

50  
years



**INTERNATIONAL  
COFFEE  
ORGANIZATION**

**ED 2178/14**

10 February 2014  
Original: Spanish

**E**

**Communication from Ecuador**

The Executive Director presents his compliments and, for the information of Members, attaches two communications received from the Embassy of Ecuador in the United Kingdom.

**EMBASSY OF ECUADOR  
UNITED KINGDOM**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HUMAN MOBILITY**

No. 4-7-65/2013

The Embassy of Ecuador in the United Kingdom and Permanent Mission to International Organizations with Headquarters in London presents its compliments to the International Coffee Organization and wishes to request, through its Executive Director's Office, the information provided verbally in the context of the last meeting held in Belo Horizonte during the week 9 to 12 September 2013, in the following terms:

In the Belo Horizonte Declaration the second paragraph refers to coffee as a 'commodity', a term that did not appear in previous drafts. Bearing in mind this consideration and, more particularly, the reasons indicated in the Agreement for the establishment of the International Coffee Organization, which, among the objectives set out in Article 1, includes the following provisions:

- "promoting international cooperation on coffee matters";
- "encouraging Members to develop a sustainable coffee sector in economic, social and environmental terms";
- "providing a forum for consultations seeking understanding with regard to the structural conditions in international markets and long-term trends in production and consumption that balance supply and demand, and result in prices fair both to consumers and to producers";
- "facilitating the expansion and transparency of international trade in all types and forms of coffee, and promoting the elimination of trade barriers";
- "collecting, disseminating and publishing economic, technical and scientific information, statistics and studies, as well as the results of research and development in coffee matters";

I wish to request from you, with all due respect, that as soon as possible, and in any event before the next regular session of the International Coffee Council in March 2014, the basic information indicated below is obtained and prepared for forwarding to all Member countries, or at least to the Latin American producers; information which is assumed to be maintained in an updated format by the Organization.

To the Honourable  
International Coffee Organization  
London

1.
  - a) The evolution of coffee prices to producers, from the establishment of the Organization, in 1963 to the present.
  - b) The evolution of coffee prices to final consumers in European Union countries and the United States of America during the period referred to above.
  - c) The amounts involved in coffee 'commodity' transactions during the same period in the London and New York futures markets.

All this information should be available in the statistics of the organizations involved.

2.
  - a) A comparative study of the cost of a standard tractor, along the lines of those used in coffee farms 50 years ago; 25 years ago; and currently.
  - b) A comparative study of the cost of a standard locomotive like those used, for instance, on internal routes in the main European countries and the United States 50 years ago; 25 years ago; and currently.
  - c) A comparative study of the cost of an aircraft comparable to a Boeing 727 50 years ago; 25 years ago; and currently.

The information indicated above will enable producing countries to determine whether coffee has lost value in real terms or otherwise through a comparison of the evolution of prices of goods and services at an international level.

We would also like to have confirmation on the economic participation of traders and intermediaries in the international coffee trade during the periods indicated above.

The Embassy of Ecuador wishes to request that this Note Verbale be distributed to all producing countries and takes this opportunity to reiterate to the International Coffee Organization the assurances of its highest consideration.

London, 3 October 2013

**EMBASSY OF ECUADOR  
UNITED KINGDOM**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HUMAN MOBILITY**

No. 4-7-4/2014

The Embassy of Ecuador in the United Kingdom and Permanent Mission to International Organizations with Headquarters in London presents its compliments to the International Coffee Organization and, with reference to Note No. 4-7-65/2013 of 3 October 2013, would be grateful to know whether the Organization has managed to obtain the information requested by Ecuador in that Note, in order to permit the data to be analysed before the forthcoming Session of the International Coffee Council to be held in March 2014. For ease of reference a copy of the aforementioned communication is attached.

The Embassy of Ecuador wishes to request that this Note Verbale be circulated to all producing countries and takes this opportunity to reiterate to the International Coffee Organization the assurances of its highest consideration.

London, 31 January 2014

To the Honourable  
International Coffee Organization  
London