

Mission report

Subject	Mission to Brussels
Place and dates	Brussels, Belgium – 25 February 2026
ICO staff member	Hannelore Beerlandt, Head of Operations
Purpose of travel	- Participate in a round table in the European Parliament on living income and due diligence of commodities - Take part in a meeting with the European Coffee Federation (ECF) - Attend a meeting with the Voice of Organisations in Coffee Alliance (VOCAL) - Participate in a meeting with the European Commission's Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV) - Take part in a meeting with the Fair Trade Advocacy Office (FTAO) and Rikolto - Attend a meeting with representatives from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) (Brussels representation)
Five-Year Action Plan/Programme of Activities relevance	Five-Year Action Plan Strategic Goal II: Using the Organization's convening power to provide a forum for dialogue between and within the public and private sectors Strategic Goal III: Facilitating the development of projects and promotion programmes through public-private partnerships Results and Deliverables from the PoA: - Provide a forum for dialogue on coffee-related issues. - Develop links with senior government representatives when visiting ICO member countries. - Participate in national and international coffee events. - Support the design and implementation of national coffee strategies and encourage sharing of best practices.

OVERVIEW

1. European Parliament: Participation in round table on living income and due diligence of commodities

This closed meeting brought together stakeholders from the private sector (OFI/OLAM, Ferrero, Nestle, Mars); the public sector (representations of Ghana and Ecuador to the European Union and delegates from Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands); multi-lateral organizations (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Labour Organization, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) and non-governmental organizations (ISEAL, IDH, Rikolto, FTAO, Fair Trade Belgium, Living Income Community of Practice (LICOP), Sustainable Food Lab (SFL), VOCAL) and others.

Guidelines on due diligence for living income were launched as “living documents”, with the intention of incorporating emerging best practices.

Issues related to living income and human rights are expected to be addressed under the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CS3D) from 2029 onwards and in the forthcoming Regulation on Forced Labour.

2. Meeting with ECF

Two meetings were held with missions of producing countries and invitees from the European Commission and European Parliament on the organization of “World of Coffee Brussels”, which took place in June 2026.

3. Meeting with VOCAL

Participants discussed the Coffee Score Board for companies.

4. Meeting with DG ENV

This meeting covered the implementation of the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) and measures taken by coffee-producing countries to enable compliance.

5. Meeting with FTAO and Rikolto

FTAO and Rikolto outlined their plans to start a Belgian platform for sustainable coffee.

6. Meeting with representatives from BMZ and GIZ (Brussels representation)

This meeting addressed issues related to human rights in due diligence/coffee.

CONCLUSIONS/ MAIN OUTCOMES

1. Due diligence regulations relating to farmers' living incomes and human rights are under development, despite the current trends towards simplification.
2. DG ENV expressed its interest in continuing a regular dialogue with the International Coffee Organization (ICO) regarding the efforts undertaken by coffee-producing countries to facilitate compliance with the EUDR.
3. An increasing number of national platforms for sustainable coffee are being established across Europe. The ICO and/or its Coffee Public-Private Task Force (CPPTF) could play a role in facilitating exchange, coordination and alignment among these platforms.