



**ROUND TABLE ON RESPONSIBLE SOY ASSOCIATION (RTRS)**  
UTOQUAI 29/31 | 8008 ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

**Minutes No. 174 of the Executive Board Meeting held on**

**Tuesday, September 29, 2020, 15:00 to 18:00 CEST time** (in accordance with article 21, section [1] of the RTRS Statutes).

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome to new Executive Board member.
2. Approval of the Executive Board meeting minutes No. 173.
3. (a) August 2020 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).  
(b) Priorities Update.
4. Approval of the submission of the RTRS Amended and Restated Statutes for the consideration of the Participating Members by means of a written resolution in accordance with the voting procedure set forth in Article 18 of RTRS Statutes.
5. RTRS GHG Roadmap: update on the RTRS Secretariat's analysis, benchmark and progress.
6. Approval of extension of the period for initial audits in Argentina of the RTRS Production Standard Certification until December 31, 2020.
7. Approval of RTRS' Positioning Statement to participate in the Government Due Diligence Consultation proposed by the United Kingdom Government on requirements applicable to companies using forest risk commodities.
8. Approval of the script for the RTRS Branding Film.
9. (a) "Beyond 2020" RTRS Strategy: approval of Project Draft 2.  
(b) Update on the discussions related to the Working Group on the stepwise approach standard.
10. Any other business.
11. Closing.

**A. Introduction**

The meeting of the Executive Board of Round Table on Responsible Soy Association (RTRS) starts on Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 15:00 CEST time.

**Participants: RTRS Executive Board members:**

- Marina Born, Caldenes S.A. (constituency: Producers):  
marina.engels@responsiblesoy.org
- Juliana de Lavor Lopes, Amaggi (constituency: Producers):  
juliana.lopes@amaggi.com.br

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- Gisela Regina Introvini, FAPCEN (constituency: Producers): giselaintrovini@hotmail.com
- Luiz Carlos Iaquina Filho, Bartira Agropecuaria S.A. (constituency: Producers): liaquina@brookfieldbr.com
- Morgan Gillespy, Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) (constituency: Civil Society Organizations): Morgan.Gillespy@cdp.net
- Hernan Zunino, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) (constituency: Civil Society Organizations): hernan.zunino@tnc.org
- Aukje Berden, Coöperatieve Rabobank U.A. (constituency: Industry, Trade and Finance): Aukje.Berden-Praamstra@rabobank.nl
- Lieven Callewaert, Soy4Brands, (constituency: Industry, Trade and Finance): lieven.callewaert@soy4brands.org
- 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:

- Ingrid Korn, RTRS Administration Officer: Ingrid.korn@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:

- Cid Sanches, RTRS External Consultant: cidsanches64@gmail.com
- Mabel Fernández, RTRS Financial External Consultant: mabelau.fernandez@gmail.com
- Federico Otero, RTRS Argentine Legal Counsel: federico.otero@trsystm.com

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- Constantin Malik, Malik Institute: constantin.malik@mzsg.ch
- Josef Coellen, Malik Institute: josef.coellen@mzsg.ch

Marina Born, 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

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

#### 1. *Welcome to new Executive Board member.*

Executive Board members and RTRS Secretariat welcome the recently elected Executive Board member Morgan Gillespy Global Director, Forests at Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP).

After a brief exchange of views, the Executive Board members decide to move to the next item in the agenda.

#### 2. *Approval of the Executive Board meeting minutes No. 173.*

Minutes No. 173 are reviewed page by page.

In the absence of any objections, Marina Born confirms that the Executive Board approves the resolution.

The RTRS Executive Board resolves the following:

“The Executive Board meeting minutes No. 173 are approved (by consensus).”

#### 3. *(a) August 2020 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), and (b) Priorities Update.*

An update on the June 2019-September 2020 priorities is presented to the Executive Board members.

First, it is informed that the ISEAL membership application process is being carried out for the purpose of achieving RTRS membership as a Learning Community member, which outcome is expected to be informed in November. It is additionally reported that ISEAL has requested RTRS details regarding any conflict of interest policy currently in place as part of the process being assessed in order to become an ISEAL Learning Community member.

Second, it is reported that the European Outreach and Engagement recruitment process is progressing and it is expected to be completed by the end of October 2020.

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; the RTRS Umbrella Story; the Collaborative Soy

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Initiative and the RTRS Conversion Factors System project have been conducted as planned.

Since no further comments or questions are posed on the subject and in view of the limited time available for this meeting, the Executive Board members decide to skip the update on the August 2020 KPIs.

4. *Approval of the submission of the RTRS Amended and Restated Statutes for the consideration of the Participating Members by means of a written resolution in accordance with the voting procedure set forth in Article 18 of RTRS Statutes.*

The approval of the submission of the RTRS Amended and Restated Statutes for the consideration of the Participating Members in accordance with Article 18 of RTRS Statutes is presented to the Executive Board.

