**Where is the cocoa industry on climate change? What are the new challenges for cocoa growing? Join us at the 7th Edition of the European Cocoa Forum in Lisbon together with the key players in the cocoa sector to learn more and play a leading part in the debate.**

How we should best address the cocoa supply’s chain climate agenda and reduce its carbon footprint is the opening key question for our first of four panels at the 2019 European Cocoa Forum, 17th to 19th September 2019, in Lisbon.

This year’s event will bring together the key players from the European cocoa and chocolate industry, high-level government officials from cocoa producing countries together with representatives of the EU and international institutions, cocoa-related organisations and civil society.

They’ll be among the 200 attendees taking an active part in wide-ranging debates on the issues that really matter for today’s and tomorrow’s cocoa and chocolate industry.

Speakers of the first panel include: **Steven Retzlaff** (ECA Chairman and President of Global Cocoa at Barry Callebaut), **Alain-Richard Donwahi** (Minister of Waters and Forests of Ivory Coast), **Beatriz Yordi** (Director, EU Commission, DG CLIMA), **Soetanto Abdoellah** (Chairman, Indonesian Cocoa Board), **Renat Heuberger** (CEO, South Pole) and **Emily Black** (Professor, University of Reading).

Here’s a more in-depth flavour of what we’ll be tackling in the first of our four panels:

* How will the EU 2030 goals for building a low carbon economy impact the way in which the European cocoa industry operates?
* How can we better use the EU tools related to the Emissions Trading System, the Product Environmental Footprint and the Life Cycle Assessment?
* How to adapt business operations and supply chain practices to be prepared for tomorrow’s changes?
* What is the business case for climate actions, and what are the key remediation actions to take to best address the identified climate risks and opportunities?
* How to better understand the complex interactions between cocoa cultivation, climate change and the hydrological cycle?
* How can the industry work together with the EU and cocoa producing authorities to improve soil quality and limit the adverse effects of climate change?
* What is the Indonesian strategy to protect and safeguard cocoa production?

The Forum also offers delegates a rich mix of social activities, giving you plenty of room for networking. Tasting sessions, workshops and the tailored social programme culminating with our gala dinner make the ECA Forum the place to be!

In the next three articles over the coming weeks, we’ll provide you with the ‘need to know’ for our remaining three panels at the 2019 ECA Forum: The impact of new technologies on price behavior in cocoa; how blockchain matters; and how value can be captured in cocoa.

As well as our four panels, we’ll also be exploring further pressing issues at the Forum, including how we can pave the way for a sustainable cocoa future, how to address food safety regulatory challenges and how businesses can be a catalyst for change.

Go ahead and save the date in your calendar - 17th to 19th September 2019 in Lisbon - you wouldn’t want to miss it!

[www.eurococoa.com](http://www.eurococoa.com) to find out more and to register.