



The Belgian Social Label

A governmental application of
Social LCA



workshop on "Governance &
LCA"

FFU

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Promouvoir une production socialement responsable
Een sociaal "verantwoorde productie" bevorderen

- **Creation**
- Characteristics of the label
- Conclusion





Creation

- Law proposal Dirk Van Der Maele (1993)
- Recognition by the European Commission (2000-2001)
- Compatibility with the WTO prescriptions
- Royal Resolution 27 feb. 2002



International framework

Financial field

- International Monetary Fund
- Worldbank
- World Trade Organisation
- World Intellectual Property Organisation

Social Field(VN)

- International labour organisation
- International Health organisation
- UNESCO
- Environmental programme of the united Nations (UNEP)



International framework

Financial field

- International norms
- Consultation between governments
- Rules
- Compulsory
- Direct applicable
- Own sanctions

Social field (VN)

- International norms
- Consultation between governments
- Indicative norms
- Not compulsory
- Have to be implemented by states
- Only states can sanction

- Creation
- **Characteristics of the label**
- Conclusion





Characteristics of the label

- Productlabel for products and services
- Based on international norms
- Chain approach (Social LCA)
- Independent control
- Guaranteed by the government
- Stakeholdercommittee



Productlabel

- Gives information on a certain product/service
- Can be given to different products following the same production chain
- Does not give any information on the other products/services of the company
- Business to consumer instrument: gives the consumer in a simple way information on the product



Based on international norms

- Based on the eight fundamental conventions of the International Labour Organisation ILO
- All members of the ILO (174 countries) have to implement these conventions into their legislation
- These conventions can be considered as an international Social Law



Fundamental ILO conventions

- **Forced & Bonded Labour (C 29 and C105)**
- **Freedom of Association (C87)**
- **Right to Collective Bargaining (C98)**
- **Equal remuneration for male and female workers for work of equal value, discrimination (C100 and C111)**
- **Minimum Age (C138)**
- **Worst Forms of Child Labour (C182)**



Chain approach

- The norms apply to the entire production chain. From raw material till the product/service that will be labelled
- The demander has to know the entire production chain
- The demander has to know the addresses of all the production units



Environmental LCA

An instrument for the visualisation of the environmental aspects of a product from the raw material up to the stage of waste.

