



EVENT OF THE EU SUSTAINABLE COCOA INITIATIVE

AGENDA

WORLD COCOA CONFERENCE 5, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

MONDAY 22 APRIL 2024 16:00-17:30

Welcome & Introductions: Implementing the Roadmap on sustainable cocoa 16:00-16:15

- *Mr Koen Doens, Director-General, EU Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships*
- *Ms Maria Martin-Prat, Deputy-Director General, EU Commission Directorate-General for Trade*

Keynote speeches 16:15-16:30

- *Mr Paul Garaycochea, Director, Sustainable Supply Chains, Agriculture and Food Systems, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany*
- *Mr Yves Brahima Koné, General Director, Conseil Café-Cacao, Côte d'Ivoire*
- *Mr Joseph Aidoo, Chief Executive, Ghana Cocoa Board*
- *Ms Heidi Hautala, Vice-President, European Parliament*

Panel discussion 16:30-17:15

- *Mr Guus de Gruiter, member of the Board, European Cocoa Association*
- *Mr Aldo Cristiano, President, CAOBISCO*
- *Mr Antonie Fountain, Managing Director, the Voice network*
- *Mr Bakary Traoré, Executive Director, IDEF, Côte d'Ivoire*

Concluding remarks 17:15-17:30

- *H.E. Alex Assanvo, Executive Secretary, Côte d'Ivoire-Ghana Cocoa Initiative*
- *Mr Luc Magloire Mbarga Atangana, Minister of Trade, Cameroon*

Moderator: Mr. Viwanou Gnassounou, former Assistant Secretary-General at the Africa, Caribbean, Pacific Group of States (now OACPS)

The EU sustainable cocoa initiative

The European Union is the world's largest cocoa importer accounting for 60 percent of world's imports, with beans originating mainly from Côte d'Ivoire (the world's largest producer), Ghana and Cameroon. These three countries benefit from free trade agreements with the EU, referred to as Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), which among others, allows for duty free and quota free exports of cocoa to the EU. Nevertheless, the cocoa value chains in these countries are facing many interlinked challenges in terms of sustainability, which include persistent poverty of small producers, child labour and deforestation.

On 22 September 2020, the European Commission launched an inclusive dialogue on sustainable cocoa production in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. The dialogue brought together key EU stakeholders, including representatives of Member States, the European Parliament, industry and civil society organisations, and the authorities and Ambassadors of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. The objective of the multistakeholder dialogue is to foster progress in ensuring a living income for cocoa farmers, to reduce child labour and to enhance the protection and restoration of forests in cocoa-producing regions.

Under the Sustainable Cocoa Initiative, the European Commission organised eight thematic roundtables of the multi-stakeholder *Cocoa Talks* on living income for farmers, standards, traceability with respect to child labour and deforestation, regulation with a focus on due diligence, sustainable production of cocoa, development cooperation and finance, and the role of EU consumers.

The Sustainable Cocoa Initiative supplements EU legislation on corporate sustainability due diligence and on tackling global deforestation associated with the EU's consumption footprint. In parallel to the Brussels-led *Cocoa Talks*, a series of similar national dialogues have been organised by the EU Delegations in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire and in Cameroon.

In June 2022, this dialogue culminated with the adoption of a Roadmap of Action points to deliver against the objectives of sustainable cocoa and trade. The EU Sustainable Cocoa Initiative is also supported by a far-reaching EUR 25 million programme "*EU sustainable cocoa programme*" (SCP) that started in 2022 in Côte d'Ivoire, in Ghana and in Cameroon, and that is co-funded by the German development cooperation (BmZ).

Presentation of the event

The event, held on the first day of World Cocoa Conference 5 in Brussels, Belgium, will:

- discuss some of the lessons learnt from the *Cocoa Talks* in establishing a successful multistakeholder dialogue to enhance sustainable cocoa production and trade;
- review the progress made to date in achieving the objectives of the Roadmap on Sustainable Cocoa;
- discuss the next steps in terms of development cooperation and trade partnerships to fully achieve the joint objectives of the stakeholders of the Sustainable Cocoa Initiative.