



Gafta Council Election 2026

Candidate Information

The following candidates are on the ballot for election to the Gafta Council in January 2026. Candidates have provided a short statement in relation to their candidacy for Council:

Colin Wakefield, Bureau Veritas Singapore	
Category	Professional Firm
Proposer and Second	Colin Gorgon Lawrence Lo
Candidate Statement	
<p>I have over 12 years of experience in the agriculture industry, and possess a deep understanding of global trade flows, supply chain operations, the complexities of international trade regulations, and testing, inspection, and supervision activities. My career has spanned various roles in Agribusiness, beginning my career in the cotton trade and spending time in India & Mexico before moving into Grains & Oilseeds where I issued and negotiated contracts, led teams responsible for bulk & containerized trade execution, supply chain execution, and regulatory compliance. In 2021 I moved from the Trade side to the TIC (Testing, Inspection, & Certification) side of the industry with Bureau Veritas (BV).</p> <p>In January of 2024 I moved back to Singapore, the country of my birth, with BV in a new role as part of the company’s Agriculture Global Business Line focused on continued expansion and development of BV’s supervision and analyst activities in South-East Asia. I have a proven track record in leading teams on the trade side as an importer/exporter and more recently with BV in both North America and South-East Asia.</p> <p>Agriculture has always been a passion of mine and I am happy to have spent my entire professional life working in many different roles within the agriculture industry. We are at a pivotal time in the industry where digitalization, sustainability, supply chain efficiency, and related challenges among others present new and exciting opportunities that everyone involved in the trade must adapt to.</p> <p>I believe that Gafta has served and will continue to serve a critical role in addressing these challenges and my background will contribute to supporting Gafta’s initiatives. I am eager to contribute my expertise to the Council, and I am confident that my skills and experience will be valuable assets to Gafta and its members.</p>	



Promoting international trade

Eli Voyatzi, Agroinvest S.A.	
Category	Trading Principles in Agricultural Commodities
Proposer and Seconder	Georgio Dalla Bonna David Villa Bajona
Candidate Statement	
<p>With an experience of 15 years in international agri-commodities trade and a strong academic background in law, economics, and business, I am committed to contributing meaningfully to Gafta’s work.</p> <p>My professional development within Agroinvest, a serious and prestigious company, without the size of the multis, provided me with the benefit of a broad hands-on experience, on the entire trade process — from contract negotiation, to their formation and their execution, and when necessary, to arbitration and dispute resolution. In my current role as Head of Execution and Head of Arbitration at AGROINVEST, as well as a FOSFA Arbitrator, I work daily with contractual performance, claims handling, and the application of industry rules across a wide range of commodities.</p> <p>I am very familiar with Gafta and its principals, both by daily work on its frameworks, but also by having completed twice its training programs; once via Distance Learning in 2012-2025 and again last year, by attending the courses in person. Adding to this my academic background (Oxford MBA, Master in Comparative Business Law, Bachelor in Economics), equips me with the skillset and knowledge that would make me a well suited addition to Gafta’s Council. My long-standing engagement with the organisation, is also reflected in my article in Gaftaworld back in 2017.</p> <p>As digitalisation, sustainability, and supply chain resilience reshape global trade, I am committed to supporting initiatives that strengthen contractual clarity, promote fair dispute resolution, and enhance Gafta’s role in an evolving market. I also hope to bring the perspective of the younger generation and the voice of smaller but serious companies to the Council.</p> <p>I am keen for an opportunity to serve our community with professionalism, integrity, and forward-looking commitment.</p>	

Promoting international trade

Eren Günhan Ulusoy, Ulusoy Un Sanayi Ve Ticaret A.S.	
Category	Trading Principles in Agricultural Commodities
Proposer and Seconder	David VB Paul Harrison
Candidate Statement <p>I am pleased to submit my candidacy for election to the Gafta Council and to offer my experience in support of an association that has long provided certainty, consistency, and confidence in international agricultural trade.</p> <p>My professional career is rooted in over twenty years of active involvement across the global grain and agrifood supply chain, encompassing milling and physical commodities trading. Throughout this period, I have worked closely with international counterparties across diverse markets, gaining a practical appreciation of the commercial disciplines, contractual frameworks, and professional standards that underpin reliable and sustainable trade.</p> <p>As Chairman of Turkey's largest flour milling group, I manage cross-border trade within contractual, regulatory, and logistical frameworks. Operating in the world's leading flour exporting country, the industry is inherently dependent on imported wheat. This structure requires disciplined engagement with international suppliers, effective use of Gafta-based contracts, and purchasing and risk management practices. In my current role, I oversee more than one thousand employees, eight production facilities, international subsidiaries, and over three million tonnes of grain trade annually, providing senior-level insight into international procurement, logistics, quality and shipment terms, and commercial risk allocation from a buyer's perspective.</p> <p>My academic background, including a PhD in agricultural economics, combined with leadership experience in listed companies, has provided me with a perspective on market risk, governance, and long-term strategy. Having worked for many years on both the processing and trading sides of the grain industry, I understand the differing yet interlinked needs of market participants. I believe this perspective enables me to contribute to Gafta Council discussions by sharing practical insight, promoting best practice in contract usage, and helping ensure Gafta continues to meet the evolving needs of its global membership.</p> <p>I would be pleased to serve Gafta and its members with integrity, inclusiveness, and commitment to international cooperation globally.</p>	