Federico Otero, in his role of RTRS Argentine Legal Counsel, explains that the aim of the amendment is to select the United Nations as the entity to whom RTRS remaining assets shall be transferred in case of dissolution. Both Swiss and Argentine regulations provide as one of the legal requirements to maintain a tax-exempt status that the statutes of the tax-exempted organization set forth that in case of dissolution, the remaining assets will be transferred to another tax-exempted organization within its own respective territory.

In this sense, Federico Otero informs that RTRS has found out that the United Nations meet the requirements as future recipient of RTRS remaining assets and, therefore, in order to satisfy the legal requirements applicable in both jurisdictions such selection shall be introduced into the RTRS Statutes.

Lieven Callewaert takes the floor and suggests to take advantage of the new voting process for the approval of the RTRS Amended and Restated Statutes in order to re-submit for approval the RTRS Standard for Responsible Corn Production. Marcelo Visconti reminds that during the meeting held on August 11, 2020, the Executive Board members agreed to work on the development of the RTRS Corn Conversion Factor System before submitting again the corn standard for the approval of RTRS Members. After a brief exchange of ideas the RTRS Executive Board members agree to proceed as originally proposed and not to submit additional resolutions for the approval of the RTRS Members.

In the absence of any objections, Marina Born confirms that the Executive Board approves the resolution.

The RTRS Executive Board resolves the following:

“The submission of the RTRS Amended and Restated Statutes for the consideration of the Participating Members by means of a written resolution in accordance with the voting procedure set forth in Article 18 of RTRS Statutes is approved (by consensus).”

5. *RTRS GHG Roadmap: update on the RTRS Secretariat's analysis, benchmark and progress.*

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In view of the limited time available for this meeting, the Executive Board members decide to postpone the update on the RTRS GHG Roadmap: update on the RTRS Secretariat's analysis, benchmark and progress.

*6. Approval of the extension of the period for initial audits in Argentina of the RTRS Production Standard Certification until December 31, 2020.*

The request to extend the period for initial audits in Argentina of the RTRS Production Standard Certification until December 31, 2020 is presented to the Executive Board Members.

It is informed that according to RTRS certification and verification system the audit of a certain campaign of producers who aspire to be certified under the RTRS Production Standard could take place between the sawing of the soybean of the relevant campaign and the beginning of the following soy sowing season. It is also clarified that the RTRS Guidelines for Desktop Audits Version 1.0 in force does not allow initial audits to be performed under this procedure (desktop audits).

Given that in Argentina the lockdown restrictions imposed as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to be strictly in force precluding audit teams and certification bodies to perform on-site audits, the Certification Body Control Union requested RTRS for an extension of the audit period for five producers that are already CRS certified (Cefetra Responsible Soy) in order to certify volumes that were already harvested during the last campaign but could not be audited due to the mentioned context.

Jorn Schouten takes the floor and reinforces the need to work on benchmarking with other soy certification schemes with the aim of leveraging on certified sustainable practices already in place and facilitating RTRS certification process to producers already certified against other schemes. It is remarked that CRS could be an opportunity and accelerator of this approach.

Luiz Carlos Iaquina Filho agrees and suggests including this benchmarking criteria within the Stepwise approach and requests to further discuss the topic on the next Stepwise Approach Working Group.

Stefan Heinke supports the entry level approach discussed and the rest of the Executive Board members also agree with the previous comments.

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

The RTRS Executive Board resolves the following:

"To extend the period for initial audits in Argentina of the RTRS Production Standard Certification until December 31, 2020 is approved (by consensus)."

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### 7. *Approval of RTRS' Positioning Statement to participate in the Government Due Diligence Consultation proposed by the United Kingdom Government on requirements applicable to companies using forest risk commodities.*

Considerations of the *Government Due Diligence Consultation* proposed by the United Kingdom Government on requirements applicable to companies using forest risk commodities are presented. The aim of the initiative is to evaluate the support for introducing such requirements. It is highlighted that RTRS has a significant opportunity in this global agenda and scenario, in which RTRS would position its role and value added as a multistakeholder global platform on soy and as owner of a holistic zero deforestation and zero conversion certification scheme that might complement the proposed due diligence process.

After a brief exchange of views, since the United Kingdom legislation is not known precisely yet, the Executive Board Members agree that RTRS would take neutral position regarding such legislation and the potential risks that the companies using forest risk commodities would be subject to if such commodities are not produced in accordance with the applicable laws. Nevertheless, the Executive Board members agree that RTRS will take an affirmative position regarding a potential request to implement a system of due diligence in the United Kingdom in order to ensure that forest risk commodities used have been produced in accordance with the applicable laws and also agree to report publicly on such system of due diligence.

