



Organización Internacional del Café  
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Organisation Internationale du Café

WP Quality No. 67/05

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**Report of the Quality Committee  
on the meeting of 26 January 2005**

1. The Quality Committee, chaired by the Executive Director, Mr. Néstor Osorio, met on 26 January 2005.

**Item 1: Draft Agenda**

2. The Committee adopted the draft Agenda contained in document WP-Quality No. 65/04 Rev. 1.

**Item 2: Coffee Quality-Improvement Programme (CQP)**

3. The Executive Director introduced the progress report on the implementation of the Coffee Quality-Improvement Programme (CQP) contained in document WP-Quality No. 66/05. The CQP was a voluntary programme which could help to enhance coffee quality and add value to coffee exports. Exporting Members which were not yet providing information on the quality of coffee exported by defects and moisture content by completing Box 17 in the ICO Certificate of Origin used to accompany each shipment of coffee were urged to do so as soon as possible.

4. The Committee took note of this information and further noted that a document entitled "OTA risk management: Guidelines for green coffee buying" had been prepared by the European Coffee Federation and had been circulated to all ICO Members as ED-1939/05.

**Item 2.1: Gradings from the London International Financial  
Futures and Options Exchange (LIFFE)**

5. The Head of Operations reported that the Organization had monitored the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (LIFFE) data on Robusta gradings data

from October 2002, when the Coffee Quality-Improvement Programme (CQP) was introduced under Resolution number 407. Annex Tables 1-A and 1-B of document WP-Quality No. 66/05 contained information on volumes graded by LIFFE in 2003 and 2004 by origin, by port destination and by grade. Total gradings were compared with coffees classified by LIFFE under types 3, 4 and untenderable in accordance with its grading system. The high volume of coffee in these grades in calendar year 2004 reflected the volume of coffee that was being traded at the present moment. The Committee took note of this information.

**Item 2.2:                    Gradings and discussions with the New York Board of Trade**

6.        The Committee noted that the ICO had held discussions with the New York Board of Trade (NYBOT) with regard to obtaining data on daily gradings for Arabica with respect to the “C” Contract. The representative of NYBOT said that graded coffee maintained a good quality standard in line with the ICO targets. Details of graded and untenderable coffees were available on the NYBOT Website. The Committee took note of this information.

**Item 2.3:                    Compliance with target quality standards in  
Resolution number 420**

7.        The Committee noted that since Resolution number 420 came into effect on 1 June 2004, 11 Members were complying fully with the target quality standards in the Resolution by completing Box 17 in the ICO Certificates of Origin. These included Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Mexico, Nicaragua and Papua New Guinea. A further country, Tanzania, was partially complying with the Resolution. In the six months since June 2004, 40.7 million bags had been exported (27.2 million Arabica, 13.5 million Robusta). Of this amount, 66% of Arabica and 3.75% of Robusta coffee fully complied with the provisions of the Resolution. In the case of Arabica, in future it was expected that around 80% of exported coffee would comply with the Resolution. The biggest Robusta exporters had still to fully implement the Resolution.

8.        The Committee further noted that the Executive Director would visit the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in February 2005 to discuss cooperation under the Memorandum of Cooperation signed in September 2004, including the issue of technical assistance. Finally, the Committee noted that the ICO would continue to monitor compliance with the target quality standards in Resolution number 420 and would review in detail the information provided by Members in Box 17 of the Certificates of Origin.

**Item 2.4:                    Benefits of the CQP**

9.        The Committee noted that the results achieved by the Coffee Quality-Improvement Programme could be used to benefit participating Members in a number of ways. For

instance, publicity brochures issued by Member countries could indicate that 90% of coffee exports attained ICO target standards. The Committee would consider ways of publicizing the results of the CQP in more detail at the next meeting when more information about the implementation of the CQP would be available.

**Item 3:                   Quality standards**

10.    The Committee noted that the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Standard 10470:2004 on green coffee defects had now been published and that the ICO would consult the Chairperson of the ISO Technical Committee with respect to the circulation of the Standard to Members.

**Item 4:                   Alternative uses for coffee and grading and labelling systems**

11.    The Committee noted that the Organization had had further contacts with the International Centre for Science and High Technology (ICS) of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in Trieste regarding the project on the use of coffee by-products and alternative uses for low-grade coffee (document WP-Board No. 942/03). The ICS had indicated that it should have resources to formulate this project and was also interested in acting as a Project Executing Agency.

12.    The Committee further noted that the Executive Director had contacted the Brazilian Institute of Food Technology (ITAL) regarding the outcome of an initiative concerning the possible use of defective coffee for fuel, animal feed and fertilizers and for extracting coffee oil for use in food-stuffs and cosmetics. This initiative had been presented to the Council in September 2001. The ITAL had advised the ICO that the project had been submitted to various donor organizations during a period lasting over one year, but had not been successful and the team which had developed the project had been dismantled.

**Item 5:                   Report to the Executive Board**

13.    The Committee noted that the Executive Director would continue to highlight the importance of quality as a means of adding value to exports and efforts being made by exporting Members to improve quality, and would report to the Executive Board on the discussions at this meeting.

**Item 6:                   Other business**

14.    There was no further business to discuss.

**Item 7:                   Next meeting**

15.    The Committee noted that its next meeting would take place at the time of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Council in May 2005.