

Media Release, 10 November 2021

Palm oil stakeholder meeting fosters exchange

By invitation of the Palm Oil Network Switzerland, environmental and human rights organisations, representatives of the authorities, scientists and companies from the sector met at the Reberhaus in Bolligen for a dialogue. The meeting brought together all relevant forces, took place in a constructive atmosphere and led to numerous suggestions for the further development of the palm oil network and the improvement of the exchange of information.

The stakeholder event on 10 November was very well attended with over 40 representatives from all sectors. Among other things, the Palm Oil Network provided information on the implementation of sustainable palm oil procurement and the future development of the network. The State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO reported on the status of implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with Indonesia and the WWF presented its vision of sustainable palm oil production. The event was aimed at the members of the Network, interested NGOs, associations, scientific institutions and representatives of the authorities. In the future, the meeting will facilitate direct individual exchange among the different actors.

The inputs from this first stakeholder meeting are now being carefully evaluated.

Quotes

Ambassador Markus Schlagenhof, head of the World Trade Division, SECO:

"The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with Indonesia entered into force on 1 November 2021. For the first time in such an agreement, Switzerland has directly linked concessions for a product to requirements for sustainable production. Thanks in part to the efforts of the Palm Oil Network to promote a sustainable supply chain, we were able to implement this innovative solution in an effective and practicable manner. This ensures that only sustainably produced palm oil will benefit from the agreement and further strengthens the industry's existing efforts. I look forward to continuing the dialogue on Switzerland's contribution to the promotion of sustainable palm oil production with the Palm Oil Network and its stakeholders."

Members of the Palm Oil Network

Barry Callebaut, Coop, Florin, HUG, Kägi, LIDL, Migros, M-Industry, Nestlé Switzerland, Nutriswiss, Ospelt, Pro Fair Trade

Romain Deveze, expert en matière première, WWF Suisse :

“WWF Switzerland is pleased to see that the sustainability of palm oil remains a major concern for many Swiss stakeholders. In order to reduce the pressure on the most vulnerable ecosystems and populations, it is imperative that private, public and NGO stakeholders continue to collaborate and invest together in solutions that go beyond certification.”

12 companies from the food sector have joined forces in the [Palm Oil Network](#). The members are responsible for the import, processing and sale of around 20,000 tonnes of certified palm oil. The Network, founded in March 2020, aims to make palm oil supply chains transparent, sustainable and fit for the future. In doing so, the actors rely on the RSPO standard and support producers in complying with additional criteria. Furthermore they are improving the situation on the plantations and among small producers through projects.

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