

EUROPEAN COCOA FORUM 2025

PROGRAMME



eca
european cocoa association

OUR SPONSORS

PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



Day 1 – Tuesday 16 September

12.00 – 19.00 **Forum Registration**
17.00 – 18.00 **Cocktail reception**

By invitation only:

12.30 – 14.30 ECA Board Meeting
16.00 – 17.00 ECA General Members Meeting
18.30 – 22.30 ECA/FCC/WCF Board dinner

Day 2 – Wednesday 17 September

08.00 – 09.00 ICE CoT Breakfast (*by invitation only*)

08.00 – 09.00 **Forum Registration**

09.00 – 09.05 Welcoming words by **David Rose**, Master of Ceremonies and **Catherine Entzminger**, ECA Director General

09.05 – 09.15 **Opening speech** by **Christian Vollers**, ECA President

09.15 – 09.20 **Interview** with **Hon. Silvio Schembri**, Minister for the Economy, Enterprise and Strategic Projects, Government of Malta

09.20 – 10.30 **Setting the scene: the cocoa industry in 2025 – and beyond**

Moderators: **Guus de Gruiter**, ECA Board Member; Co-CEO, ECOM Cocoa
David Rose, Master of Ceremonies

Panellists: **Alex Assanvo**, Executive Secretary, Côte d'Ivoire-Ghana Cocoa Initiative (CIGCI)
Dieter Weisskopf, former CEO and Board Vice-Chair, Lindt & Sprüngli
Peter Feld, CEO, Barry Callebaut

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: **Michiel Kuit**, Senior Consultant, Agri-Logic
Marie Baranger, Co-founder, RISOME
Régis Babin, Cocoa and Coffee Entomologist, CIRAD

Leonard Mizzi, Head of Unit, Sustainable Agri-Food Systems and Fisheries, European Commission DG INTPA

12.15 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.00 **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: **Julia Buech**, Senior Consumer Food Analyst, Rabobank
Florian Klaus, Director BrandPsychology, K&A BrandResearch AG
Tricia Brannigan, Vice President and Chief Procurement Officer, The Hershey Company

15.00 – 16.00 **The power of data as an enabler of progress**

Moderator: **Christian Vollers**, ECA President; Group Director, Vollers Group

Panellists: **Lawrence Attipoe**, Regional Programme Coordinator, International Trade Centre
Rémi d'Annunzio, Forestry Officer - Technical Lead Transparent Supply Chains, Food and Agriculture Organisation
Renske Aarnoudse, Cocoa Program Director, IDH
Thomas Vaassen, CEO, Meridia

17.30 – 22.30 **Social activities: Mdina visit and casual dinner**

Day 3 – Thursday 18 September

08.00 – 09.00 ICE CoT Breakfast (by invitation only)

08.00 – 09.00 Rabobank Breakfast (by invitation only)

08.00 – 09.00 **Forum Registration**

09.00 – 10.15 **Stakeholder roundtable: EUDR implementation on the eve of the 30 December 2025 application date**

Moderator: **Chris Beetge**, ECA Board member; Regional Head Europe and Global Head Cocoa Operations, ofi

Panellists: **Iván Ontaneda**, President, ANECACAO

Antoine Haouchine, International Relations Officer, European Commission DG ENV

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

Rachel Vujovic, Global Sustainability Director, Aldi South Group

Clive de Ruig, President, ICE Benchmark Administration

Andreas Schäfer, Head of Department, German Federal Office for Agriculture and Food

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: **David Rose**, Master of Ceremonies

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

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break

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

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

Panellists: **Jorge Marún**, General Manager, Hacienda San José, Pongarbel
Ismail El Khalil, President-Director General, Ivory Cocoa Products
Urszula-Maria Stepkowska, Deputy Head of Unit, ACP, Overseas Countries & Territories, European Commission DG TRADE
Michel Arrion, Executive Director, ICCO
Christian Vollers, ECA President; Group Director, Vollers Group

12.30 – 12.35 **Closing remarks** by **Christian Vollers**, ECA President

12.40 – 14.30 **Lunch**

17.00 – 23.00 **Valletta visit and Gala dinner**

Side sessions

14.30 – 15.30 **JRF side session “The Joint Cocoa Research Fund - How the industry is addressing challenges in cocoa production, diseases and contaminants”**

14.30 – 15.45 **ISCO side session “Driving Cocoa Sustainability by Enhancing ISCO Partnerships”**