.
- (ii) The provision of intermediate claims and certificates regarding the entry levels.
- (iii) The fostering of the full compliance after certain maximum number of years.

In addition, details on the PEL stages are presented as well as the suggested indicators and the scope of the baseline criteria entry level and the rationale to have distinctive logos to be used in both credits and physical flow scenarios. Auditing proposal for the “baseline criteria” is also mentioned and it is anticipated that an audit process could take place through a mix of on-site and desktop audit.

Since no further comments or questions are posed on the subject, the Executive Board members decide to move to the next item of the agenda.

8. Update on the RTRS participation in the international “Working Group on Biodiversity Communication” within the One Planet network Programme on Consumer Information (CI-SCP) coordinated by the United Nations and the R&D project on communicating biodiversity and eco system services, funded by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)/Federal Ministry for the Environment (BMU).



An update on the RTRS participation as an expert in the international “Working Group on Biodiversity Communication” (Working Group) within the One Planet network Programme on Consumer Information (CI-SCP) coordinated by the United Nations and the R&D project on communicating biodiversity and eco system services, funded by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)/Federal Ministry for the Environment (BMU) is shared with the Executive Board members.

It is informed that the Working Group based its activities on the Discussion Paper Draft Version 1 *Sustainable consumption for biodiversity and ecosystem services*. This document explains that the prevailing consumption patterns are coupled to a rapid destruction of natural and near-natural ecosystems and the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Therefore, the aim is to tackle two issues: (i) the non-availability of a comprehensive overview of existing policy recommendations and implementation measures to counteract the impacts of consumption on nature, and (ii) the absence of effective formats (e.g., fact-based information, storytelling, using of social medias, etc.) for the communication of the link between consumption and biodiversity. It is explained that the aim of the working group is to improve the communication among producers, consumers, and decision-makers.

In addition, it is explained that the Working Group performs its analysis based on three strategic pillars in order to achieve its goal: information, communication, and cooperation. It is further remarked that RTRS contributes both in its role as multistakeholder platform and owner of a certification scheme in line with those three named pillars.

Finally, an overview on the RTRS’ feedback to the Discussion Paper *Sustainable consumption for biodiversity and ecosystem services* is shared informing that, as a result, RTRS Zero Means Zero (ZMZ) campaign was chosen to be included in the Discussion Paper as one of the good practice examples for communication.

Additionally, building on the mentioned word, Stefan Heinke stresses the need to properly engage and align RTRS’ messages with One Planet network Programme.

Since no further comments or questions are posed on the subject, the Executive Board members decide to move to the next item of the agenda.

9. “Beyond 2020” RTRS Strategy: approval of Project Draft 3.

An overview on the progress of the process and the timeline of deliveries of the “Beyond 2020” RTRS Strategy is presented.

Moving to the “Beyond 2020” RTRS Strategy Project Draft 3, the Executive Board members agreed to approve the version with the status as such. However, they acknowledge that it shall be revised and adapted based on the remarks received by the “Beyond 2020” RTRS Strategy Sounding Board.

In the absence of any objections, Lieven Callewaert confirms that the Executive Board approves the resolution.



The RTRS Executive Board resolves the following:

“The “Beyond 2020” RTRS Strategy Project Draft 3 is approved as a working progress version subject to the input of the “Beyond 2020” RTRS Strategy Sounding Board (by consensus).”

Additionally, an update on *Chapter 9 Grow into new markets and regions (Asia)* and *Chapter 12 Adding value to RTRS certified material including environmental footprint measurement* is presented to the Executive Board members. Since no further comments or questions exist on the chapters, it is confirmed that they will be sent to the Executive Board members after this meeting for their revision. Furthermore, the Executive Board members agree to share the chapter with the “Beyond 2020” RTRS Strategy Sounding Board in order to take into consideration their comments and insights.

In addition, an update of the feedback from the RTRS Strategy Sounding Board meeting held on December 11, 2020 is given. It is confirmed that most of the topics arisen during that meeting will be properly addressed and included in the “Beyond 2020” RTRS Strategy document Draft version 4. It is also remarked there are other points to be further analyzed as they relate to one of the “core” topics of the “Beyond 2020” RTRS Strategy, which is the decision taken by Executive Board members about repositioning and boosting the two roles of RTRS: (i) multistakeholder roundtable and (ii) owner of a certification scheme.

Since no further comments or questions are posed on the subject, the Executive Board members decide to move to the next item of the agenda.

10. *Any other business*

The Executive Board members decide not to discuss any other business.

11. *Closing.*

The meeting is closed on Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 18:00 CET time.

Lieven Callewaert
RTRS Vice-President

Marcelo Visconti
Executive Director of RTRS