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Speaker Biographies

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Speaker: Mr. Frederic Seppey, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Frédéric Seppey is Canada's Chief Agriculture Negotiator at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). His responsibilities include leading the negotiating team for agriculture products in the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and bilateral free trade negotiations, technical trade policy matters and Canada's engagement in multilateral agriculture institutions.

Prior to his current assignment, Mr. Seppey held several management positions with AAFC, and at the Canadian section of the Canada-US Regulatory Cooperation Council. During his 20-year career in the Public Service, Mr. Seppey also worked at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, as well as the Privy Council Office, the Department of Finance and the Treasury Board Secretariat.

Speaker: Ms. Shendra Melia, Global Affairs Canada

Ms. Melia was appointed Director of the Technical Barriers and Regulations Division at Global Affairs Canada in September 2015. The Technical Barriers and Regulations Division is responsible for promoting the adoption of and compliance with, rules and procedures related to technical regulations and standards.

Ms. Melia has a B.A. (Hons.) in Political Science from Queen's University, an M.A. in International Affairs from the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University and an LL.B. from the University of Ottawa.

Before joining the Technical Barriers and Regulations Division at Global Affairs Canada, Ms. Melia was the Director of the Services Trade Policy Division at Global Affairs Canada and Canada's Chief Negotiator for the Trade in Services Agreement (TISA) negotiations. Prior to this, Ms. Melia was the Deputy Director of the Softwood Lumber Division at Global Affairs Canada, during which time she worked on the negotiation and implementation of the 2006 Canada-United States Softwood Lumber Agreement. Prior to joining Global Affairs Canada, Ms. Melia practiced corporate finance law at McMillan LLP.

Speaker: Mr. Anthony Battaglione, Winemakers' Federation of Australia

Tony Battaglione has had a distinguished career working in the research, policy and agri-political space. He has worked as a scientist and economist before moving into a policy role with the Australian government. After joining the Winemakers Federation of Australia in 1999, Tony Battaglione became a major driver of strategy for the sector. This included developing and implementing a comprehensive market access strategy; overseeing biosecurity, research and development and industry policy and strategy. A strong international focus has also resulted in developing key networks with competitors and other industries to further the interests of the Australian wine sector. This has brought international recognition of his activities and he is a frequent contributor to industry journals, a member of a large number of national and international committees and invited to speak in many conferences around the world.

He has also played a key strategic role in restructuring the Australian wine sector through the development of the Australian Grape and Wine Authority which has a significant role in directing the activities of the sector.

He is the current chair of the industry section of the World Wine Trade Group; APEC Wine Regulatory Forum MRL Working Group; Australian National Wine Research Strategy; FIVS Consumer Issues Working Group; FIVS Codex Alimentarius Commission Liaison Group; and President of the Law & Economy Commission of the OIV.

Speaker: Mr. Steve Guy, Australian Grape and Wine Authority

After graduating from South Australia's Roseworthy Agricultural College with an oenology degree in 1984, Steve worked for several of Australia's largest wine companies. In particular he worked for the organisation that evolved into Beringer Blass in various roles, including Chemist, Quality Manager and Regional Winemaker, from 1986 to 2000. Steve was appointed to the newly created position of Compliance Manager with the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation, now Wine Australia, in September 2000. Steve's responsibilities were extended in 2005 to encompass not only matters relating to regulatory compliance, but also Wine Australia's contribution to Australia's market access initiatives. Steve also holds a degree in pure mathematics and an MBA.

He has participated in many Australian wine sector committees and working groups, and is the current chair of the Technical Advisory Committee for FIVS-ABRIDGE, an authoritative source of regulatory information of interest to the international wine community.

Speaker: Mr. Joaquin Almarza, Agriculture and Livestock Service, Ministry of Agriculture, Chile

Joaquín Almarza is a Chemical and Agronomist Engineer Oenologist in the Agricultural and Livestock Service of the Ministry of Agriculture of Chile, in the Sub Department of Vines and Wines, performing as Head of Certification of Origin in wine and alcoholic beverage related products, for the international and domestic markets. His primary responsibility is to authorize certification documents and analysis reports, for countries that demand official certification. He joined the Agricultural and Livestock Service in 2006 and previously worked as head of analytical wine laboratory in Concha y Toro, and chemistry professor in the Universities Andres Bello y Santo Tomás (2003-2005). In 2008-2010, he was expert counselor for the Wine's Cluster of the Ministry of Agriculture. Since 2008 he has been the official delegate for the World Wine Trade Group (WWTG) as a Government technical counterpart; in oenological practices, additives aids, and certification requirements.

Speaker: Mr. John Lom, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, USA

John R. Lom is the Director of the International Affairs Division for the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB). As Director, he provides technical assistance to the Office of the United States Trade Representative, and other government, foreign, and private entities, in alcohol and tobacco tax and trade matters.

Mr. Lom began his Government career in 1979 with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of the General Counsel during which time he served a detail with the Office of the United States Trade Representative's Office of Agricultural Affairs. Prior to coming to TTB Mr. Lom also served with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) Chief Counsel's office. During his time with ATF and TTB, he has worked on numerous tax, labeling, and production matters, as well as international projects. He was instrumental in organizing the International Conference on Illicit Tobacco Trade held at the United Nations Headquarters. Lom also has served on various U.S. government delegations dealing with U.S.- European Union wine trade issues, the World Wine Trade Group issues, World Health Organization tobacco control negotiations that produced the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation's Wine Regulatory Forum. During his TTB tenure he has also served as acting chief counsel and deputy chief. Mr. Lom received a bachelor's degree from Grinnell College, a Juris Doctor from Creighton University, and a master's degree in national security studies from Georgetown University.

