



**Report of the Statistics Committee  
on the meeting of 21 September 2009**

1. The Statistics Committee held its 27<sup>th</sup> meeting on 21 September 2009.

**Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda**

2. The Committee adopted the draft Agenda contained in document WP-Statistics 138/09 Rev. 1.

**Item 2: Election of the Chairman**

3. The Committee decided that the Head of Operations would chair the meeting. A Chairman will be elected when the Committee holds its next meeting.

**Item 3: Report of the Statistics Committee  
on the meeting of 16 March 2009**

4. The Committee approved the report on the meeting of 16 March 2009 contained in document WP-Statistics 137/09.

**Item 4: Compliance with statistical rules**

5. The Statistician introduced document WP-Statistics 142/09 containing information on the status of compliance by Members with the Rules on Statistics. Based on average trade data for the last four calendar years 2005 to 2008, levels of compliance with the provision of statistical data by exporting and importing countries were satisfactory or better at 83% and 99%, respectively.

6. The Committee took note of this information and further noted that, with the exception of Brazil, Costa Rica and El Salvador, compliance by exporting Members in providing production, stocks and internal consumption estimates remains poor, particularly for the last three years. The Committee urged exporting Members to improve their performance, as this information was essential to the analysis of supply and demand made by the Organization. The Committee also noted that Hungary is now the only importing Member failing to provide data on its coffee trade.

**Item 5: Technical assistance**

7. The Chairman reported that arrangements are being finalized for the statistical assistance to be provided to Indonesia and Vietnam at the end of October 2009. A workshop will be conducted in each country to train local staff on the requirements set out in the Rules on Statistics of the Organization.

8. The Committee was informed that Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo have requested the Executive Director to contact Brazil regarding its offer to provide technical assistance to African countries through the office of its agricultural research agency EMBRAPA in Accra, Ghana. Letters have been sent to the Brazilian Ambassador in London who will relay the requests to EMBRAPA in Brazil.

9. The Committee noted that discussions on technical assistance would also be held at the General Assembly of the InterAfrican Coffee Organization which will take place in Accra, Ghana, in November 2009. During the event a colloquium will be held, with a view to raising awareness on the importance of reliable statistics, to establish a framework for future actions. The Committee took note of this information.

**Item 6: Rules on Indicator prices**

10. The Committee was informed that the programme of activities for 2009/10 provides for a meeting in London with the agents that collect the daily prices in the three markets (France, Germany and the USA) with a view to discussing possible improvements in the indicator price system.

11. In addition, the agents will be requested to send the Organization a list of all growths of coffee that are commercially traded in significant volumes on a daily basis, in order to provide a basis for the revision of the current Rules for the calculation of group indicators and composite prices contained in document EB-3776/01 Rev. 1. A revised version of the current Rules for the collection, transmission, calculation and publication of ICO group and composite prices will be prepared for discussion by the Committee at its next meeting. In the meantime, the agents would be requested to collect prices for additional growths. The new series would be evaluated by the Committee. Any changes, additions or deletions of grades/growths collected will be the subject of prior consultation with the respective countries of origin.

**Item 7: ICO indicator prices**

12. The Statistician introduced document WP-Statistics 139/09 containing information on the share of markets and group weightings in the calculation of the ICO composite and group indicator prices. In accordance with the Procedures for the collection, transmission, calculation, and publication of group and composite prices contained in document EB-3776/01 Rev. 1, every two years there should be a review of the market share for each group and the weightings used for the calculation of the ICO composite and group indicator prices.

13. The Committee took note of this document and decided to recommend to the Council that, with effect from **1 October 2009<sup>1</sup>**, the market share for the calculation of group prices should be as follows:

- Colombian Milds: **45% New York – 55% Germany**
- Other Milds: **40% New York – 60% Germany**
- Brazilian Naturals: **23% New York – 77% Germany**
- Robustas: **17% New York – 83% France**

In addition, group weightings for the calculation of the ICO daily composite indicator price should be as follows:

- Colombian Milds: **13%**
- Other Milds: **23%**
- Brazilian Naturals: **30%**
- Robustas: **34%**

**Item 8: Conversion factors**

14. The Committee noted that following a recommendation by the Private Sector Consultative Board (PSCB), the Executive Director requested all Members for their views on the introduction of a coefficient of **1.05** to be applied on the conversion of green decaffeinated coffee into green bean equivalent. As no objections were received, the Committee would recommend approval of this proposal to the Council. This would only apply to data received after the International Coffee Agreement (ICA) 2007 comes into effect.

