

SECOND INTERNATIONAL BANANA CONFERENCE

“REVERSING THE RACE TO THE BOTTOM”

Dates: 28th,29th,30th April 2005

Venue: Flemish Parliament /Vlaams Parlement

Rue Ducale/Hertogstraat 2

1011 Brussels (Belgium)

Timing: 09.30 to 17.30 (April 28 th), 09.00 to 17.30 (April29th), 09.00 to 13:00 (April 30 th)

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Thursday 28th April

- 09.30 **Welcome by Dirk Van der Maelen**, member of the Belgian federal parliament
- 09.40 **Welcome and organisers' statement by Gilberth Bermudez**, IBC Secretariat/COLSIBA, Costa Rica
- 10.00 **INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION ON BANANAS : A BRIEF HISTORY**
Presentation by Pascal Liu, Commodity Specialist, Commodities and Trade Division, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
- 10.15 **Keynote presentation: “REVERSING THE RACE TO THE BOTTOM”**
Stephen Percy (tbc), International Labour Organisation
- 10.50 **THE MACRO-ECONOMICS OF THE BANANA CHAIN**
*Presentation by Eva Carazo, independent consultant, Costa Rica
Followed by debate in plenary*
- 11.45 **LABOUR RIGHTS, LIVING WAGES, FAIR PRICES: WHAT COMMITMENTS DO WE NEED?**
Interactive plenary chaired by a journalist (name to be confirmed) from VRT (Flemish TV) with representatives from banana workers' unions, small producers' associations and consumers: Iris Munguía and German Zepeda, Latin American Banana Workers' Union Coordination (COLSIBA), Honduras; Patrick Vewessee, Fako Agricultural Workers' Union, Cameroon; Josephine Dublin-Prince, WINFA, Dominica; Carolina Valarezo, Union of Campesino Organisations of the Coastal Plain, Ecuador; Rafael Hernandez, Spanish Farmers' Union (COAG), Canary Islands, Spain; Leo Ghysels, Oxfam Wereldwinkels, Belgium; Lewis Akenji, Association of Conscious Consumers, Hungary.
- 13.15 **Lunch**
- 14.30 **ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH IMPACTS: WHAT COMMITMENTS DO WE NEED?**
*Panel of researchers' presentations and testimonies:
Dr Raúl Harari, Corporation for the Development of Production and the Working Environment (IFA), Ecuador; Dr Catharina Wesseling, Instituto Regional de Estudios en Sustancias Tóxicas (IRET-UNA), Universidad Nacional, Costa Rica; Dr Thierry Lescot, Centre for International Cooperation in Agronomic Research for Development (CIRAD), France; Nioka Abbott, WINFA, Saint Vincent and Doris Garcia, ATC-Trabanic, Nicaragua.
Questions and debate in plenary*
- 16.00 **Break**
- 16.30 **POLICIES FOR A SUSTAINABLE TRADE IN BANANAS**
*Presentation by Dr Claudius Preville, Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery
Reactions from Ambassador Mentor Villagomez (tbc), Mission of Ecuador to the European Union and Mary Minch (tbc), Head of Unit A1, DG Agriculture, European Commission
Questions and debate in plenary*

18.00 Musical presentation: **UEPA'JE - Orlando y su conjunto**
to 19.00

Friday 29th April

09.00 Summary of Day 1

09.15 **CAN VOLUNTARY STANDARDS PROVIDE SOLUTIONS?**

Presentation by Anne-Claire Chambron, Coordinator of the European Banana Action Network (EUROBAN)

09.45 **WHAT ARE THE ELEMENTS OF A SUSTAINABLE BANANA ECONOMY?**

*Panel of government and company representatives: **Mariano Jimenez**, National Banana Corporation (CORBANA), Costa Rica; **Ambassador Edwin Laurent**, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States; Member of the European Parliament (name to be confirmed); **Manuel Rodriguez** (tbc), Chiquita Brands International; **Sylvain Cuperlier**, Dole Europe SAS; **Guido de Vos**, Chief fruit and vegetable buyer, Carrefour Belgium; **Karl-Friedrich Falkenberg**, DG Trade, European Commission.*

10.30 Break

10.50 **PANEL OF INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES (PART 2)**

13.00 Lunch

14.30 **WHAT IS THE CASE FOR AN INTERNATIONAL BANANA AGREEMENT?**

*Presentation by **Thomas Lines**, independent consultant, UK*

15.00 **WORKSHOPS (choose one in advance)**

1) Towards a permanent forum for banana dialogue

FACILITATOR: John Daly, Irish Fair Trade Network; RESOURCE PERSON: Pascal Liu, FAO; RAPPORTEUR: Cristiano Calvi, CTM Altromercato, Italy

- Why is a permanent forum necessary?
- Who should be involved? Who would be the main actors?
- What is the basis for their inclusion/participation?
- What are the mechanisms of operation of the forum? How does interaction between stakeholders/actors take place?
- What are the aims/objectives of this dialogue?
- How do they relate to IBC2 and its outcome?
- How can such a forum/dialogue contribute to creating a sustainable banana economy?