Janet Ngibuini, LDC Kenya	
Category	Trading Principles in Agricultural Commodities
Proposer and Seconder	Brian Arnold Paul Harrison
Candidate Statement	
<p>Within the 20 years of experience in the soft commodity trading industry, I have gained foundational skills and expertise in contract administration, logistics operations and risk management. In addition, I have led in digital transformation initiatives, modernizing processes to adapt to the evolving business environment structure. My participation in industry organizations has also broadened my perspective on the evolving needs in the commodity trading sector.</p> <p>I have come to appreciate Gafta as instrumental in shaping the landscape of international trade and industry especially in providing legal, technical and commercial framework within this dynamic and challenging global environment.</p> <p>I believe that my industry experience, engagement with professional organizations and my commitment to operational excellence, will enable me to contribute substantive insights to the Gafta Council as it addresses the challenges and opportunities in global transactions.</p>	

Jean-Raymond Senger, Soufflet Négoce by InVivo	
Category	Trading Principles in Agricultural Commodities
Proposer and Seconded	Gavin Millar Rory Donnelly
Candidate Statement	
<p>I am professional with over 35 years of experience in cereal's business, especially in the redaction of contracts, the management of positions, the negotiation and the dispute resolution, working daily with the support of Gafta's Contracts. I am Arbitrator in the CAIP of Paris since more than 25 years. All these advantages are put at the service of the Gafta organization.</p> <p>It will be a privilege to become once again a member of the great team of people in Gafta and to be nominated to the Gafta Council.</p> <p>the world has experienced some profound shocks over the last few years, which continue to impact on our own world of grain trading.</p> <p>After the Covid in March 2020, February 2022 saw the Russian invasion of Ukraine. These factors, plus the effects of climate change and economic instability, have created a lot of disruption, and challenge our ways of living, of working, and of thinking. Since these times, Gafta staff, its committees, Council and member companies have increased their efficiency level with exceptional organization and communication.</p> <p>Gafta continues to respond to the needs of its members. Indeed, a solidification of the use of Gafta contracts based on English law for international trade, with the same common understanding and the same contractual and arbitration rules all over the world.</p> <p>It will be a pleasure for me to continue giving my modest contribution to Gafta, founded on the principle 'My Word is My Bond' and it will be an amazing experience for me to continue to promote the development of Gafta.</p>	

Mohammad Anis Alam Arabian Agricultural Services (ARASCO)	
Category	Trading Principles in Agricultural Commodities
Proposer and Second	Matty Spaink Farid Christensen
Candidate Statement	
<p>With having almost 40 years of experience in Agribusiness in ARASCO managing about more than 3.5MMT of various grains and raw materials presently I am Chairman of Gafta Trade Policy Committee (GTPC). have been associated with Gafta since more than 38 years.</p> <p>participated in the Commodity Arbitration with Gafta with one of our suppliers and we won the case. have benefited from a unique education in Gafta's wide-ranging activities through its diverse committee structure and remain associated (since late 1980s).</p> <p>have represented Gafta on various occasions with WTO.</p> <p>have been associated with USGC and USSEC since late 1980s.</p> <p>At present a member of the advisory board of Global Grain Geneva.</p> <p>have been a part of GrainCom Geneva, Switzerland.</p> <p>During that voyage we saw a lot of evolutions and changes, specifically around technology/digitalization, regulation(s) and ESG and those are areas that I manage and promote intensively in my roles.</p> <p>"The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing."</p>	

