

Resolution 6e

Proposed Resolution to be adopted at the 11th General Assembly of the
Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)

20th of November 2014

TITLE: CHANGING REPORTING PERIOD OF ACOP AND DEFINITION OF CLEAR REPORTING RULES

Submitted by: REWE Group on behalf of REWE-Zentral-Aktiengesellschaft Köln

Co-signed by: Bahlsen GmbH & Co. KG; Boots UK Limited; EDEKA ZENTRALE AG & Co. KG; Fauser Vitaquellwerk KG; Freiburger Lebensmittel GmbH & Co. Produktions- und Vertriebs KG; Gebr. Müller Kerzenfabrik AG; Henkel AG & Co. KGaA; Kaufland Warenhandel GmbH & Co. KG; Kuchenmeister GmbH; Lidl Stiftung & Co. KG; Landkrone Naturkost und Naturwaren GmbH; Lorenz Snack-World Holding GmbH;

Background:

All RSPO members have to submit on an annual basis the *Annual Communication of Progress* report. It is generally accepted that the ACOP is an outstanding tool to provide enhanced transparency which is an asset to the RSPO. We welcome the efforts by the RSPO to further enforce the submission of the ACOP reports and take action towards those companies which have not submitted their reports so far. On the other hand we have to keep the system simple to reduce the effort and increase the transparency.

We fully support the submission of **Annual Communication of Progress (ACOP)** to the RSPO.

However, there are inconsistencies in the **reporting timelines** of the RSPO:

- In the ACOP members need to report from July until June as a 12 months period.
- The Green Palm Trading platform by Book & Claim is based on the calendar year (January - December). Certificates may be traded until the end of March.

Outside of the RSPO the members have to report against different timelines again:

- The fiscal years of most companies have the time period of January - December;
- The supplier contracts from individual companies have again different time periods, however mostly on the basis of calendar years;

These different timelines increase the complexity for companies towards proper data submission. Additionally reporting towards different timelines is costly and time consuming for the Members.

Additionally we observe that many members understand differently **which information** needs to be included into the ACOP. It often remains unclear whether e.g. Derivatives are included or excluded, there is the impression that some companies don't report unless the ingredient is called palm oil etc. The lack of clarity in reporting guidelines in relation what scope companies report against as well as the variable degree of rigor in relation to claims of "RSPO certified" (e.g. to what extent supply chain certification is in place) reduces RSPO's credibility and makes it more difficult or even impossible to

provide clear data on crude sustainable palm oil and sustainable palm kernel oil used in the different markets, by different industries, in different products etc.

Proposed Resolution:

To solve the problem we propose that the General Assembly adopts the following resolution:

- 1) To change to ACOP reporting period towards the calendar year (January – December) in order to harmonize the period with the Green Palm trading platform and make the RSPO reporting system in itself more consistent; subsequently the deadline for submission of the ACOP report would move forward to latest 30 June of the following year; this would mean that the next reporting period should be 1.1.2014 until 31.12.2014 (to be reported latest until 30.6.2015).
- 2) Ask the Board of Governors to further define clear rules what needs to be reported in the ACOP and also ask the Secretariat to further closely monitor progress in this regard;

Benefits:

We believe that harmonization of reporting timelines is increasing consistency in the RSPO; the harmonization also reduces reporting burdens for the Members and therefore should increase quality of the reports; like in the past, harmonized timelines also enables comparisons and monitoring of progress.

We believe that by clear and consistent rules the credibility of the RSPO increases and that there will be a much better understanding what all RSPO members have already done and jointly achieved. This will only be possible if all Members report on the same basis and the same understanding. The adoption of this resolution would foster such a process.

For further questions kindly get in contact with
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