

GAFTA COUNCIL ELECTION 2025

Candidate Information

The following candidates are on the ballot for election to the Gafta Council in January 2025. Candidates have provided a short statement in relation to their candidacy for Council:

Anis ALAM Chief Grain Procurement, Arabian Agricultural Services Company (ARASCO), Saudi Arabia	
Category	A – Trading Principals
Proposer and Second	Proposer: Nathalie Hogarth, Cargill SA, Switzerland Second: Luc de Villèle, Louis Dreyfus Company Suisse SA, Switzerland
Candidate Statement	
<p>With having almost 39 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).</p> <p>I have been associated with Gafta since more than 35 years.</p> <p>I 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>I have represented Gafta on various occasions with WTO.</p> <p>I have been associated with USGC and USSEC since late 1980s.</p> <p>I am at present a member of the advisory board of Global Grain Geneva.</p> <p>I have been a part of GrainCom Geneva, Switzerland. During that voyage we saw a lot of evolutions and changes, specifically around technology/digitalisation, regulation(s) and ESG and those are area's that I manage and promote intensively in my roles.</p> <p>"There is no shortage of remarkable ideas, what's missing is to execute them".</p>	

Iulian GHEORGHE Founder, Agricolumn, Romania	
Category	A – Trading Principals
Proposer and Second	Proposer: Octavian Canta, ADM Romania Trading S.R.L., Romania Second: Cristian Mihailescu, Bunge Romania SRL, Romania
Candidate Statement	
<p>My career in the agri industry covers 22 years. I joined Cargill in Romania in 2002 and developed the whole origination and trading processes, silo operations, implementation of Food Feed Safety mother law 178/2002 of EU, distribution of inputs and the whole field team (36 members). Cargill sent me to GAFTA training courses, where I received certification back in 2004, for Trade Policy, Contracts and Dispute Resolution.</p> <p>At Ameropa Grains I worked in all the processes: trading, origination, logistics, distribution, financial and gathering around people and trust. I have led one of the biggest port terminals in Constanta port, Chimpex that encounter at that time a lot of problems, in terms of safety and maritime traffic.</p> <p>At Bunge Romania, and later Agricovert, I had the mission to restructure and reformulate the business which I accomplished in a short period of time.</p> <p>One of the most important facts that govern my career path are the business principles. To stand against any temptation, to keep my integrity, to be neutral and fair, to act in full respect of the laws and the contractual structure.</p> <p>The markets and the business environment in East Europe are in development, and I believe that GAFTA can add value to the whole supply chain. I was always an advocate for GAFTA and for Arbitration in equity, all market participants need to understand and follow GAFTA rules and contractual forms.</p> <p>I believe that my principles and goal, to increase market maturity and business to become predictable and healthy for all actors, no matter if they are traders, exporters, local traders or big farmers from Southeastern Europe, fit with my desire to join the Gafta Council.</p>	

Fernando JARACH International Execution Manager, LDC Argentina S.A., Argentina	
Category	A – Trading Principals
Proposer and Second	Proposer: Paul Harrison, SGS SA, Switzerland Second: Torsten Sievers, Cotecna Inspection S.A., Switzerland
Candidate Statement	
<p>During my more than 35 years working for three different companies in the industry, I have gained experience in various aspects of international trade, from contract elaboration to documentation and logistics operations. Additionally, I have fostered the digitalization of documents, being a promoter and personally involved in the implementation of e-phytos and e-BL's.</p> <p>Throughout this period, I have come to understand the crucial role that organizations like Gafta play in global trade, facilitating the free trade of agricultural products worldwide, standardizing contracts, and mediating conflicts between parties. In addition to my professional experience, I am an active participant in CIARA-CEC (Argentine Chamber of Oilseeds Crushers and Grain Exporters) committees and have been a member of Gafta's ICC and GTPC since 2017.</p> <p>I strongly believe that my practical experience, combined with my committee participation and daily interaction with other key South American players from the value chain -from farm to destination-, will add a complementary perspective to the GAFTA Council, offering diversity in understanding and addressing industry challenges and opportunities from a key origination region.</p>	

Adam LECLERC Senior Director of Supply Chain S&OE, Global Agriculture, CHS Inc., United States	
Category	A – Trading Principals
Proposer and Second	Proposer: Paul Harrison, SGS SA, Switzerland Second: Sorin Albeanu, Covantis SA, Switzerland
Candidate Statement	
<p>With over 11 years of experience in the agriculture industry, I have a deep understanding of global trade flows, supply chain operations, and the complexities of international trade regulations. My career has spanned various roles, leading teams responsible for contract management, supply chain execution, trade execution and digital transformation.</p> <p>I have a proven track record in leading global teams and am passionate about driving innovation and efficiency in global agriculture trade. We are at a pivotal moment in the industry, where digitalization, sustainability, and supply chain resilience are becoming increasingly critical. I believe that GAFTA has a crucial role to play in addressing these challenges and opportunities, and my experience will contribute to supporting GAFTA's initiatives.</p> <p>I am committed to promoting fair and ethical trade practices and believe that GAFTA plays a crucial role in shaping the future of the industry. 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>	

Antonis PAPANIKOLAS Managing Director, Med Control Services, Greece	
Category	C – Superintendents
Proposer and Second	Proposer: Paul Della Tolla, Dimitriaki S.A., Greece Second: John Daskalakis, Soya Hellas S.A., Greece
Candidate Statement	
<p>Antonis is the Managing Director and Principal Partner of Med Control Services, a Commodity Inspection and Testing Organization based in Athens, Greece. Antonis started his career in 2006 and has been involved in the operations, quality assurance and inspection of grains for Med Control as Gafta Member Superintendents. Other services provided include loss adjusting & damage surveys in marine cargoes in bulk, packed or containerized, tank calibration, quantity and quality disputes in grains, animal feeding stuffs, fertilizers, agro-alimentary products.</p> <p>Antonis has studied Management (BSc/MSc), Shipping (MSc), Maritime Law (LLM) and is a Gafta Arbitrator for Rules 125 & 126.</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.”