INTERNATIONAL COFFEE ORGANIZATION

Mission report

Subject	Visit to GIZ (SAFE programme), BMZ and German Competent Authorities responsible for enforcing the EUDR
Place and dates	Bonn, Germany - 18-20 May, 2026
ICO staff member	• Hannelore Beerlandt, Head of Operations
Purpose of travel	• Exchange with coordinators of the Sustainable Agriculture for Forest Ecosystems (SAFE) programme • Take part in a meeting with the leads of the SAFE programme and the Digital Integration of Agricultural Supply Chains Alliance (DIASCA) • Meet with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) • Participate in a meeting with the German Competent Authorities on the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)
Five-Year Plan/Programme of Activities relevance	**Five-Year Action Plan:** • **Strategic Goal III:** Facilitating the development of projects and promotion programmes through public-private partnerships **Results and Deliverables from the PoA:** • I.B.7 Monitoring and assessing new regulations, standards and other stress factors affecting the coffee sector, engaging with regulators and coffee producers • II.A.6 Engaging IGOs, IFIs and NGOs in ICO events and participation in external events • III.A.5 Providing advisory services and cooperation with IGOs, private sector, civil society/academia

OVERVIEW

1. <u>Exchange with coordinators and country leads of the SAFE programme</u>

The SAFE programme is part of the Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on deforestation-free value chains and is co-funded by the European Union (EU), BMZ, and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (BZ).

The Head of Operations met with the SAFE team and their national leads in various countries, including nine ICO Members (Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of

the Congo, Ecuador, Indonesia, Peru, Viet Nam and Zambia). Ms Maria Buss from BMZ also joined.

Progress and challenges relating to countries' preparedness for the implementation of the EUDR were presented, with a focus on inclusive implementation. The joint actions undertaken by the International Coffee Organization (ICO), the Coffee Public-Private Task Force (CPPTF) and its Technical Workstream 3 (TW3) were also outlined, including activities on legality, national coffee data systems and guidance, peer learning among countries, the development of a protocol for national databases of georeferences, coordination partners and mapping.

2. Meeting with the leads of the SAFE programme and DIASCA platform

DIASCA has become part of the TEI on deforestation-free value chains and is supported by the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ).

During the meeting, DIASCA expressed its commitment to supporting the ICO's joint actions on the EUDR through its platform and by taking forward selected activities. In particular, DIASCA will use the platform to disseminate the outcomes of the peer-learning exercises organized by the ICO, the CPPTF and TW3 among coffee-producing countries on the development of national coffee data systems. DIASCA will also facilitate the participation of additional countries in future learning exercises. Furthermore, DIASCA, together with GIZ, is supporting the development of guidelines for the establishment of national georeferenced data systems for coffee plots.

3. Meeting with BMZ

This meeting sought to discuss how to provide support to countries in their preparedness for the implementation of the EUDR and to address labour conditions in the coffee sector in light of forthcoming EU regulations.

BMZ was informed of the funding gaps faced by ICO Members in ensuring an inclusive implementation of the EUDR and in maintaining deforestation-free coffee supply chains. BMZ also took note of the need for an appropriate transition period for the inclusion of soluble coffee under the EUDR.

With regard to labour conditions, background information and perspectives on specific cases were shared, which BMZ welcomed. The ICO Head of Operations and BMZ agreed that both parties would continue exchanging information and keep each other informed of any developments.

4. Meeting with the Competent Authorities for EUDR compliance in Germany

Ms Beerlandt visited the Competent Authorities (CA) of Germany responsible for the EUDR, together with the coordinators of the SAFE programme, the SAFE country leads and BMZ.

During the meeting, each GIZ country lead presented the progress made in EUDR preparedness in their respective countries.

The CA presented their EUDR compliance verification system for the coffee sector and explained that, during the initial phase of EUDR implementation, close dialogue between the CA and companies would be essential.

CONCLUSIONS/MAIN OUTCOMES

1. Several countries have made significant progress in their preparedness for inclusive EUDR implementation. However, a common challenge observed across several countries is access to finance for the development of a national legality tool.

2. BMZ and GIZ are interested in strengthening collaboration with the ICO on joint actions to support inclusive EUDR implementation.

3. Despite the publication of the European Commission Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV) EUDR Guidelines in May 2026, which introduced a risk-based approach to implementation, the interpretation and application of the legal requirements under the EUDR remain the main source of uncertainty.

4. The German Competent Authorities responsible for enforcing the EUDR acknowledged the progress made by coffee-producing countries regarding preparedness efforts, as well the joint actions on the EUDR carried out by the ICO/CPPTF. They also expressed a particular interest in obtaining access to the national data systems containing georeferenced information on coffee plots.

AOB

N/A