



**INTERNATIONAL  
COFFEE  
ORGANIZATION**

**ED** 2456/24

15 March 2024  
Original: English

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**Communication from the  
Government of Switzerland**

1. The Executive Director attaches a communication from the Government of Switzerland which details its position on the proposal presented by the United Kingdom regarding the Russian Federation's contributions for coffee year 2023/24 ([FA-369/24](#)).



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London, 14 March 2024

**Communication of Switzerland: Request of the United Kingdom regarding the *pro rata temporis* reimbursement of excess contributions**

Dear Executive Director,

Switzerland has undertaken careful consideration and analysis of the recent proposal regarding the *pro rata temporis* reimbursement of contributions from the Russian Federation for the coffee year 2023/2024, as articulated by the United Kingdom (UK) in its letter of 22 February 2024.

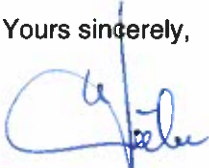
In light of the complexities inherent in this situation, Switzerland acknowledges and appreciates the United Kingdom's request. However, it is essential to emphasize that a Council decision has been previously made on this matter and that meeting the UK's request seems not consistent with the provisions of the 2007 International Coffee Agreement and ICC resolution 470.

Against this background, Switzerland is in favour of strict adherence to the established rules and resolutions governing such matters. For this reason, Switzerland is not in a position to support the UK's proposal, but would like to put forward an alternative proposal for consideration during the upcoming 137<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.

The Swiss proposal entails the clear designation of the surplus contributions for specific projects within the Coffee Public-Private Task Force (CPPTF), i.e. it advocates for the allocation by the Secretariat of these funds towards initiatives that serve the goals of the Roadmap of the CPPTF and thus contribute to the advancement of our shared objectives. Such initiatives could encompass support mechanisms to ensure compliance of smallholders with pertinent regulations, including but not limited to the European Union's Directive on Deforestation-free products (EU DR).

Switzerland believes that by channelling these surplus contributions towards projects with tangible outcomes, the ICO can maximize the utility and the impact of these financial resources. Furthermore, this approach ensures that the funds are utilized judiciously and in accordance with the overarching goals of the ICO.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Markus Lehner', is written over a vertical line that extends from the 'Yours sincerely,' text.

Markus Lehner  
Ambassador of Switzerland to the United Kingdom