



Minutes 118 - EB Physical Meeting

Date: May 21, 2015

Place: Hotel Bloom, Brussels, Belgium

Attendees:

Producers: Alejandro O'Donnell (Aapresid); Gisela Introvini (Fapcen); Juliana Lopes (AMaggi); John Landers (APDC)

Industry, Trade & Finance: Belinda Howell (Retailers' Soy Group); Christophe Callu Mérite (Feed Alliance); Olaf Brugman (Rabobank); Terence Baines (Unilever)

Civil Society: Gert Van Der Bijl (Solidaridad); Oswaldo Carvalho (Earth Innovation Institute); Sandra Mulder (WWF); Ulises Martinez (Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina)

Proxies: Ashis Mondal (ASA) is given to Gert Van Der Bijl (Solidaridad)

Observer: Jan Gilhuis (IDH), Pablo Casabianca (Syngenta)

Secretariat: Agustín Mascotena; Daniel Meyer; Jimena Couto.

The agenda is presented. Olaf Brugman opens the meeting, presents the agenda and asks for further subjects to be included.

1. EB positions appointment. Greetings and introduction to the new members of the EB.

- Christophe introduces himself and his goals for RTRS: to bring more people to the organisation, as well as Ulises. Belinda asks if Christophe will be representing FEFAC, too. Christophe explains he was contacted by Alexander to be a liaison between the EB and FEFAC, but he is representing Feed Alliance. If there is a FEFAC subject, he will discuss it with the EB first.
- Sandra mentions that we are trying to be transparent, so it is not a secret what is going on.
- Olaf mentions he had 3 interviews in RT10, all French media, and we have asked them to send RTRS the interview before publishing.
- Candidates for Treasurer position are called. Agustín explains the role: inform the financial status time to time. Treasurer is included in the Steering Committee when financial issues are discussed; and he/she has a key for the bank account. Olaf asks for volunteers.

Gert Van Der Bijl (Solidaridad) is re-elected as treasurer.

- Candidates for President: Olaf introduces his experience in this position and says it was a voluntary and temporary role, but he is also available to continue in the position. He offers to leave the room to discuss if necessary.
- John congratulates Olaf for his work, and the way he managed to be fair with everyone's point of view.
- Juliana says they discussed this at last TF Brazil and how everybody feels included with his management.
- Sandra asks if we should include the new EB member in the discussion.
- It is agreed that there is quorum and it is possible to elect President.

Olaf Brugman is re-elected as President.

- Candidates for Vice-President: Olaf and Agustín explain why we have 3 vice-presidents and the role of the Steering Committee.



- Sandra says the SC is not a much bigger role to the EB than the ones we have at the EB.
- Olaf comments that he did not think it was practical or ethical to leave the EB out of the discussion.
- Juliana says they are willing to continue and Amaggi supports this, but it would be ok if someone else wanted to be candidate. No other candidates from the producers' side.
- John asks how she manages to represent producers when she also represents a trader. Juliana explains here she represents producers and that as a trader they have been working with many producers for years, so they are not thinking as large producers but also as the rest of the producers, as they know how they feel.

Juliana Lopes is re-elected as Vice-President.

- Sandra Mulder says she is willing to continue but she has not talked with the rest.
- John asks the difference between civil society and NGOs. Agustín explains that some organisations are difficult to classify, so they go to this constituency. Sandra explains she tries to consult the network outside the RTRS membership, and try to represent them. We keep trying to keep them all in.

Sandra Mulder is re-elected as Vice President.

- Belinda says she has not discussed it with retailers but she would be happy to become vice-president.

Belinda Howell is elected as Vice-President.

2. RT10/GA9. Olaf opens the discussion on the RT10 and what can be done better next year.

- Gert says overall he was quite happy with the presentations and issues discussed, especially compared with last year, as the real burning issues were discussed (forest codes, European market, impact of RTRS and soy moratorium...). That was the main progress but there could be improvements. There were too many presentations. He understands it is difficult to avoid, but it leaves little interaction with the audience and short room for discussion. There was a lot more that could be said. Gert mentions he is disappointed with media coverage.
- John asks how we can get the audience to participate. Gert says there is not a simple recipe, but there was little time. John says that when there was time, not many people participated. Gert states it would be helpful to have a clear subject of each session, as it was sometimes not easy to relate presentations in the same topic.
- Sandra was at first disappointed at the lack of new companies there and mentioned Puvan was surprised that we challenged each other in public. She agrees in having more time to discuss and suggests world cafe sessions.
- Belinda says her session was a classic case of knowing what the session was all about. She felt we had brilliant presentations and it was great to have Greenpeace on the platform, but because of time we started half an hour late as already we were late in the morning. Gert says a good moderation is really an important and serious job.
- Gert mentions Lieven's job was not the best as moderator.



