

Minutes No. 192 of the Executive Board Meeting held on

Wednesday, August 24th, 2022, 15:00 to 18:00 CEST time (in accordance with article 21, section [1] of the RTRS Statutes).

Agenda:

- 1. Approval of readmission of Syngenta Protecao de Cultivos Ltda. without the submission of an admission request in accordance with Article 8(4) of RTRS Statutes.
- 2. Latest Estimate II (LE2).
- 3. Update on RTRS 2022 Meeting Point Agenda.
- 4. Update on ISEAL Code Compliance application.
- 5. Update on the RTRS Chain of Custody Standard Reshaping and new Chain of Custody Module.
- 6. Update on European Union Commission proposal for a regulation on deforestationfree products by Hill & Knowlton Strategies.
- 7. (a) July 2022 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) & (b) Priorities update.
- 8. Any other business.
- 9. Closing.

A. Introduction

The meeting of the Executive Board of Round Table on Responsible Soy Association (RTRS) starts on Wednesday, August 24th, 2022 at 15:00 CEST time.

RTRS Executive Board members: Participants:

- Thiago Masson, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) (constituency: Civil Society Organizations): thiago.masson@tnc.org
- Pramel Kumar Gupta, Vrutti (constituency: Civil Society Organizations): pramel@catalysts.org
- Yan Speranza, Fundación Moisés Bertoni (constituency: Civil Society Organizations): vsperanza@gmail.com
- Daniel Jacquet, Fundación Moisés Bertoni (constituency: Civil Society Organizations): djacquet@mbertoni.org.py (Alternate for Yan Speranza)
- Juan Quaine, Salentein Argentina B.V. (constituency: Producers): jquaine@salentein.com
- Enrique Molas, Productores de Soja Paraguay (constituency: Producers): enriquemolasg@gmail.com
- Gisela Regina Introvini, FAPCEN (constituency: Producers): giselaintrovini@hotmail.com
- Lieven Callewaert, Alliance4Soy (constituency: Industry, Trade and Finance): lieven.callewaert@soy4brands.org







- Lukas Vogt, ACT Commodities B.V. (constituency: Industry, Trade and Finance): lvogt@actcommodities.com (Alternate for Damiana Meneghetti)
- Gerhard Adam, Bayer AG (constituency: Industry, Trade and Finance): gerhard.adam@bayer.com
- Kobus Pienaar, Woolworths (constituency: Industry, Trade and Finance): kobuspienaar@woolworths.co.za

RTRS Secretariat based in Zurich:

- Officer: Romina Pipino, **RTRS** Administration romina.pipino@responsiblesoy.org
- Evert Raymakers, RTRS Europe Outreach & Engagement Manager: evert.raymakers@responsiblesov.org

RTRS Secretariat based in Buenos Aires:

- Marcelo Visconti, RTRS Executive Director: marcelo.visconti@responsiblesoy.org
- Laura Villegas, Communications Officer: laura.villegas@responsiblesoy.org
- Pablo Nicolini, Business Development & Technical Unit Officer: pablo.nicolini@responsiblesoy.org
- Ana Laura Andreani, Technical Unit Analyst: ana.andreani@responsiblesoy.org

Special guests invited:

- Cid Sanches, RTRS External Consultant: cid.sanches@rcba.eco.br
- Fernández, **RTRS** Financial External Consultant: mabelau.fernandez@gmail.com
- Natalie Sluggett, Peterson: nsluggett@onepeterson.com
- Danilo Blanco, Peterson: dblanco@onepeterson.com
- Eva Bille, H&K Brussels: Eva.Bille@hkstrategies.com
- Alessandro Gardino, H&K Brussels: Alessandro.Gardino@hkstrategies.com
- Lee Whitehill, H&K London: Lee. Whitehill@hkstrategies.com
- Austyn Close, H&K London: Austyn.Close@hkstrategies.com





Lieven Callewaert, 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 readmission of Syngenta Protecao de Cultivos Ltda. without the submission of an admission request in accordance with Article 8(4) of RTRS Statutes.

Executive Board members are informed about the process of readmission of Syngenta Protecao de Cultivos Ltda. (Syngenta) as an RTRS member without the formal submission of an admission request in accordance with Article 8(4) of RTRS Statutes.

It is explained that Syngenta was a Participating Member of RTRS from January 2009 until this year. 20 days before the beginning of the voting period corresponding to the Written Resolution No.1/2022 Syngenta informed its decision to terminate its membership and did not cast a vote. After the expiration of the voting period, without any notice. Syngenta paid the membership fee, bypassing the statutory membership application process. Considering that there was only a brief period between the communication of the membership termination and the payment of the membership fee, and bearing in mind that there could have been a possible internal communication problem due to structural changes in the company, it is proposed that the Executive Board members approves Syngenta's readmission without submitting an admission request in accordance with Article 8(4) of RTRS Statutes.

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

The RTRS Executive Board resolves the following:

"To approve the readmission of Syngenta Protecao de Cultivos Ltda. without submitting an admission request in accordance with Article 8(4) of RTRS Statutes (by consensus)."

Latest Estimate II (LE2).

The Latest Estimate II (LE2) is presented to the Executive Board members. It is explained this is the second review of the approved Budget 2022 and, in view of the performance of the second quarter, RTRS focus remains on achieving the budget results and following the agreed priorities.





Lieven Callewaert positively supports the presentation and the healthy financial situation of RTRS.

