



15 March 2011

Joint Statement on situation in Côte d'Ivoire

Caobisco, ECA and FCC members witness with increasing concern further deterioration of the situation in Côte d'Ivoire, and fully share in the despair of the Ivorian population.

We deeply regret that a political solution has not been found yet, and we continue to commend efforts for a speedy restoration of peace.

We duly note the publication, on 10th March, of the statement by the spokesperson to EU High Representative Catherine Ashton regarding the obligations of European economic operators with respect to trade in goods from Côte d'Ivoire.

As previously reported, our members' operations in Côte d'Ivoire in terms of procurement and processing of cocoa are severely hindered, while exports of cocoa have come to a standstill; likewise, "in country" sustainability programs have been seriously curtailed.

Despite these difficult circumstances, the members of Caobisco, ECA & FCC remain committed to the millions of people in cocoa farming communities whose livelihoods depend on cocoa.

The safety of our members' employees in Côte d'Ivoire is our highest and most immediate priority.

We remain committed to working with the people of Côte d'Ivoire for the long term viability of the cocoa sector.

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For further information:

The Federation of Cocoa Commerce Ltd

Contact: Phil Sigley - psigley@nyx.com

Cannon Bridge House - 1 Cousin Lane

London EC4R 3XX

Telephone +44(0) 20 7379 2884

Facsimile +44(0) 20 7379 2389

Website: www.cocoafederation.com

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. 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.

European Cocoa Association

Contact : Isabelle Adam

Isabelle.adam@eurococoa.com

2 Place des Maïeurs

1150 Brussels - Belgium

Telephone : +32 (0) 2 662 0006

Facsimile : +32 (0) 2 662 0008

Website : www.eurococoa.com

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.

Caobisco - Association of Chocolate, Biscuits and Confectionery of Europe

Contact: Sabine Nafziger

sabine.nafziger@caobisco.be

1 rue Defacqz,

B-1000 Brussels,

Belgium

Telephone: +32 (2) 539 18 00

Facsimile: +32 (2) 539 15 75

Website: www.caobisco.com

CAOBISCO is the Association of the Chocolate, Biscuits and Confectionery Industries of Europe. Through its national associations, CAOBISCO represents 2000+ companies across these three product categories. In terms of raw materials usage we represent over 50% of world cocoa consumption, 30% of EU sugar consumption and are the major users of dairy and cereals. CAOBISCO industries are involved at all levels and with many stakeholders in working towards a sustainable cocoa economy. Our commitment covers the three pillars of sustainable development, economic, environmental and social.