- Christophe felt the conference very professional and very much organised. He asks not to forget it is a congress, a place where once a year people meet, and it is different from a workshop. If that is what we want we can divide the conference in morning sessions and afternoon workshops, but the idea of a congress is very important also. If you aim to have new members you need to aim to that before, not at the conference.
- Juliana mentions the translation was terrible as the translators had problems with technical information. She decided to make her presentation in English because there were more people in the public speaking in English. Agustín explains we are raising a complaint as they were not polite either. Juliana suggests hiring someone who is following the issues discussed during the year. John says Latin fees are minor to European and can balance.
- Olaf agrees that there was little time for discussion but the discussion was good. He asks to consider making 2-day conferences. He adds that the funding side and government were extremely happy with the conference and the discussion was vibrant and dynamic. It was daring to open the discussion and they were surprised. It seemed to attract people from other places. Two government officials will advice to support RTs and give them priority, which is good considering that a couple of years ago they were thinking about a Plan B.
- Sandra says it is getting more difficult for companies to go to conferences. Terence says it depends on the priorities.
- Terence says we have created a good momentum again. He thought it was a bit tight. He mentions an important outcome no one talked about: China made a commitment. This should come out in the news as a big outcome. For him it changes the whole picture. It is a new way of looking sustainability of soybean. We need to work with that.
- Olaf says a rich conversation was created as deforestation issues were dealt in detail, so RTRS should be more articulate about this issue, its plans, position and social issues. Find different solutions for different countries. It is a task to see the priorities set and how to connect plans and projects.
- Juliana suggests targeting messages. Sustainability is not just for Europe.
- Gert says they are organising the visit of producers from China in Brazil. It would be good to work on that together, try to have the attention from media. **[A1]**
- Christophe suggests RTRS presenting its works at other events. Olaf mentions we should have the list of events. **[A2]**
- Agustín says the next challenge is to have a representative in Asia. We had an invitation to go back to China.
- Belinda mentions Greenpeace was uncomfortable, as they were not endorsing RTRS.
- Gisela says we don't have to increase the hectares but the technology. The main problem is the abuse and use of agrochemicals. The use of biological control is very important, a flag for RTRS to show a difference and advance. It is needed to intensify the work with the financial sector and the government. She asks to include these issues in next events, apart from deforestation. More press is needed.



- Jimena explains the media actions made by S&P. The EB asks to receive all the information of press releases issued. Agustín explains the perspective of the Secretariat in relation to S&P's work. Olaf asks for a report. **[A3]**
- John asks to get formal approval to publish speakers' presentations. EB provides approval. **[A4]**
- Next year's RT: Canada would be an interesting option. It will be discussed during the next call. **[A5]**

2. UN Global Compact: Olaf explains the reports of UNGC and what they monitor in the implementation of the FAB Principles.

Olaf had a dialogue with Puvan Selvanathan who asked for green light from RTRS to elevate to consideration of the UNGC to use RTRS as reference standard.

- Juliana adds they are working at the Food and Agriculture Principles in Brazil. A task of the working group is connecting RTs. So, to have approval from UNGC is important because the Brazilian network needs this to start moving.

EB APPROVED the green light

3. Update on IDH Projects: Jan Gilhuis explains they have the biggest producer support programme. IDH is working with Solidaridad in programmes supporting producers in key sourcing and risk areas. They have priority areas and partner with many organisations. He presents the targets and progress of their projects and the results. One of their goals is conservation and protection of biodiversity. Keeping farmers certified is becoming a challenge and it is difficult to get the feedback from them.

- Daniel Meyer explains RTRS has been in touch with an organisation which has a platform that has done a lot of impact assessment. They are interested in measuring impact on this issue, especially greenhouse gases. Jan says that we could develop an idea to do this together. All projects have a gap analysis at the beginning, but thinking about agrochemical issues is more complex, here are methodological issues to discuss.
- Olaf says we should be able to create an impact story for RTRS. Jan says that we should discuss an impact story for this year **[A6]**. He adds it is good to get some testimonials from farmers.
- Jan mentions IDH is trying to map the areas of risk. Pablo mentions Embrapa's programme. He believes RTRS should get closer to that initiative. John has doubts about the management and says it is mostly propaganda and he really doesn't think it is important for soybeans.
- Olaf mentions TF Brazil's task to get government engagement, and asks where IDH sees RTRS. Jan says we should collaborate and try to get the tricky regions of the business from red to green. Olaf asks about how RTRS can help in this. Agustín explains RTRS is part of the 3FI project.
- Ulises asks about some of the producers' listed in the programme. Agustín explains that we are trying to get producers re-certified. There are still some who did not certify yet. We are working with 2 private companies to assume the role of the funding.



4. Agenda Planning: Agustín is asked to arrange a monthly meeting for the rest of the year among EB. [A7] If someone cannot make it, they can send details of those who will be in their place. Olaf suggests having the next EB physical meeting as soon as possible (September) in Paraguay [A8]. Secretariat will prepare a report on the P&C process and what could be expected from it by September/October, to be discussed at next EB Call [A9]. A learning journey to Argentina should be arranged in February with support from Aapresid. [A10]

5. Models Evolution: overview of models discussed and tools that needed more development. Agustín will develop a more concrete proposal to get a final decision from EB. **PES project** is continuing from last year.

