

# Minutes No. 166 of the Executive Board Meeting held on

Wednesday, November 27, 2019, 14:00 to 16:00, St. Gallen, CET time (in accordance with article 21, section [1] of the RTRS Statutes).

# Agenda:

- 1. Approval of the Executive Board meeting minutes No. 165.
- 2. Approval of the Budget for 2020.
- 3. a) Approval of (i) the termination of memberships due to the non-payment of membership fees in accordance with Section 8(1) of RTRS Statutes, and (ii) the write-off of the debts of such Members.
  - b) Approval of the write-off of the debts of Members who resigned from RTRS between the years 2018 and 2019 leaving unpaid fees.
- 4. February 2020 Executive Board physical meeting. Proposal for the venue: San Pablo.
- 5. FVSA Statement: FVSA Chaco Region Declaration.
- 6. Update on RT15 & Sponsoring Communication.
- 7. Any other business.
- 8. Closing.

#### A. Introduction

The meeting of the Executive Board of the Round Table on Responsible Soy Association (RTRS) starts on Wednesday, November 27, 2019 at 14:00 CET 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
- Luiz Carlos Iaquinta Filho, Bartira Agropecuaria S.A. (constituency: Producers): liaquinta@brookfieldbr.com
- Maria Cristina Delicato, Associação Amigos da Terra CAT Sorriso (constituency: Producers): cristinadelicato@terra.com.br. (Alternate for Anadir Regina Graça Paiva): dudypaiva@hotmail.com
- Gisela Regina Introvini, FAPCEN (constituency: Producers): giselaintrovini@hotmail.com
- Ulises Javier Martinez Ortiz, Fundación Vida Silvestre (constituency: Civil Society Organizations): ulises.martinez@vidasilvestre.org.ar
- Oswaldo de Carvalho Junior, Earth Innovation Institute (constituency: Civil Society Organizations): ocarvalho@earthinnovation.org

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- Hernan Zunino, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) (constituency: Civil Society Organizations): hernan.zunino@tnc.org
- Judith Kontny, Lidl (constituency: Industry, Trade and Finance): Judith.Ginsberg@lidl.com
- Jochem Bouwmeester, Rabobank U.A. (constituency: Industry, Trade and Finance): jochem.bouwmeester@rabobank.com
- Lieven Callewaert, Alliance 4 Soy (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.visconi@responsiblesoy.org
- Laura Villegas, Communication Officer: laura.villegas@responsiblesoy.org
- Daniel Kazimierski, Technical Unit Officer: daniel.kazimierski@responsiblesoy.org

## Special guests invited:

- Cid Sanches, RTRS External Consultant: cidsanches64@gmail.com
- Mabel Fernández, RTRS Financial External Consultant: mabelau.fernandez@gmail.com

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

The President of the RTRS Executive Board 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. 165.

Minutes No. 165 are reviewed page by page.

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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. 165 are approved (by consensus)."

## 2. Approval of the Budget for 2020.

A new version of the budget for 2020 is presented to the Executive Board members. Marcelo Visconti confirms that RTRS will strive towards making a reduction of € 15,000 in professional expenses.

Luiz Carlos Iaquinta Filho takes the floor and remarks that given the characteristics of the association, professional expenses will always exist.

Jochem Bouwmeester approves the new proposed budget for 2020 but requests to always make the best effort to keep professional expenses at an efficient level.

Lieven Callewaert proposes to establish a process to control professional expenses. Marcelo Visconti informs that the Executive Board members will receive the LE1, the LE2 and the LE3 for their analysis, in order to cooperate with such proposed process.

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

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

"The budget for 2020 is approved (by consensus)."

3. a) Approval of (i) the termination of memberships due to the non-payment of membership fees in accordance with Section 8(1) of RTRS Statutes, and (ii) the write-off of the debts of such Members.

In accordance with Section 8(1) of RTRS Statutes, it is proposed to terminate the membership of the organizations listed in Annex#3.a. due to the non-payment of membership fees, as well as the write-off of their debts.

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

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

"The termination of the membership of the organizations listed in Annex#3.a. attached to the agenda for this Executive Board meeting -due to the non-payment of membership fees in accordance with Section 8(1) of RTRS Statutes- is approved (by consensus)."