Nathalie Hogarth, Cargill International S.A.	
Category	Trading Principles in Agricultural Commodities
Proposer and Second	Paul Harrison Jemma Naylor
Candidate Statement	
<p>Nathalie Hogarth offers a well-rounded, hands-on perspective shaped by her early work in the oil and petrochemical sector and her extensive career in trade execution across multiple commodities, with a strong focus on agriculture. With over two decades of experience spanning operational roles to senior global leadership, she understands both the practical realities of daily execution and the strategic decisions that guide our industry's evolution. Nathalie is known for building supportive, high-performing teams, fostering collaboration, and bringing people together to address complex challenges.</p> <p>Having already had the privilege of serving on the Gafta Council, she brings not only experience but a clear understanding of the Council's responsibilities and the importance of representing members thoughtfully and fairly. Her previous mandate reinforced her appreciation for Gafta's role in standards, governance, training, and member support—areas she remains deeply committed to strengthening.</p> <p>With her blend of operational insight, global perspective, and genuine dedication to the agricultural trade community, Nathalie would continue to be a balanced, constructive, and engaged voice on the Gafta Council.</p>	

Roopak Bhadra, Biscray Enterprises	
Category	Trading Principles in Agricultural Commodities
Proposer and Seconder	Simon Davis Abbasali H Merali
Candidate Statement	
<p>I have been trading commodities since 1998 in Southern Africa, mostly in grains, pulses and Sugar; and have a good knowledge and understanding of the dynamics of trading and the changes in trade that has taken place since then.</p> <p>I have been a Gafta Arbitrator since 2014 and it has given me ample opportunity to work on various types of cases / claims and interact with other Gafta Arbitrators from different parts of the world, some of who were quite senior and who brought immense experience with them. This has helped me over time to develop my skills and knowledge.</p> <p>I have applied to become a Council Member as it has always been my desire to learn more about the way Gafta operates and functions, be part of the council and to use my experience in the trade to contribute and benefit Gafta.</p> <p>I feel that coming from Southern Africa where I have been operating for the last 31 years, a continent where Gafta is perhaps under-represented, it would benefit Gafta immensely to have a direct representation in the region.</p>	

Tanja Nehls ADM Germany	
Category	Trading Principles in Agricultural Commodities
Proposer and Seconder	Will Hall-Jones Jemma Naylor
Candidate Statement	
<p>Tanja is currently a member of the Gafta International Contract Committee and the Gafta Arbitration Committee and Fosfa Arbitration Committee.</p> <p>I believe that my experience and expertise in global Contract, Execution, Shipping and Arbitration in an ever changing global environment and increasing digitalization is bringing an advantage to Gafta Council.</p>	

Torsten Sievers Cotecna Inspection S.A.	
Category	Superintendent
Proposer and Second	Maria Canessa Thorsten Tiedmann
Candidate Statement <p>Over the years I have been working in trade execution, as arbitrator and have joined various committees of associations. I hold presently the position as Vice President of Agriculture Business Line and Europe Commodities of Cotecna Inspection SA.</p> <p>This experience has given me practical and legal understanding of operational, commercial and regulatory challenges of our industry, as well as the importance of robust standard contracts and effective arbitration services.</p> <p>My experience in several areas of our industry would bring benefit to the Gafta Council.</p> <p>It would be an honor to be considered for election to the GAFTA Council.</p>	

Vanessa Rocha Pereira Cargill Agricola SA	
Category	Trading Principles in Agricultural Commodities
Proposer and Second	Joaquin Baek Sofia Goni
Candidate Statement <p>With over two decades at Cargill across South and North America, I bring a practitioner's perspective to the grain and feed trade—from farm gate to vessel, and from contract to execution. My career spans logistics, trading, operational efficiency, and supply chain planning. Today, as Vice President for Ag & Trading LATAM Manufacturing, I ensure business strategies translate into reliable, resilient and safe operations across complex, multi-country networks.</p> <p>On Gafta Council, I would focus on two areas where my experience adds immediate value:</p> <p>Operational resilience and risk management — leveraging hands-on expertise in quality, safety, and regulatory compliance to strengthen end-to-end processes, digital documentation, and trade execution reliability.</p> <p>Inclusive collaboration and talent development — engaging stakeholders across Latin America and beyond to broaden perspectives, build capabilities, and foster a high-performance, customer-centric culture.</p> <p>My deep knowledge of the Brazilian logistics chain—where infrastructure gaps, transit times, and handling practices directly impact grain quality—gives me an unique lens on operational realities. I have worked to integrate traceability solutions that connect origin, quality parameters, and customer requirements, ensuring transparency and trust throughout the supply chain. This experience allows me to advocate for practical standards that link policy to execution, enhance market confidence, reduce transaction frictions, and support sustainable growth.</p>	



Notes:

1. Gafta Rules and Regulations stipulate that: “The elected members of the Council shall not include more than one authorised representative of any one Company Member. There shall not be more than two Members or their authorised representatives from Superintendent Members. There shall not be more than two Individual Qualified Arbitrator or Individual Qualified Mediator Members.”