**Item 9: Inventories and stocks**

15. The Committee noted that the latest information posted on the European Coffee Federation's (ECF) website showed data as at 30 June 2009. The Organization would continue to monitor this site regularly and include this data into its statistical series, as previously decided by the Committee.

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<sup>1</sup> See document EB-3776/01 Rev. 1 Add. 4.

**Item 10:                   Organic coffee**

16.     The Statistician introduced document WP-Statistics 140/09 containing data on exports of organic coffee based on information extracted from Certificates of Origin and monthly reports in the first 9 months – October to June – of coffee years 2007/08 and 2008/09. Exporting Members would be requested to take care and attention in filling the appropriate field for organic coffee as this information is an invaluable source of data for this segment. The Committee took note of this document.

**Item 11:                   Exports to exporting countries**

17.     The Statistician introduced document WP-Statistics 141/09 containing data on exports of all forms of coffee from all origins to exporting countries. It was requested that additional tables presenting details by destinations, form and origin of coffee be included in future documents of this nature. Brazil and El Salvador are the only exporting Members providing information on coffee imports on a regular basis. The Committee took note of this document and, given the growing importance of this trade, highlighted the need for all exporting Members to make efforts to provide reports on imports of coffee to the Organization as early as possible.

**Item 12:                   Report to the International Coffee Council**

18.     The Committee noted that the Chairman would make a summary report to the Council of discussions at this meeting. He would recommend approval by the Council of the new shares of the markets in the calculation of group indicators and of the group weightings in the calculation of the ICO composite price as from 1 October 2009. In addition, the Chairman would remind exporting Members to provide annual estimates of total production, domestic consumption and stocks at the end of each crop year. It would also be recommended that the transition period for Members to adapt their systems to the new statistical rules of the Organization, contained in documents ICC-102-9 and ICC-102-10, would start on 1 October 2009. Therefore, as it is expected that the ICA 2007 will come into force during 2009/10, Members would be providing data according to the new Rules as from 1 October 2010.

**Item 13:                   Other business**

*Registered ports of export and ICO Certifying Agents*

19.     The Committee noted that some exporting Members are still to update their details on Certifying Agents and ports of export from their countries (see document WP-Council 174/08 Rev. 1). The Committee was informed that the final version of this document would be circulated when the ICA 2007 enters into force.

*Costs of production*

20. The Committee took note of the small number of replies to the request for data on costs of production made in document ED-2038/08. As information on this topic is scarce, it has been agreed that the model developed by LMC International Ltd. in 2001 would be reviewed by the Committee to ascertain its applicability in current market conditions. This might then constitute a starting point for the collection and analysis of data on the costs of production in various countries.

*Statistical data from EU members*

21. Mr R. Vaessen, the ECF representative, informed the Committee that EUROSTAT would be consulted regarding the current procedures used to record imports into the European Community. Some discrepancies have been observed with respect to the results reported in previous years, suggesting that the criteria for recording imports may have changed. It is important that this be clarified as the data are used to calculate disappearance (consumption) and per capita consumption. Mr Vaessen will keep the Organization informed of the outcome of these consultations.

*Statistics Committee*

22. The Committee agreed to maintain its present composition until the ICA 2007 enters into force.

*Statistics Section*

23. The Head of Operations informed the Committee that Ms Pilar Mora, a staff member of the Statistics Section, would be retiring at the end of September. He thanked Ms Mora for her years of service to the Organization and wished her a long and healthy retirement.

**Item 14: Future meetings**

24. The Committee agreed that, as the next Council meeting would take place in Guatemala following the World Coffee Conference, its next meeting would be held in London in September 2010.