"The write-off of the debts of the organizations listed in listed in Annex#3.a. attached to the agenda for this Executive Board meeting is approved (by consensus)"

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b) Approval of the write-off of the debts of Members who resigned from RTRS between the years 2018 and 2019 leaving unpaid fees.

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

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

"The write-off of the debts of Members who resigned from RTRS between the years 2018 and 2019 leaving unpaid fees -as listed in Annex#3.b. attached to the agenda for this Executive Board meeting- is approved (by consensus)."

4. February 2020 Executive Board physical meeting. Proposal for the venue: San Pablo.

During the Executive Board meeting held on November 6, 2019, the RTRS Secretariat agreed to discuss a new proposal for the venue of the Executive Board physical meeting to be held in February 2020. In this sense, São Paulo, Brazil is proposed as alternative location for a meeting to be held on February 13 and February 14, 2020.

After a brief exchange of views, the Executive Board members decide to select the first option presented during the Executive Board meeting held on November 6, namely to hold the Executive Board physical meeting in Sorriso, Brazil on Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 February, 2020, within the framework of the 2020 RTRS Field Trip.

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

## The RTRS Executive Board resolves the following:

"To hold the next Executive Board physical meeting on Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 February 2020, in Sorriso, Brazil (by consensus)."

#### 5. FVSA Statement: FVSA Chaco Region Declaration.

Ulises Javier Martinez Ortiz refers to the "Declaration for the Future of the Chaco Region 2019" (the "Declaration") in the frame of the "Compromiso Gran Chaco 2030" led by certain Argentinean associations, such as Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina (FVSA - member associated to World Wildlife Fund - WWF), Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (FARN) and AVINA Foundation. The Declaration has been already endorsed by more than 100 Argentinean-based organizations.

Marina Born welcomes the Declaration and refers to the "RTRS Statement Chaco Region Declaration." She stresses the need to extend the scope of RTRS' declaration to other countries, such as Paraguay and Bolivia. She further suggests working in collaboration with the Argentinean *Mesa Redonda Global para la Ganadería Sostenible* (Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef - GRSB) in a joint statement on the Chaco Region and the deforestation issue, which, according to Marina Born, involves not only soy but also cattle.

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The Executive Board members agree with Marina Born's suggestion.

Juliana de Lavor Lopes asks Ulises Javier Martinez Ortiz about the scope of the Declaration and its consultation with other actors and sectors of the soy value chain, such as producers and private companies.

Ulises Javier Martinez Ortiz confirms that since most of the supporters are civil society organizations and academic organizations, producers and private companies were not consulted.

Juliana de Lavor Lopes suggests sharing the declaration and engaging with the private sector and producers in order to expand the endorsement of the Declaration.

Ulises Javier Martinez Ortiz agrees with Juliana de Lavor Lopes' approach.

Marina Born takes the floor and suggests:

- working on a collaborative communication approach with GRSB Argentina;
- drafting a new version of the Statement towards the Declaration (the RTRS Secretariat working together with a group of RTRS Executive Board members); and
- presenting a communication during the Executive Board physical meeting to be held in February 2020.

The Executive Board members agree with Marina Born's suggestions.

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

6. Update on RT15 & Sponsoring Communication.

An update on the RT15 is presented.

The Executive Board members are informed that the Amsterdam Declarations Partnership (ADP) has informed RTRS that the Amsterdam Declarations Meeting may be rescheduled for June 4, 2020.

The Executive Board members agree that the engagement with ADP and the opportunity of holding a back-to-back event with such organization are priorities for RTRS. Therefore, the Executive Board members agree to reschedule the date of the RT15 for June 2 and June 3, 2020, provided that the ADP meeting is also rescheduled for these dates.

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





## 7. Any other business.

Lieven Callewaert requests to discuss about the Collaborative Soy Initiative (CSI). He suggests that the CSI's governance issue must be solved before the next CSI Steering Committee meeting to be held on December 3, 2019.

The Executive Board members remark that many aspects related to the CSI need to be discussed -including the governance structure-, such as, the role of RTRS Members, the funding, among others; and suggest postponing the discussion of this topic until the discussions within the "Beyond 2020" RTRS Strategy are finished, since the CSI is an important part of the agenda of such strategy.

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

8. Closing

The meeting is closed on Wednesday, November 27, 2019 at 16:00 CET time.

Mariana Born

**RTRS** President

Marcelo Visconti

**Executive Director of RTRS**