- Ulises would like to be involved and also hopes to deliver a similar project in Argentina, as a next step.
- John mentions that if we can get PES it would change IDH's project and suggests IDH to look at a policy study and get PES for land use intensification.
- Juliana comments that PES has to be discussed and RTRS needs to start thinking ahead. She suggests having someone to look at the project but don't make this the main topic of TFB. Government engagement is the main point, also the joint approach between TFE and TFB. PES will come out slowly during the next years.
- Agustín explains the **multi-crop model** and the decision to be made between whole farm certification, or prepare add-ons to the RTRS Standard and ask for the auditor to check the other crop if decided by the producer. This last option is technically easier.
- Terence explains they have everything registered for soy but not for corn. This will help in USA .
- Alejandro says that in terms of sustainability this model is better, as you think of the whole farm.
- Juliana says the best is to make this part of many other crops and do it step by step.
- Terence suggests including wheat.
- Christophe comments we should be ambitious for multi-crop as the demand goes for the final product. In terms of credibility, it is better to have everything so that buyers can claim that everything is sustainable. It is a long term idea, but it is better to have the whole farm certified.
- Sandra agrees on a step by step approach, but not too slow. There are other schemes moving in this direction.
- Ulises says these crops are mostly consumed domestically in producing countries, it is different than soy. So it is a better approach to local markets.
- John mentions his concern on how to call this model, as it should be something to indicate this is not the end and there will be a whole farm certification.
- Gert asks to think about the strategy on how to work with all the rest of the stakeholders involved.
- Olaf asks for the first result on the short term. The Secretariat is working on it and John is collaborating. Deliverables: 1st draft to make public consultation. Suggestion



of Agustín: not to double efforts. Check if we can back other schemes who are already certifying other crops.

- Agustín adds we are working with Bonsucro as some farmers in Australia also have soy. He suggests checking draft with a certification body.
- Ulises asks if credits will be able to be sold in platform. Agustín says it is an investment to develop in the platform.
- Olaf suggests creating a working group to broaden the base.

DECISION: the Secretariat will develop a first draft and after approval a working group will be created. A name should be found. **[A11]**

6. Balance – Planning: Olaf suggests working on this with TFs and VPs, in order to create a one pager with clear points to talk about the next call.

- Juliana asks if the discussion for a communication area in TF Brazil will be included, and to have an account in Brazil to make transfers in order to have administration backup.
- Olaf says the Secretariat can look at this but we need a legal entity in the country and legal registration in chamber of commerce, etc.
- Gert suggests having an evaluation of this, pros & cons and deciding it. **[A12]** Agustín mentions that we are managing small payments through an account, but we cannot make bigger payments there.
- Olaf asks to see clear proposals and TFs should not be a mini RTRS that just throws suggestions to the EB. If there is a journalist he expects that journalist to be fitted in the proposal of the Secretariat and send the proposal to the EB. Executive Director is free to hire someone.

7. Any other business.

- Alejandro comments that he liked what he saw and was impressed and would like to see Aapresid working harder with RTRS.
- John asks why ACSOJA is not a member. Agustín says they allocated their budget to other projects. As ACSOJA represents other RTRS members (Aapresid, Los Grobo), they felt that the work was done and it would be a duplication of efforts. They are still interested in participating in the mapping project.
- Sandra suggests including them as observers. It is explained this is not possible, as once you are in one constituency, you cannot change.
- Juliana says TFs should be aligned better, as well as TFs with Secretariat. She thinks we should see TFs as a force to implement the work of RTRS on the ground. A lot of producers are almost ready so as soon as we can get market possibilities we can scale.
- John would like to see follow up to stop hijacking the “responsible soy” term and try to create levels of certification (gold, silver, bronze). He highlights the importance of biological control and says he will make the recommendation to the P&C Review.
- Oswaldo is glad about the progress. RT10 was by far the best he participated in. It was much more objective a practical. We are doing the work and thinking about the future. It is good to have progress.



-Gisela says she is honoured to be part of the EB and will continue to work on the tools for RTRS in Brazil.

-13:29 CET –

----- MEETING CLOSED -----

| Activity | Responsible Party | Deadline |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------|
| [A1] Organize joint activities for the Chinese delegation going to Brazil | Gert + TF Brazil | - |
| [A2] Update RTRS Calendar on website and develop a list o events | Secretariat | - |
| [A3] Report on S&P's work | Secretariat | July 6th |
| [A4] Get approval to publish ppts | Secretariat | - |
| [A5] Decide location of RT11 | EB | July 6th |
| [A6] Create impact story with IDH | Secretariat + IDH | - |
| [A7] Arrange monthly EB meetings | Secretariat | - |
| [A8] Arrange physical meeting in Paraguay | Secretariat | September |
| [A9] Report on P&C Review Process and expectations | Secretariat | July 6th |
| [A10] Learning Journey to Argentina | Secretariat + Aapresid | February 2016 |
| [A11] First Draft Multi-Crop | Secretariat + John | - |
| [A12] Proposal on administration in Brazil | Secretariat | - |