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Fédération du Commerce des Cacaos**

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**26 January 2011****JOINT STATEMENT REGARDING SITUATION IN COTE D'IVOIRE<sup>1</sup>**

The position set out in our Joint Statement of 24th January 2011 continues to apply, particularly to those who are concerned to act in the best long term interests of the cocoa farmers and their dependants and the wider cocoa market.

The complexity of securing clarification on certain aspects of EU Regulation No. 25/2011 and related legislation is not to be underestimated, particularly in relation to precisely how such measures correlate with communications from within Côte d'Ivoire.

We expect to receive a reply very soon from the EU institutions to the questions posed on 21 January 2011.

Indeed, members have reported that the lack of clarity is causing a significant slow down in the commercialisation of cocoa in Côte d'Ivoire and will affect the entire cocoa supply chain from the farmer through to the end user.

We do understand the interests of the wider membership and third parties to gather more information but we continue to seek support for our appeal for calm and composure in these circumstances.

The collective tensions arising from the impact of the different pressure points has created an extremely hazardous environment on the ground within which to both live and work. All members affected by this situation are very concerned about the risks to people and hope that a political solution can be urgently achieved.

We urge the international community to address these concerns with the utmost urgency as part of the measures to bring about a return to normality for a trade which is the life blood of the Ivorian economy.

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<sup>1</sup> The European Cocoa Association (ECA) based in Brussels is a trade association that groups the major companies involved in the cocoa bean trade and processing, in warehousing and related logistical activities in Europe. Together, ECA Members represent two-thirds of Europe's cocoa beans grinding, half of Europe's industrial chocolate production and 40% of the world production of cocoa liquor, butter and powder. On behalf of its members, ECA monitors and reports on development impacting the cocoa sector, both at regulatory and scientific levels. In addition, ECA is actively engaged in European and International fora related to the industry's contribution to a sustainable cocoa economy.

The Federation of Cocoa Commerce Limited is UK based and represents some 160 members engaged in the international cocoa sector. This diverse membership includes organisations and companies from cocoa producing countries, the cocoa processing and chocolate industry, cocoa trade, logistics providers, banks, brokers, insurance and others including the International Cocoa Organisation ("ICCO"). FCC activities are focused around the cocoa supply chain being an international contract authority. We support this cocoa contract with arbitration services and a number of other initiatives to enhance integrity in the cocoa supply chain.