



## STATEMENT ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN COTE D'IVOIRE 12/04/2011

The cocoa trade and industry represented by CAOBISCO, ECA and FCC notes the recent developments in Côte d'Ivoire and welcomes the appeal by elected President Ouattara for appeasement and reconciliation after this terrible chapter in the history of the world's largest cocoa producing country.

We also welcome the EU decision to lift the EU sanctions on the ports of Abidjan, San Pedro, and the CGFCC and are hopeful that the end of the political crisis will very soon enable us and our members to play a part in the resumption of cocoa trade and the recovery of the Ivorian economy. A prompt resumption of cocoa activities will bring a much needed focus in the lives of the hundreds of thousands of people engaged in the Ivorian cocoa trade. We are confident that the international community will fully recognise the level of support and rebuilding of the economy and infrastructure that will be needed to facilitate a speedy recovery.

We pay tribute to the people of Côte d'Ivoire for their endurance of the many difficult days and weeks since the November 2010 elections and the suffering and hardship that they have sustained. We pay tribute also to our members and especially their employees based in Côte d'Ivoire who have continued to work in a most difficult environment to ensure the future of the Cote d'Ivoire cocoa sector.

We hope that an orderly market will be maintained going forward and the amicable agreements that have been reached to avoid trade disputes will prove to have been a strong testimony to the strength of relationships within the cocoa community and the strength of our collective commitment to a sustainable cocoa economy.

### **The Federation of Cocoa Commerce Ltd**

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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**

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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**

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**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.