

Standards Committee Minutes

Decisions between meetings

Decisions between the 97th SC and 98th SC

July - September 2021

SC members: Martin Boon, Jos Harmsen, Martin de la Harpe, Richard Kwarteng, Gustavo Lopez, Marike de Peña, Iresha Sanjeewanie, Emilie Sarrazin (Chair).

Fairtrade International S&P: Gudrun Schloepker, Jebet Yegon, Eleonora Gutwein, Sebastian Wichterich, Blanca Loaiza

Disclaimer:

The Fairtrade International Standards Committee (SC) aims to reach consensus, but decisions may not always reflect the opinions of all people.

The section to introduce the topic (background information) has been written by the Standards & Pricing and may not have been discussed by the SC in full. Sections listing action points are an outcome of discussions of the SC but are not part of the decisions made.

Item 1 – Seat extension of the Assurance Provider member in the Exceptions Committee (EC)

Date of the decision: July 7, 2021

On July 6, the Assurance and Oversight Manager sent an email with a decision request on the seat extension of an Exceptions Committee (EC) member.

Background:

The term of the Assurance Provider member in the Exceptions Committee has come to an end, and the EC requested her extension.

Silke Kladt is a Senior certification analyst and auditor in FLOCERT, appointed by the SC as the Assurance Provider representative at the EC since March 2017, her term ended on March 24, 2021.

Silke is the vice chair of the EC, and she brings 14 years of expertise in certification and auditing.

Decisions

SC members answered the email with their votes and comments:

Decision 1

Do you approve the extension of Silke Kladt 's membership in the Exceptions Committee as the Assurance Provider representative for a third term?

The SC unanimously voted in favour of the proposal.

Item 2: Fairtrade Sourcing Ingredients (FSI) Extension to Coffee

Date of the decision: July 23, 2021

On July 14, the Project Manager sent a paper to the SC about the FSI Extension to Coffee with details of the project and results of the consultation phase. She requested the SC decision on Fairtrade Sourcing Ingredients (FSI) Extension to Coffee.

The SC members answered the email with their votes and comments within the next 5 working days, as stipulated in the Terms of Reference.

Background

Fairtrade Sourcing Programs for cocoa, sugar and cotton were introduced in 2014 to connect Fairtrade farmers with companies wanting to buy these specific commodities on Fairtrade terms. Rather than focusing on all the ingredients that can be Fairtrade for one finished composite product, companies make commitments to sourcing one or more specific commodities for use as ingredients in finished composite products across ranges, or even their whole business.

During the meeting in October 2020, the Board approved the extension of FSI to include coffee and processed bananas, in line with the Fairtrade's global strategy 2021-2025.

The project 'FSI Extension to Coffee' started in December 2020 with the launch of the project assignment.

During the consultation phase, stakeholders were invited to participate via email and were asked to fill in an online survey or a Word consultation document. Three questions were presented during the consultation, one on whether stakeholders had feedback to the decision taken by the FI Board to extend the FSI model to coffee and another on the implementation period. Stakeholders also had the opportunity to provide any additional feedback regarding the consultation.

Based on the feedback received during the consultation, S&P made the following recommendations to the SC:

- Extend the FSI model to coffee in the Trader Standard.
- The implementation period to start as proposed in August 2021
- Delegate to the Director of S&P any non-substantive changes and final wording of the standard

Decisions

7 SC members answered the email with their votes and comments:

Decision 1

Do you agree with S&P's recommendation to extend the FSI model to coffee and therefore make the necessary changes in the Trader Standard?

The SC unanimously voted in favour of the proposal.

Decision 2

Do you agree with the implementation period of August 2021 as proposed by S&P?

The SC unanimously voted in favour of the proposal.

Decision 3

Do you agree to delegate the approval of non-substantive changes and final wording to the director of S&P?

The SC approved the proposal (6 votes in favour and 1 against)

Item 3: Exceptions Committee new member appointment

Date of the decision: August 20

On July 15, the Assurance and Oversight Manager sent an email with a decision request on the appointment of an Exceptions Committee member.

Background:

The term of Duncan Gates (Business Engagement Officer at the Fairtrade Foundation) as Market Representative on the Exceptions Committee expired on June 27, 2021. Therefore, the EC had issued a call for candidates for Duncan's succession within the Fairtrade system. Applicants could apply during the period between June 1 – 30, 2021.

Two applications were received:

- 1) Li Törnblom, Licensing and Key Account Manager at Fairtrade Sweden
- 2) Kate Willis, Partnership Data Manager – Ben & Jerry's at the Fairtrade Foundation

Their applications and endorsements were attached to the email.

After careful consideration, the Exceptions Committee decided to nominate Li Törnblom as new Market Representative on the committee and hereby asked the Standards Committee to appoint her, based on Section 5.1 of the EC's Terms of Reference.

Decisions

7 SC members answered the email with their votes and comments:

Decision 1

Do you approve Li Törnblom to be appointed as the new Market Representative on the Exceptions Committee?

The SC approved the appointment of Li Törnblom as the new Market Representative on the Exceptions Committee (6 votes in favour, 1 against)