

Dear Members of the Media,

Please find below for your consideration, a news release from the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO).

BELGIAN PALM OIL MARKET PLEDGES TO BECOME SUSTAINABLE BY 2015

Brussels, 31 January 2011 – The Belgian Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil has launched its charter to promote the use of certified sustainable palm oil in Belgium. The charter pledges that by the end of 2015, all palm oil designated for the Belgian market will be produced based on the sustainability criteria of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO).

The charter was signed by several parties^[1] in the palm oil supply chain – from processors and product manufacturers to industry associations. They have committed to produce and source RSPO-certified sustainable palm oil and boost the transformation towards a fully sustainable market.

Darrel Webber, the Secretary General of RSPO demonstrates his support for the Belgian charter and states: “The establishment of the Belgian Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil is a highly commendable and progressive initiative undertaken by organizations towards 100% sourcing of Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO) by 2015. The Belgian Alliance demonstrates strong commitment and leadership in promoting sustainability among European product manufacturers, continuing the positive trend initiated by the Dutch national industry commitment in 2010. It is an exemplary endeavour which we hope more European consumer markets can typify and commit themselves in order to increase the uptake of CSPO. Today RSPO CSPO represents 11% of all palm oil produced globally. To this end, RSPO looks forward to working closely with the Belgian Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil and its members to raise consumer awareness of sustainable palm oil.”

Adam Harrison, Vice-President of the RSPO and Senior Policy Officer for Food and Agriculture World Wildlife Fund, highlights the collaborative nature of the Belgian initiative: “WWF welcomes the Belgian Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil which demonstrates to the Belgian industry the importance of tackling sustainability through cooperation. WWF urges all companies using palm oil to set ambitious time bound targets for procuring certified sustainable palm oil, both in Belgium and in the other countries they are active, and begin buying it as soon as possible, so that we can realize our shared vision for a future where sustainable palm oil is the norm.”

RSPO recognizes that initiatives like the Belgian and Dutch National Commitments are of crucial importance in order to boost the uptake of CSPO and should be regarded as best practices in Europe. RSPO eagerly awaits the next national industry commitment to 100% sourcing of certified sustainable palm oil by 2015 and calls on other European countries to follow these examples and solidify Europe’s leadership in responsible supply chain practices.

About RSPO

In response to the urgent and pressing global call for sustainably-produced palm oil, the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) was formed in 2004 with the objective of promoting the growth and use of sustainable oil palm products through credible global standards and engagement of stakeholders. The seat of the association is in Zurich, Switzerland, while the secretariat is currently based in Kuala Lumpur with a satellite office in Jakarta.

RSPO is a not-for-profit association that unites stakeholders from seven sectors of the palm oil industry - oil palm producers, palm oil processors or traders, consumer goods manufacturers,

retailers, banks and investors, environmental or nature conservation NGOs and social or developmental NGOs - to develop and implement global standards for sustainable palm oil.

Such multi-stakeholder representation is mirrored in the governance structure of RSPO such that seats in the Executive Board and project-level Working Groups are fairly allocated to each sector. In this way, RSPO lives out the philosophy of the "roundtable" by giving equal rights to each stakeholder group to bring group-specific agendas to the roundtable, facilitating traditionally adversarial stakeholders and business competitors to work together towards a common objective and make decisions by consensus.

END

Note 1: The news release and spokesperson images are available to be downloaded at the links below:

[News Release Link](#)

[Media Images](#)

[Media Images 2](#)

Note 2: At the bottom of the news release attached, there is a snapshot of key facts and figures related to sustainable palm oil and the RSPO

Feel free to contact me if you need any clarifications or have further questions.

Thank you.



Dies ist ein WWF-Dokument und kann nicht ausgedruckt werden!

Das WWF-Format ist ein PDF, das man nicht ausdrucken kann. So einfach können unnötige Ausdrücke von Dokumenten vermieden, die Umwelt entlastet und Bäume gerettet werden. Mit Ihrer Hilfe. Bestimmen Sie selbst, was nicht ausgedruckt werden soll, und speichern Sie es im WWF-Format. saveaswwf.com

This is a WWF document and cannot be printed!

The WWF format is a PDF that cannot be printed. It's a simple way to avoid unnecessary printing. So here's your chance to save trees and help the environment. Decide for yourself which documents don't need printing – and save them as WWF. saveaswwf.com

Este documento es un WWF y no se puede imprimir.

Un archivo WWF es un PDF que no se puede imprimir. De esta sencilla manera, se evita la impresión innecesaria de documentos, lo que beneficia al medio ambiente. Salvar árboles está en tus manos. Decide por ti mismo qué documentos no precisan ser impresos y guárdalos en formato WWF. saveaswwf.com

Ceci est un document WWF qui ne peut pas être imprimé!

Le format WWF est un PDF non imprimable. L'idée est de prévenir très simplement le gâchis de papier afin de préserver l'environnement et de sauver des arbres. Grâce à votre aide. Définissez vous-même ce qui n'a pas besoin d'être imprimé et sauvegardez ces documents au format WWF. saveaswwf.com



SAVE AS WWF, SAVE A TREE