

IMACE POSITION ON SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL

Brussels, October 2018

State of play

In the fight against climate change, it is of major importance to restrict global warming to 2°C above the pre-industrial levels, as well as to preserve biodiversity and wildlife habitats and protect forests. The scale of deforestation and forest degradation, in particular tropical and rain-forests have drawn considerable attention and legitimate concerns regarding the future of the planet. The drivers of deforestation and forest degradation include illegal logging and mining, urban sprawl, land speculation, agricultural expansion, inadequate land and forest management rules, wildfires and natural diseases. Tropical oils, such as palm oil have come under the spotlight of deforestation allegations.

IMACE view regarding sustainable palm oil

Palm oil is an important raw material used in many plant-based fat products produced by the IMACE members. Securing a supply of sustainable palm oil is vital to the success of the plant-based fats business.

Imace members believe that it is their responsibility to supply their customers and consumers with plant-based fat products that have no connection with deforestation, whether directly or in embedded form.

All Imace members have company specific sustainable palm oil sourcing policies in place helping to lead the progress towards a supply chain where sustainable palm oil is the norm. Imace members are working closely with their suppliers of palm oil to drive improved progress.

Imace is an affiliate member of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) since 2004. RSPO's mission is *"to transform markets to make sustainable palm oil the norm"*.

Already in 2014, Imace joined forces with several other European associations (CAOBISCO, FEDIOL, AIBI and FEDIMA) in a coalition called European Sustainable Palm Oil Advocacy Group, ESPOAG. ESPOAG addresses questions arising at European level concerning the palm oil, essentially on sustainability, but also on nutrition. ESPOAG provides a platform for coordination between the national palm oil platforms and other EU palm oil players.

In December 2015, IMACE and other European and national palm oil stakeholders committed to mutually work towards the 2020 objective of sustainable palm oil, complementing the governmental Declaration of Amsterdam with a business statement.

The problem of global deforestation is complex due to multiple underlying causes and drivers. An overarching approach to the issue is crucial for sustainable success. The efforts of the industry in making the supply chain more sustainable show positive results but need to be reinforced. Tackling deforestation requires collaboration, joint efforts and dialogue between all parties involved, including governments and public administration. Through ESPOAG, Imace is committed to contribute to the dialogues and is of the opinion that sustainability certifications, references in bilateral agreements (whether free-trade or development cooperation agreements), strengthening smallholder producers and local governments, taking up sustainability of palm oil in public procurement guidelines, and developing a sustainability baseline can all be part of an approach which can deliver sustainable local results.