Through the various presentations and discussions on the proposal we understand that it is allowed to mix 'known' origin cocoa beans or products. Is this interpretation correct? And at what point in the supply is mixing of 'known' origins allowed?

A shipment of cocoa beans from West Africa represents an estimated production of 13,000 smallholder farmers. Not everything is digitized at origin and most of the data is on documents and cannot be traced back to a specific plot of land in case 'known' origin is required in order to be compliant?

Why does the proposal reference 'free circulation' specifically? This seems to imply that cocoa beans stored in bonded warehouse in EU harbor before being called for production and released for 'free circulation' will be out of scope of the regulation?

We hear conflicting comments that sustainable agroforestry practices, practices that contribute to income diversification and community wellbeing, would no longer be allowed under the proposed regulation. Can you confirm?

In our experience monitoring compliance via satellites is not sufficient proof for 'verifiable information' that deforestation has not occurred. In most cases satellites cannot distinguish between 'forest' and 'agroforestry' or other tree plantations from space. What other valid proof could be considered for Member States authorities? Will Member States authorities require to do 'on the spot' checks in producing countries when alerted about possible deforestation incidents?

To successfully implement the requirements of the proposal the cocoa sector calls for an enabling environment in producing countries. The proposal includes elements of government-to-government cooperation and the next phase of the EU 'Cocoa Talks' will create a platform for exchange. Will the EU Commission plan for initiatives on the ground in producing countries? How can the private sector contribute?

Throughout the process thus far the cocoa sector has repeatedly called for sector specific guidance that takes account of the complexity and farming practices in the cocoa supply chain that will otherwise create friction with the proposed legislative requirements. Will the EU 'Cocoa Talks' offer that platform to develop these guidelines?

The same amount is being invested in sustainability programs (i.e. not traceability) that support the overall sustainability in the cocoa sector. Was the impact of the proposal on the overall sustainability (economic, environmental, and social) of the cocoa sector taken into consideration?