

Mission report

Subject	16th Coffee Forum and Dinner of the Swiss Coffee Trade Association (SCTA)
Place and dates	Basel, Switzerland – 2 to 3 October 2025
ICO staff member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vanússia Nogueira, Executive Director • Hannelore Beerlandt, Head of Operations
Purpose of travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take part in the panel “Trust and Vision Under Pressure - Holding the Coffee Sector Together in Uncertain Times Date” (Executive Director) • Lead an ICO Workshop on national legality tools for EUDR due diligence (Head of Operations) • Facilitate panel on EUDR solutions (Head of Operations) • Attend high-level meetings
Five-Year Action Plan/Programme of Activities relevance	<p>Five-Year Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Goal II - Using the Organization’s convening power to provide a forum for dialogue between and within the public and private sectors <p>Results and Deliverables from the PoA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I.B.7 Monitoring and assessing new regulations, standards and other stress factors affecting the coffee sector, engaging with regulators and coffee producers

OVERVIEW

1. Panel - “Trust and Vision Under Pressure - Holding the Coffee Sector Together in Uncertain Times Date”

This panel brought together voices from finance, trade, roasting, and the international policy arena to explore how key actors are navigating short-term pressures. The Executive Director highlighted the need to strengthen and replicate successful models and policies in the coffee sector, sharing the stage with the following panellists: Mr Michiel Teunissen, Global Head of Business Development & Sustainability, Trade & Commodity Finance, Rabobank; Mr Andres Berron, Managing Director, Vice-President, Coffee & Cocoa

Division, Starbucks Coffee Trading Company; Mr Rodrigo Costa, Head of Coffee, COFCO International; and Mr Manish Dhawan, President, Green Coffee, Olam Trading.

2. ICO Workshop on national legality tools for EUDR due diligence

The ICO organized a workshop on national legality tools for EUDR due diligence with the European Forest Institution, led by the Head of Operations.

3. Panel on EUDR solutions

The Head of Operations facilitated a break-out session entitled “EUDR Solutions – Deep Dive” on the second day of the Forum. It convened leading solution providers for a concise, practical update. Panellists included: Mr Thomas Vaassen, Co-Founder & CEO, Meridia; Dr Norbert Schmitz, Managing Director, 4C Services GmbH; Mr David Browning, CEO, Enveritas; Mr Toby Brandon, Chief Operating Officer, ICE Benchmark Administration; and Mr Marcos Antonio Matos, Hands-on CEO, Brazilian Coffee Exporters Council (Cecafé).

4. High-level meetings

The Executive Director and Head of Operations took part in several bilateral meetings with stakeholders from the private sector and representatives of the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO).

CONCLUSIONS/MAIN OUTCOMES

1. ICO workshop and panels

The main topic was the high insecurity in the sector under new policies and trade conditions. The ICO played an important role in demonstrating how the sector could act together (public and private) in such situations, and push for unity through concrete models and actions.

2. High-level meetings

In addition to the Forum sessions, the Executive Director and the Head of Operations held numerous bilateral meetings with stakeholders, providing insights into the latest trends and plans of the private sector and service providers, while also contributing to discussions and mobilizing support for joint action.

AOB

N/A

