

Note:

We are currently discussing the revision of our voluntary commitment in the forum in light of the new legislation



Commitment of all members from 2025

- 04/29/2025 -

The voluntary commitment (as of 04/29/2025) of the Forum for Sustainable Palm Oil was adopted at the general meeting on 04/29/2025. According to §2 para. 3a of the FONAP statutes, this voluntary commitment is binding for all members.

The commitment includes:

- 1. Converting to sustainably certified palm (kernel) oil and fractions and derivatives.**
- 2. Supplier dialogues on traceability and additional criteria**
- 3. Reporting**

This means in detail:

- 1. Conversion to sustainably certified palm (kernel) oil as well as fractions and derivatives.**

1.1. Conversion targets

All members of the Forum for Sustainable Palm Oil (FONAP) use "100% sustainably certified palm oil" according to the certification systems recognized by FONAP:¹

- **RSPO**
- **ISCC+**
- **RSB**
- **EU Organic combined with UEBT or RSPO**

The members of the Forum for Sustainable Palm Oil commit themselves concretely:

- To purchase 100% pure refined and unrefined palm oil (without fractions² and derivatives³) at least in the supply chain option Segregated (SG).
- Pure refined and unrefined palm kernel oil (without fractions and derivatives)
 - to be purchased at 100% at least in the supply chain option Mass Balance (MB),
 - to purchase 100% at least in the supply chain option Segregated (SG) from 1/1/2018 at the latest.

Pure refined and unrefined palm (kernel) oil also includes pure refined and unrefined palm (kernel) oil proportionally present in an ingredient (e.g. creams, flavors and blended fats).

- Fractions and derivatives (whether palm oil or palm kernel oil based)

¹ For new members, the commitment applies from the date of entry.

² Fractions include all palm-based products that have reached the first further processing stage through physical separation or purification operations (e.g., palm stearin and palm olein).

³ Derivatives are oils or fractions that have been altered by chemical reactions (this includes fat cleavage).

- to purchase at least 50% at least in Mass Balance,
- from 2020 onwards, to purchase 100% at least in Mass Balance. ⁴

When converting derivatives to MB, the palm (kernel) oil content in the derivative is relevant.

For fractions and derivatives, *Book and Claim* certificates must still be used for the remaining quantities. We consider *Book and Claim* as a transitional model that can be used to make the transition to physical delivery. In this context, we consider the use of *off-market deals* that already meet FONAP additional criteria to be desirable.

The use of *Book and Claim certificates* from independent smallholders (I.S. certificates) remains possible in all cases and reduces Mass Balance (MB) and Segregated (SG) volume obligations to the same extent.

As EU Organic does not sufficiently cover social criteria in particular, it must be combined with RSPO or UEBT certification. For this additional certification, at least Mass Balance (MB) must be selected in all cases.

1.2. Scope of application

The voluntary commitment of members who produce themselves includes the conversion of all production sites in the region of Germany, Austria and Switzerland (D-A-CH). If the member sells more in D-A-CH than it produces here, it must make up the difference in production facilities located outside D-A-CH.

For trading companies, this voluntary commitment applies to all private labels produced on behalf of the respective trading companies for sale in the D-A-CH region.

Non-governmental organizations, associations, service providers - such as the certification companies - as well as the German government commit to contribute through their actions to achieving the FONAP targets as soon as possible.

2. Supplier dialogues on traceability and additional criteria

⁴ Deviations from this are permissible in the non-food sector, provided that the lack of availability can be plausibly demonstrated and an action plan for achieving the target is submitted. A detailed written justification is required. It is recommended to compensate the quantities not purchased in the MB, SG or IP supply chain option by purchasing an appropriate number of smallholder certificates.

Members agree that the certification systems recognized by FONAP are minimum standards, but that these must continue to improve. Therefore, the members aim to integrate the following FONAP additional criteria into their supply chains:

- Mitigating the negative impacts of palm oil cultivation on biodiversity; including ecosystems
- Supporting and integrating smallholders into global supply chains
- Human rights due diligence
- Stopping cultivation on peatlands and other areas with a high carbon content
- Application of strict greenhouse reduction targets
- Ban on the use of highly hazardous pesticides
- Use of *fresh fruit bunches* from legal sources only (the exact wording can be read at <https://www.forumpalmoel.org/en/welcome>)

As part of their supply chain management, members are committed to ensuring traceability of the palm oil, palm kernel oil and corresponding derivatives used, at least down to the level of the mills, but ideally down to the level of the individual plantations.

Specifically, members will:

- Annually engage in documented dialogue with 10 suppliers, or all of their suppliers if less than 10, and request a timeline on how to ensure future compliance with the additional criteria and traceability. Evaluate the timelines created by suppliers and report on progress in the annual member survey.

For example, the POIG criteria include all of the additional requirements (<http://poig.org/>) of FONAP. In addition, RSPO NEXT (<https://rspo.org/certification/rspo-next>) offers the possibility to cover some additional criteria via certificates.

3. Reporting

Members are required to participate in the annual membership survey and report to the Secretariat on the following items by June 30th of the following year:

- Quantities of certified volumes of palm (kernel) oil and fractions & derivatives
- Possibilities of traceability (mill, plantation, etc.) including volumes and targets with time specifications
- Possibilities of implementing one or more additional criteria including volumes and targets with time specifications.

4. Concluding remarks

Irrespective of the above-mentioned goals, all members strive to implement the voluntary commitment globally.

If the targets are not fully achieved in individual cases, detailed reasons must be provided. The measures to be taken if a member fails to achieve the targets are set out in the annex to this voluntary commitment.

This voluntary commitment is updated on a regular basis.

Berlin, 04/29/2025

Work Translation