



Association des Industries de la Chocolaterie,
Biscuiterie et Confiserie de l'UE • Association
of the Chocolate, Biscuit and Confectionery
Industries of the EU

• CAOBISCO
• 1 rue Defacqz - B – 1000 Bruxelles
• Tel: 322/539.18.00
• Fax: 322/539.15.75
• e-mail : caobisco@caobisco.be
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Negotiation of the International Cocoa Agreement- CAOBISCO viewpoint

CAOBISCO is the Association of Chocolate, Biscuits and Confectionery Industries of the EU and represents 2000 companies. We are responsible for 50% of the world cocoa consumption.

ICCO is the only organisation that brings together major cocoa producing and consuming countries and the structure of this organisation should be maintained.

ICCO has a fundamental role in working towards improving transparency and avoiding market distortions in the cocoa supply chain.

Overall, we believe that the current agreement is a good basis for future cooperation.

The Consultative board on the World Cocoa Economy - ensuring the participation of the private sector – has shown to be a very important tool in improving cooperation between the private and public sector in both producing and consuming countries.

The current setting of the different committees is appropriate and the current system has illustrated its flexibility, as it allowed an *ad hoc* working group to be set up to deal with specific issues.

We would encourage ICCO to work towards:

- Advocating the improvement of cocoa quality. Over the last few years, we have seen a consistent decrease in cocoa quality and we believe that ICCO can play an important role in improving quality standards, safe working practices while also ensuring the communication of the EU food safety standards.
- A Sustainable Cocoa Economy by pursuing the current efforts of the Roundtable on a Sustainable Cocoa Economy.
- Improving transparency of the communication of key elements of cocoa marketing, taxation and farmer incomes.
- Communicating positive aspects of cocoa production for the cocoa farming communities. Cocoa represents a fundamental source of income for producing countries and cocoa farming communities.

In addition to this, Indonesia and the United States are key countries that are still not part of the ICCO membership. We believe that the European Union should support the existing efforts of the ICCO Executive Director to encourage such membership.

The ICCO projects have been supported mainly by the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC). CFC may not be in the position to ensure this kind of support in the future. Therefore, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission should look further at ensuring accessibility to EU funding for ICCO.

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