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

The RTRS Executive Board resolves the following:

"To approve Latest Estimate II (LE2) (by consensus)."

Update on RTRS 2022 Meeting Point Agenda.

An update on the RTRS 2022 Meeting Point Agenda is shared with the Executive Board members, and the talking points suggested for the RTRS 2022 Meeting Point are reviewed and discussed one by one:

- Learnings about the upcoming European legislation for deforestation-free commodities and its potential impacts on the whole value chain.
- Learnings about collective work between regions, organizations and sectors to foster comprehensive existing and possible collaborations and initiatives even beyond certification.
- Overview of the environmental footprint, approaches and methodologies.
- Understanding the regenerative agriculture.
- Slot dedicated to, and represented by, young generations.

The Executive Board members provide with their input on environmental footprint and regenerative agriculture topics and panels and suggest that RTRS presents the advances, the main outcomes and conclusions of the Environmental Footprint project, being developed together with Blonk Consultants. It is suggested to evaluate whether other alternatives and complementary approaches and methodologies should be presented as well, (e.g. carbon balance). It is agreed that the topic is relevant for the Meeting Point and that the additional content will be defined once the Executive Board members are updated about the RTRS Environmental Footprint project during the next Executive Board meeting to be held on October 6, 2022.

Moving to the topic Regenerative Agriculture, it is also agreed to consider it a key topic to enhance the holistic value of RTRS certification. It is confirmed that RTRS shall present how the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production can be also seen as a regenerative agriculture approach. Additionally, and in this sense, Gisela Introvini, Enrique Molas and Pramel Grupta, added that they can present during the Meeting Point how RTRS responsible soy production in Brazil, Paraguay and India respectively can reflect regenerative agriculture practices and show concrete practices on the ground.

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.

Update on ISEAL Code Compliance application.





The Executive Board members are updated about RTRS ISEAL Code Compliance application process and roadmap. A general overview of RTRS application steps to become full members of ISEAL is given while remarking that the first step and milestone occurred in 2020 when RTRS became an ISEAL Community Member.

Afterwards, the Executive Board members are informed that having accomplished ISEAL Community Membership, the second step will be to fulfill the application process for ISEAL Code Compliance membership, which consists of meeting the following three Codes of Good Practice: (i) Standard-Setting Code (defines how a standard should be developed, structured and improved over time); (ii) Assurance Code (provides a framework for assessing compliance with standards); and (iii) Impacts Code (supports robust monitoring and evaluation that helps systems to understand how effective their standards are in achieving what they are set out to do).

Following this explanation, the Executive Board members are informed that RTRS begun the application process to become an ISEAL Code Compliance this year, starting with the application to the Standard-Setting Code. Moreover, it is informed that RTRS has plans to work on the application towards the ISEAL Assurance Code during 2023, and on the Impact Code by 2024.

Lieven Callewaert asks about the possibility of accelerating the application process. It is explained that the evaluation and decision-making process is external and led by ISEAL and that it takes a considerable time. It is further clarified that RTRS Secretariat has already started with the revision process towards the application for ISEAL Assurance Code analyzing the areas of improvement RTRS will have to face and strengthen regarding RTRS systems to efficiently complete the application process.

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.

Update on the RTRS Chain of Custody Standard Reshaping and new Chain of Custody Module.

An update of the RTRS Chain of Custody Standard Reshaping and new Chain of Custody Module is presented to the Executive Board. The progress on the RTRS Chain of Custody Standard Reshaping is shared with the Executive Board members, in particular the advances of the first draft of the proposed new structure for the RTRS Chain of Custody Standard, its rationale and the new possible structural approach (type of supply chain actor; applicability; requirements, etc.). A preliminar first draft of possible verification method is also presented for the reshaped Chain of Custody Standard.

Lieven Callewaert and Gerhard Adam additionally refer to the RTRS Meeting Point 2022 and the opportunity to present the new draft of the RTRS Chain of Custody Standard Reshaping and Chain of Custody Module and it is informed that Peterson's colleagues have already confirmed their availability to present during the Meeting Point the new draft version of the RTRS Chain of Custody Standard (reshaped version) and the main advances on the new Chain of Custody Module.





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.

6. Update on European Union Commission proposal for a regulation on deforestation-free products by Hill & Knowlton Strategies.

A brief recapitulation on the European Union legislative process is made. The Executive Board members are informed about the progress of the RTRS European Union/European Commission and United Kingdom/ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs-Defra Public Affairs approach and the latest updates, specially on the main provisions about the Regulation on deforestation-free products and the Due Diligence requirements.

Additionally, the Executive Board members are reminded about RTRS' positioning and Commission Union/European within European Kingdom/Defra advocacy approach, and the suggested engagement strategy for the rest of 2022 with both, European Commission and Defra.

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.

(a) July 2022 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) & (b) Priorities update.

The Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) of July 2022 are presented to the Executive Board. An overview on the new RTRS certified material adopters and the membership status is shared. The status of RTRS certified production and uptake of certified material up to the moment of the presentation is also informed.

Moving to the Priorities update and in view of the limited time remaining, the Executive Board members decide to postpone the consideration of this item of the agenda, and it is agreed that the RTRS Secretariat will distribute to the Executive Board members the annexes corresponding to this topic after the meeting.

8. Any other business.

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

9. Closing.

The meeting is closed on Wednesday, August 24th, 2022, at 18:00 CEST time.

Lieven Callewaert

RTRS President

Marcelo Visconti

Executive Director of RTRS