



International Coffee Organization
Organización Internacional del Café
Organização Internacional do Café
Organisation Internationale du Café

WP Statistics 126/08

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Report

Statistics Committee
September 2008
London, England

**Report of the Statistics Committee
on the meeting of 21 May 2008**

1. The 24th meeting of the Statistics Committee took place on 21 May 2008.

Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

2. The Committee adopted the draft Agenda contained in document WP-Statistics 119/08 Rev. 1.

**Item 2: Report of the Statistics Committee
on the meeting of 26 September 2007**

3. The Committee approved the report on the meeting of 26 September 2007 contained in document WP-Statistics 118/07.

Item 3: Compliance with statistical rules

4. The Statistician introduced document WP-Statistics 125/08 containing information on the status of compliance by Members with the Rules on Statistics. Based on average trade data for the last four coffee years (2003/04 to 2006/07), levels of compliance with provision of data by exporting and importing countries were satisfactory at 93% and 98%, respectively.

5. The Committee took note of this information and further noted that compliance by exporting Members in providing production and internal consumption estimates was poor, particularly in the last two years. The Committee urged all exporting Members to improve their performance, as this information was essential to the supply-demand analysis made by the Organization. Finally, the Committee noted that, despite the assistance provided by the representative of the European Commission, two importing Members (Bulgaria and Hungary) had not yet provided data on their coffee trade. The Organization would continue its efforts to obtain information from both Members.

Item 4: Technical assistance

6. The Statistician reported on contacts to ascertain progress on the preparation of a manual of best practice by selected exporting Members. Once completed, the Organization would contact countries with poor and no compliance to establish further procedures.

7. The Committee took note of this information and welcomed an offer from Brazil to provide technical assistance to African countries with poor or no compliance through its Agricultural Research Agency (EMBRAPA) which had recently established a research station in Ghana. The Committee further noted that the USA had reiterated its offer to explore ways of providing support to some exporting countries.

Item 5: Statistical priorities under the International Coffee Agreement 2007

8. The Committee decided to approve document WP-Statistics 121/08 containing proposals to incorporate the collection of additional information from Members into the current Rules on Statistics – Monthly Reports (document EB-3830/02). The Committee also approved proposals contained in document WP-Statistics 120/08 to increase voluntary information provided on Certificates of Origin, noting that the language used in some definitions would be revised in order to reflect current practices. Revised documents would be prepared and submitted for approval by the Council in September 2008.

9. Regarding the Rules on Indicator Prices, the Committee noted that it had until September 2009 to consider proposals for changes to the current rules (contained in document WP-Statistics 122/08). The most recent revisions to the share of each market in the calculation of group indicators and their weighting in the calculation of the ICO composite indicator price came into effect on 1 October 2007.

Item 6: Terms of reference for the Statistics Committee

10. The Committee noted that document WP-Council 171/08 contained revisions to draft terms of reference for the Committee, and document WP-Council 177/08 contained proposals for revisions received from the USA. Noting that exporting Members supported the proposals made by the USA, the Committee decided to refer the draft terms of reference to the Council for consideration.

Item 7: Inventories and stocks

11. The Committee noted that the latest information posted on the European Coffee Federation's (ECF) website showed data as at 31 December 2007. The Organization would continue to monitor this site regularly, as it had previously been decided that this data should be incorporated into its statistical series.

Item 8: Organic coffee

12. The Statistician introduced document WP-Statistics 123/08 containing data on exports of organic coffee based on information extracted from Certificates of Origin and monthly reports in calendar years 2004 to 2007.

13. The Committee approved proposals to include additional information on this segment of the market (contained in document WP-Statistics 120/08), which will be incorporated into a document to be submitted to the Council in September 2008.

Item 9: Exports to exporting countries

14. The Statistician introduced document WP-Statistics 124/08 containing data on exports of all forms of coffee from all origins to exporting countries.

15. The Committee took note of this document and, given the increasing importance of this type of data, decided that the provision of monthly reports on imports of coffee by exporting Members should be compulsory (see Item 5 above).

Item 10: Report to the International Coffee Council

16. The Committee noted that the Chairman would make a summary report to the Council of discussions at this meeting.

Item 11: Other business

Registered ports of export and ICO Certifying Agents

17. The Committee requested exporting Members that had not yet done so to register with the Organization details of all ports from which coffee was exported from their countries and the names of Certifying Agents appointed to deal with matters related to Certificates of Origin (see document WP-Council 174/08).

Conversion factors used in the ICA 2007

18. Article 2 (Definitions) of the ICA 2007 provides that as soon as possible after the 2007 Agreement enters into force, the Council shall review the conversion factors for roasted, decaffeinated, liquid and soluble coffee. The Committee noted that this matter would be discussed at its next meeting, in cooperation with the Private Sector Consultative Board (PSCB).

Item 12: Future meetings

19. The Committee noted that its next meeting would take place in September 2008, at the time of the Council Session, and the Secretariat would confirm the exact date in due course.