Moreover, the Executive Board members agree to approve with no additional comments the positioning statement as set forth in more detail in questions 7, 8 and 9 of *Annex #7.b.- RTRS' Positioning Statement to participate in the Government Due Diligence Consultation proposed by the United Kingdom Government on requirements applicable to companies using forest risk commodities.*

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

#### The RTRS Executive Board resolves the following:

"RTRS' Positioning Statement to participate in the Government Due Diligence Consultation proposed by the United Kingdom Government on requirements applicable to companies using forest risk commodities is approved (by consensus)."

### 8. *Approval of the script for the RTRS Branding Film.*

Luiz Carlos Iaquina Filho express his full support to the script for the RTRS Branding Film and stresses that the script could be an opportunity for RTRS to start exploring a B2C (Business to Consumer) communication journey proposing to use the new RTRS Conversion Factors System and the RTRS Soy Footprint Calculator as tools to make soy a visible ingredient in products.

In the absence of any objections, Marina Born confirms that the Executive Board approves the resolution.



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The RTRS Executive Board resolves the following:

“The script for the RTRS Branding Film is approved (by consensus).”

9. (a) “Beyond 2020” RTRS Strategy: approval of Project Draft 2 & (b) Update on the discussions related to the Working Group on the stepwise approach standard.

The developments regarding the preparation process are discussed and a new timeline is proposed and agreed by the Executive Board members to optimize the “Beyond 2020” RTRS Strategy Project development process, which is now expected to end by 2021.

Thereupon, Marina Born confirms that the Executive Board rejects the resolution.

The RTRS Executive Board resolves the following:

“The Beyond 2020” RTRS Strategy: approval of Project Draft 2 is rejected (by consensus).”

An update is presented on *Chapter C10-Existing Business* to the Executive Board Members.

After a brief exchange of views, it is informed that *Chapter C10-Existing Business* will be sent to the Executive Board members the day after this meeting for their review. It is additionally informed that the “Beyond 2020” RTRS Strategy Project Draft 2 will also be sent to the Executive Board members and it will be presented for their approval at the Executive Board meeting to be held on October 29, 2020.

With regards to the update on the discussions related to the Working Group on the stepwise approach standard, and in view of the limited time available for this meeting, the Executive Board members decide to postpone this matter and request the RTRS Secretariat to convene an informal separate meeting (via conference call) to receive such update.

### 10. Any other business.

Lieven Callewaert refers to the communication released by RTRS Secretariat on September 28, 2020, titled “RTRS sustainable soy corridor is already a fact in MATOPI.”

In view of future communications, Lieven Callewaert reinforces the need to highlight the important role that the RTRS credit system and its associated claim “supporting responsible soy production” have played for the consolidation of RTRS and the core impact generated by the different companies supporting RTRS responsible soy production, up-taking RTRS credits since the first certification took place in 2011 (such as Arla, Unilever, and afterwards Lidl, among many others). According to Lieven Callewaert, such approach has helped with the transformation of certain regions of the globe into sustainable enabling the development of the RTRS physical soy (Mass Balance) system as it is currently happening in MATOPI, Brazil.

Jorn Schouten agrees with Lieven Callewaert’s view.

Luiz Carlos Iaquinta Filho also supports the recommendation. In addition, he emphasizes the strategic need to communicate the concrete existing possibility for soy



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supply chain stakeholders to transition from RTRS Credits to RTRS physical flow (Mass Balance) by implementing a “stepwise approach,” considering the fact that RTRS Chain of Custody certification is increasing within traders and processors significantly.

Marcelo Visconti agrees with said recommendations and he further suggests revising the communication criteria regarding the RTRS certified material (credits and physical flow) agreed during the Executive Board Meeting held on February 20 and 21, 2019, in Piauí, Brazil. He explained that the agreed criteria explicitly mandated to replace the “stepwise approach,” which differentiated the RTRS supply chain modules (e.g. Credits, Mass Balance and Segregation), with a new approach according to which RTRS would simply offer different options to the market without visibly differentiating them to allow the companies to freely select of the one that better suits their policies. Based on this decision, the message related to the possibility of transitioning from RTRS Credits to RTRS physical flow was relegated in RTRS’ communication approach in order to present all options as having an equal value and avoid favoring one over the others, as it would be the case in a “stepwise approach:” Credits; Regional Credits; Mass Balance (Site Mass Balance); Country Material Balance and Segregation.

In this sense, Executive Board members are informed that in order to change the criteria, the approach agreed during the Executive Board Meeting held on February 20 and 21, 2019, in Piauí, Brazil should be revised and revoked; and the new agreed criteria “RTRS credits serves as a transition to RTRS physical flow (Mass Balance)” should be approved.

Executive Board members agree with Marcelo Visconti’s recommendation.

*11. Closing.*

The meeting is closed on Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 18:00 CEST time.

Marina Born

RTRS President

Marcelo Visconti

Executive Director of RTRS