



Press Release

European Cocoa Association to release European grinding figures soon

Brussels, 6 July 2000

The European Cocoa Association¹ (ECA) announced today that from early October 2000 it will publish European grinding figures. Robert A. Zehnder, the General Secretary of the ECA stated: "*ECA considers that globalisation of the cocoa industry has resulted in the need for Europe-wide figures*".

The European grinding figures, to be released by ECA, will include grinding statistics reported from its members, which represent 75% of European grinding capacity. The figures to be released in early October 2000 will cover the third quarter of 2000, as well as a summary figure for the first three-quarters of 2000.

These figures will be compiled by an external neutral party, who will also include any available figures from non-members. ECA would like statistics to be as comprehensive as possible and, therefore, encourages non-members to make available their grinding figures.

Since the Dutch Cocoa Association (NCV) has ceased to exist and until European figures are available in October, ECA is exceptionally releasing Dutch grinding figures for the third quarter (see attached annex).

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact ECA's secretariat at :

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¹ ECA, which was launched in April 2000, comprises companies from the entire cocoa industry chain. Its members are involved in the cocoa bean trade, in warehousing and other related logistical activities. Some ECA member companies grind and process cocoa beans into cocoa liquor from which cocoa powder and cocoa butter are produced. ECA members also produce industrial chocolate.