

EUROPEAN COCOA FORUM 2025

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME



eca
european cocoa association

Day 1 – Tuesday 16 September

- 12.00 – 19.00 **Forum Registration**
- 12.30 – 14.30 **ECA Board Meeting** (by invitation only)
- 15.30 – 16.00 **ECA General Members Meeting** (by invitation only)
- 17.00 – 18.00 **Cocktail reception**
- 18.30 – 23.00 **ECA/FCC Board dinner** (by invitation only)

Day 2 – Wednesday 17 September

- 08.00 – 09.10 **Forum Registration**
- 09.10 – 09.15 Welcoming words by **Catherine Entzminger**, ECA Director General and **David Rose**, Master of Ceremonies
- 09.15 – 09.20 **Opening speech** by ECA President
- 09.25 – 09.35 **Keynote speech** by **Hon. Silvio Schembri**, Minister for the Economy, Enterprise and Strategic Projects, Government of Malta
- 09.40 – 10.30 **Setting the scene: the cocoa trade in 2025 – and beyond**

Moderator: **Paul Davis**, ECA President; Head of Cocoa, Sudden

Panellists: **Peter Feld**, CEO, Barry Callebaut
Dieter Weisskopf, former CEO and Board Vice-Chair, Lindt & Sprüngli
More speakers to be announced soon

10.30 – 11.10 Coffee break

11.15 – 12.10 **How can we transform today's production challenges through innovative solutions for farming, climate change and CSSV?**

Moderator: **Alain Freymond**, ECA Board member; President Global Cocoa, Barry Callebaut

Panellists: **Alex Assanvo**, Executive Secretary, Côte d'Ivoire-Ghana Cocoa Initiative (CIGHCI)

Régis Babin, Cocoa and Coffee Entomologist, CIRAD

Marie Baranger, Co-founder, RISOME

Michiel Kuit, Senior Consultant, Agri-Logic

12.15 – 14.00 Lunch

14.15 – 15.10 **Consumer demand and inflationary pressure. What way forward for cocoa and chocolate confectionery?**

Moderator: **Emiel van Dijk**, ECA Board member; Managing Director Cocoa & Chocolate Europe and West Africa, Cargill

Panellists: *To be announced soon*

15.15 – 16.10 **The power of data**

Moderator: **Christian Vollers**, ECA Board member; Group Director, Vollers Group

Panellists: *To be announced soon*

18.00 – 22.30 **Social activities: Mdina visit and casual dinner**

Day 3 – Thursday 18 September

08.00 – 09.30 **Forum Registration**

09.00 – 10.15 **Stakeholder roundtable: EUDR implementation on the eve of the 30 December application date**

Moderator: **Chris Beetge**, ECA Board member; President & Head of Europe, Middle East and North Africa, ofi

Panellists: **Clive de Ruig**, President, ICE Benchmark Administration

Iván Ontaneda, President, ANECACAO

Harold Poelma, Strategic Advisor, ECA; Former President, Cargill Cocoa & Chocolate

Rachel Vujovic, Director of International Sustainability, Aldi Süd

More speakers to be announced soon

10.15 – 11.00 **EU food safety regulatory framework: What lies ahead for cocoa and how can we strengthen preparedness along the supply chain?**

Moderator: **Guus de Gruiter**, ECA Board member; Co-CEO, ECOM Cocoa

Panellists: **Klaus Berend**, Director of Food Safety, Sustainability and Innovation, European Commission DG SANTE
Michiel Kokken, Global Head of Regulatory and Scientific Affairs Cocoa & Head of Regulatory Europe, Middle East and North Africa, ofi
Morag Webb, Head of Science and Policy, COLEAD

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 – 12.25 **Looking ahead: Our vision for a successful cocoa sector**

Moderator: **David Rose**, Master of Ceremonies

Panellists: **Dora Correia**, Director of ACP, Asia, Trade & Sustainable Development, Green Deal, European Commission DG TRADE
Ismail El Khalil, President-Director General, Ivory Cocoa Products
Jorge Marún Ramirez, General Manager, Pongarbel

More speakers to be announced soon

12.30 – 12.35 **Closing remarks** by ECA President

12.40 – 14.30 **Lunch**

18.00 – 23.00 **Valletta visit and Gala dinner**