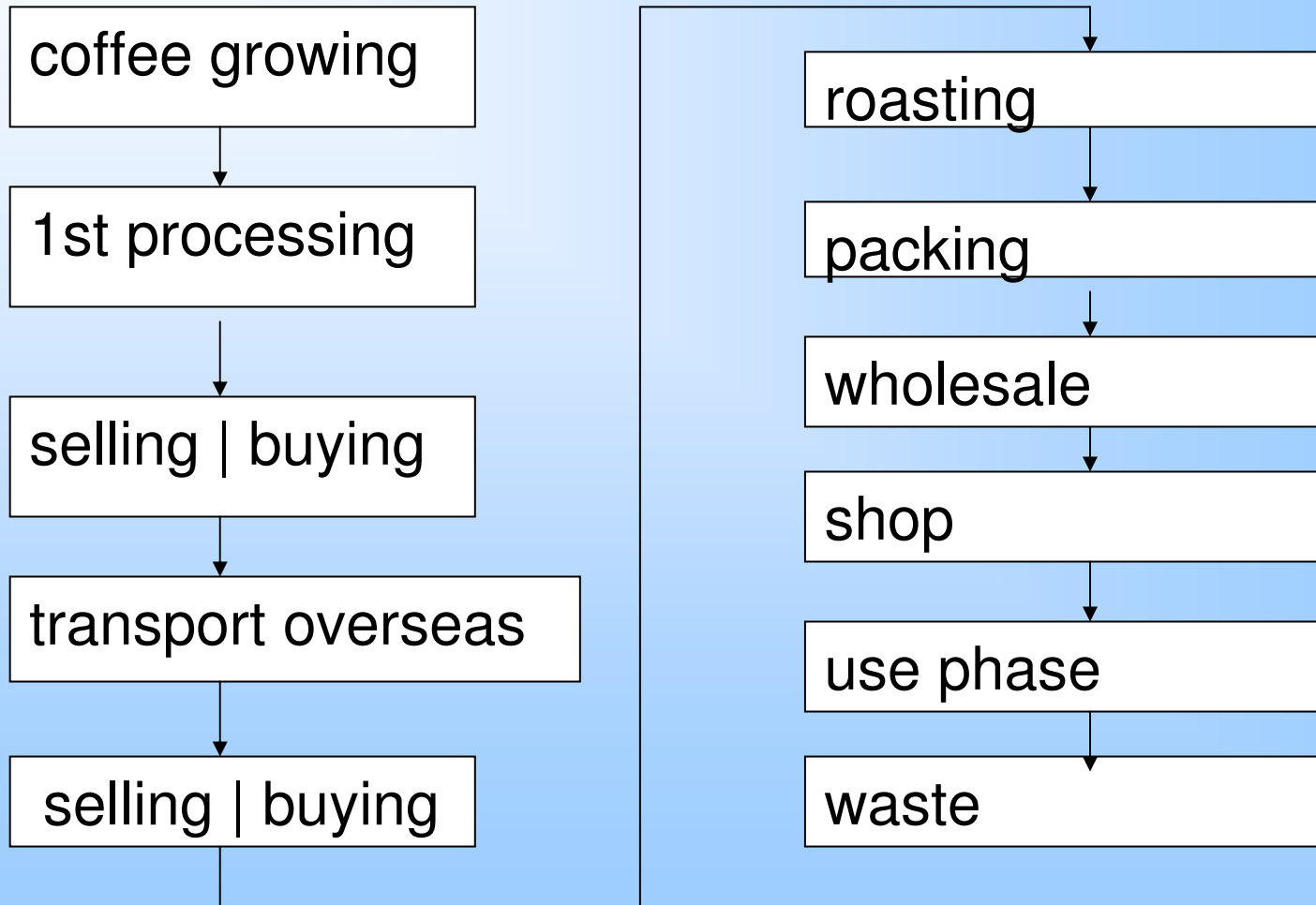
- Hard to quantify social aspects
- The necessity of a place specific approach