2) Is an international banana agreement feasible?

FACILITATOR: Peter Robbins, Independent consultant; RESOURCE PERSON: Tom Lines, Independent consultant; RAPPORTEUR: An Lambrechts, Oxfam Wereldwinkels

- What issues need to be addressed by an International Banana Agreement?
- Could some or all of these issues be addressed by some other means?
- What types of banana supply management are feasible?
- How to deal with issues of concentration in the supply chain?
- Who would be the members of an IBA? Producers and/or consumers?
- What types of banana should an IBA cover?
- What are the next steps to begin the process of establishing an IBA?

3) Reversing the erosion of labour rights

FACILITATOR: Sue Longley, IUF; RESOURCE PEOPLE: German Zepeda, COLSIBA and Kingsley Ofei-Nkansah, Ghana Agricultural Workers' Union; RAPPORTEUR: Raúl Harari, IFA

- What is the current situation in relation to labour rights?
- Do we need to differentiate between countries where there has been a loss of rights and those where rights never existed?
- Are there any areas/issues that have been hardest hit? Who has been most affected? Do we need specific strategies to assist the most vulnerable?
- Should we go beyond reversing the decline to campaigning for decent jobs in the industry?
- What measures can be taken to ensure a legal basis for rights? Do ILO Conventions assist in this regard? And, if so, what can we do to get ratification and implementation?

4) Creating a future for small farmers

FACILITATOR: Cecil Ryan, Saint Vincent Banana Growers' Association; **RESOURCE PEOPLE:** Raymond Austrie, Dominica Banana Producers Ltd. and Carolina Valarezo, UROCAL, Ecuador; **RAPPORTEUR:** Richard Sellán, FENACLE, Ecuador

- How can we ensure a future in bananas for small farmers?
- What should be the main ingredients of a stable future?
- Smallholder production and the environment: what are the inter-relations?
- Role of small farmers and their organisations in the international banana trade
- What instruments are necessary to guarantee a profitable future for small farmers?
- Given the current threats from agriculture, trade and competition policies, what space exists for farmers to create leverage?

5) Living wages and fair prices: whose responsibility?

FACILITATOR: Leo Ghysels, Oxfam Wereldwinkels; **RESOURCE PEOPLE:** Harriet Lamb, Fairtrade Foundation and Ian Burgess, The Cooperative Group; **RAPPORTEUR:** Iain Farquhar, Banana Link

- What are the main reasons why living wages and fair prices are not paid in most cases?
- How can the concept of a living wage be defined in such a way as to apply to different socio-economic conditions in different countries/regions?
- Are there broad principles for defining a 'fair price'? How has it been done in practice by FLO?
- Whose responsibility is it to ensure fair banana wages and prices: trade unions, plantation owners, governments, trading companies, retailers, consumers?
- Does the ILO have a particular role in defining living wages?

6) Trade policy mechanisms for a sustainable banana trade

FACILITATOR: Liz Parker, EUROBAN; **RESOURCE PEOPLE:** Bernard Cornibert, WIBDECO and George Malick, Ministry of Trade, Costa Rica; **RAPPORTEUR:** Michael Joseph, Saint Lucia Banana Corporation

- Can tariff-only contribute to a sustainable banana industry?
- To what extent could tariff differentiation on the basis of sustainability, tariff recycling into a sustainability fund or other banana trade policy mechanisms contribute to preservation or enhancement of the environment and to poverty reduction?
- What governance structures are needed to make this happen?
- What should be the role of, and inter-relationships between, the main stakeholders: producer and consumer country governments, international organisations, producers, traders, retailers, consumers?

17.30 Workshops end

Saturday 30th April

09.00 Report back to plenary from the six workshops

10.00 Questions and clarifications

10.15 PRESENTATION OF DRAFT CONFERENCE DECLARATION

10.30 Break

10.50 FURTHER STEPS TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE BANANA ECONOMY?

Panel of reactions to the draft banana 'Road Map' from representatives of international institutions, governments, companies and civil society: **Mehmet Arda**, Commodities Division, UNCTAD; **Ambassador Nicolás Echavarría**, Colombian Mission to the European Union; Federal Government of Belgium (name to be confirmed); **Dr. Marshall Hall**, Jamaican Producers, **Domenico Capizzi** (invited), Co-op, Switzerland; **Iris Munguía**, COLSIBA, Honduras; **Stephen Sellers** (tbc) FLO International; **Sue Longley**, International Union of Food & Agricultural Workers (IUF).

12.45 Concluding remarks

Hon. Montgomery Daniel, Minister of State with responsibility for bananas in the Ministry of Agriculture St. Vincent and the Grenadines and **Renwick Rose**, WINFA coordinator

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