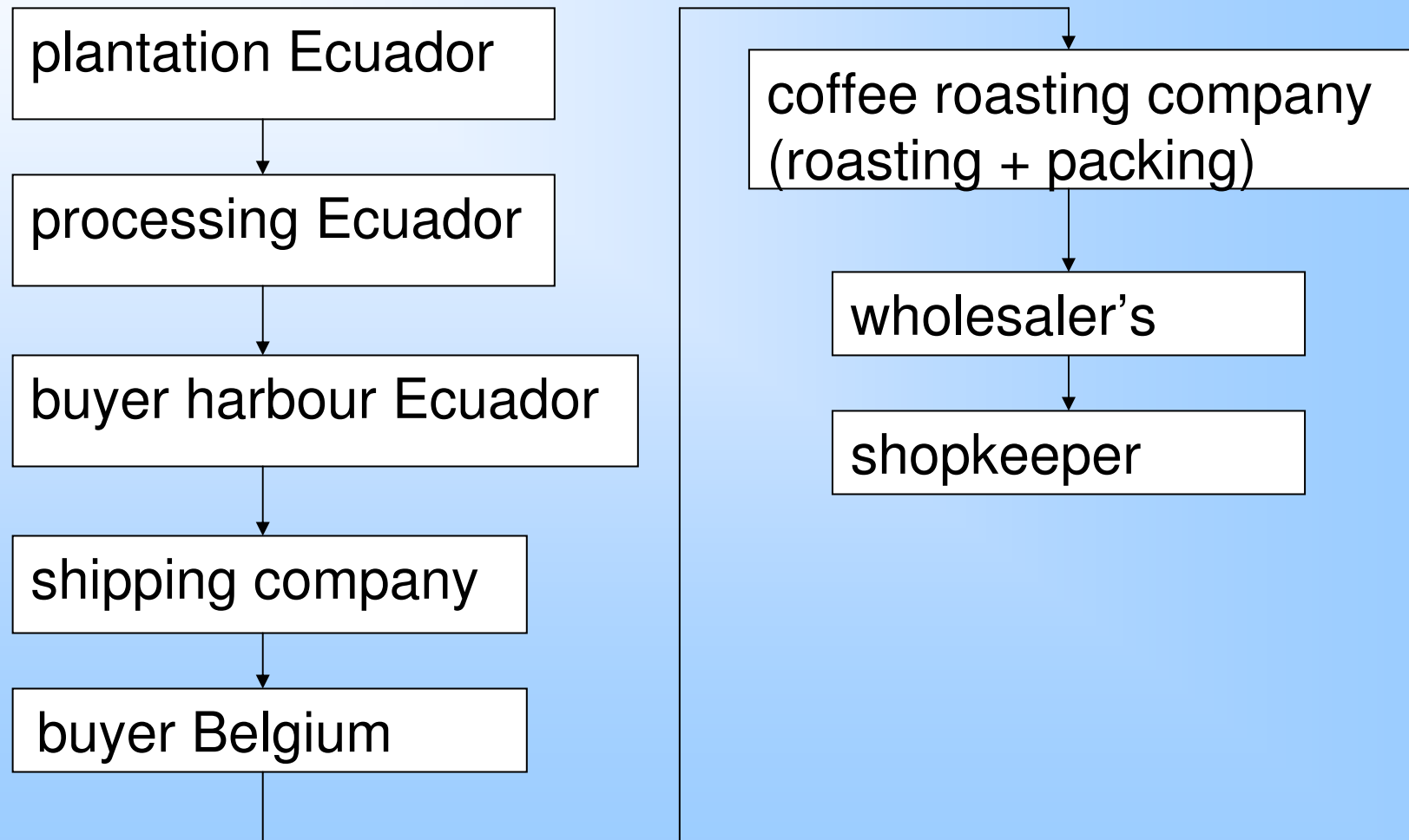
Social LCA

- Based on the production chain for the aspects linked to the organisations.
- Identification of production chain
 - process tree: processes, by-products, resources
 - production chain: suppliers, subcontractors, stakeholders
- Chain delimitation
 - identification of the most important problems
 - identification of the most important chain actors

Process tree



Production chain





Independent control

- The control has to be done by accredited inspection organisations
- Accreditation is based on the EN 45004-norm for inspection organisations and is based on the referential of the social label
- Also SAI-accredited inspection organisations are allowed to do the control for the social label



Monitoring

- Internal monitoring
- External monitoring
 - External product specific control
 - External organisational control
 - ✓ screening (Ethibel methodology)
 - ✓ intermediary report
 - ✓ corrective actions
 - ✓ visits on the spot (if necessary)
 - ✓ final report



Garanteed by the government

- Based on the Belgian law for socially responsible production of 27th of February 2002
- Misuse can lead to punishment (fines)
- Controlling organisations have to be accredited by a governmental organisation (Belac)
- The competent Minister allows the label based on the stringent advice of the committee for socially responsible production



Stakeholder committee

- The stakeholder committee gives advice based on the final report of the controlling instance
- It gives advice on all adaptations of the label
- The committee of socially responsible production is constituted out of 16 members
- The distribution is assigned by law
- The 16 members are part of the government, NGO's, unions consumer organisations and the business world



Advantages of the stakeholder committee

- Trustworthiness of the label.
- Larger societal support for the label.
- Collaboration of all stakeholders to achieve better working conditions

- Creation
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- **Conclusion**





Conclusion

- **Sensibilisation of consumers and companies for the social aspects of products**
- **Promote products produced in correct working conditions throughout the world**
- **Ameliorate working conditions worldwide**
- **Promote and sustain the fundamental ILO conventions**
- **Stimulate companies to work with transparent production chains and responsible chain management**



Advantages

- **Recognition of the social responsible management**
- **Recognisable by consumers**
- **Attractive for motivated employees**
- **Partly paid by the government**
- **Chain management**
 - **Risc analysis (scandals)**
 - **Preventive actions**
 - **Closer relationships with suppliers within the chain**
 - **Influence on the production process as a whole**
 - **Better quality management**



Difficulties

- **Timeconsuming**
- **Determination process tree**
- **Location of the production units**
- **Chain delimitation**
- **Contacts with chain actors**
- **Influence on chain actors**
- **Quality of the information**
- **Verification**
- **Lack of generic information**



Application

Secretariat Social Label:

Programmatorische federale OverheidsDienst (POD)
Maatschappelijke Integratie, Armoedebestrijding en
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