Speaker: Ms. Ann Katsiak, US-APEC Technical Assistance to Advance Regional Integration, USA

Ms. Ann Katsiak is the Chief of Party for the US-APEC Technical Assistance to Advance Regional Integration (US-ATAARI) activity, which is implemented by Nathan Associates Inc. Having worked on APEC issues since 2011 and with more than a decade of work in trade policy and development programs, she oversees all facets of this \$27 million dollar project which provides a breadth of capacity building assistance to APEC member economies. She provides policy guidance and leads the project's efforts on women's economic empowerment and trade policy and facilitation, including working on standards and conformance issues. She is an experienced strategic thinker and project manager with a proven track record of successful project design and execution and has successfully designed and implemented APEC trade policy programs on behalf of the U.S. government for more than six years. She has developed extensive programs within APEC focused on trade policy and capacity building initiatives.

As Managing Director of the Regional Integration division at Nathan Associates Inc., Ms. Katsiak has also overseen and managed the implementation of a portfolio of more than 50 million dollars, with programs in Central America, ASEAN as well as APEC. Prior to her regional focus in both the APEC and ASEAN regions, she served as a trade facilitation specialist to the globally-driven TCBoost project, working to develop toolkits on advance rulings, authorized economic operators and post clearance audit. Ms. Katsiak also has international experience in Moldova, Armenia, Jordan, and Central Asia, in addition to the APEC region. She holds a Master's degree in International Affairs from the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Communications from Wake Forest University.

Speaker: Mr. Saul Cruz, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, USA

Mr. Saul Cruz is a Trade Officer with the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB)'s International Affairs Division, which supports efforts towards the worldwide expansion of market access for U.S. goods and services and plays a key role in the negotiation of bilateral and multilateral free trade agreement issues related to wine and spirits. His primary responsibilities include supervision of the Western Hemisphere/Americas and APEC portfolios, where he assists with managing progress on the APEC-funded multi-year project on wine ("Wine Regulatory Forum Good Regulatory Practices Action Plan"). Previously, he handled issues relating to the World Wine Trade Group and European Union countries. Saul received his MA in Public Policy and Administration from Northwestern University and his undergraduate degree in Government and International Politics from George Mason University.

Speaker: Ms. Laurel Parker, FIVS Abridge, USA

Laurel Parker is the Manager of [FIVS-Abridge](#), a wine regulatory and international trade agreement database. Ms. Parker also organises and updates the official wine regulatory repository for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation's (APEC) Wine Regulatory Forum. She received her Juris Doctorate from the George Washington University School of Law in Washington DC, specialising in international trade, and a Bachelor of Arts, magna cum laude, in International Relations and Spanish, from the University of South Carolina. Ms. Parker has also authored articles on WTO law and compliance.

Speaker: Dr. Eric Wilkes, Australian Wine Research Institute

Eric has worked in the beverage industry since completing his PhD in chemistry at the University of Newcastle in 1997, where he held both teaching and technical positions. Initially spending four years in the Hunter Valley with Rosemount Estates he moved to South Australia in 2001 to take up the role of Group Chemist with Foster's based at the Wolf Blass Winery.

In 2007 he accepted the role of Global Manager Analytical Services with the Foster's Group overseeing the testing and technical services across their whole beverage portfolio on three continents. In 2010 he joined P&N Beverages in Sydney with responsibility for new product development, product QA, customer feedback and product compliance before returning to the wine industry in 2011, joining AWRI where he is now Group Manager Commercial Services.

Specialising in technical management, he has extensive experience in integrating new technologies and systems into wine production and improving those already in place. Current areas of research include wine stability, the role of oxygen in winemaking, methods to determine beverage authenticity and provenance and the impact of metals on sulphide production.

He is the acting Chair of the Interwinery Analysis Group (one of the largest wine testing proficiency programs in the world), is active member of a number of international working groups on wine analysis and export regulations and a co-author of a book on wine laboratory analysis.

Speaker: Mr. Dan Paszkowski, Canadian Vintners Association

Dan Paszkowski is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Vintners Association (CVA), the national association of the Canadian wine industry representing wineries across Canada responsible for more than 90% of annual wine production. The primary responsibility of the CVA is to protect and advance the interests of the Canadian wine industry value chain in domestic and international markets. Prior to joining the CVA, Dan held the position of Vice President, Economic Affairs at the Mining Association of Canada for nine years from 1997-2006. He previously served as Senior Advisor to the Federal Minister of Natural Resources Canada (1993-1997) and Senior Natural Resources Advisor in the National Liberal Caucus Research Bureau. Mr. Paszkowski is a graduate of Carleton University with a B.A (Honours Economics) and completed a Master's Degree in Natural Resource Economics from the University of Ottawa.

Mr. Paszkowski is a member of several professional associations and represents Canada's national wine industry on all federal policy issues. He co-chairs FIVS Social Responsibility Working Group, 2016-17 Industry Chair of the World Wine Trade Group (WWTG), member of Canada's National Alcohol Strategy Working Group and National Alcohol Strategy Advisory Committee, member of the Canadian Association of Liquor Jurisdictions (CALJ) Social Responsibility and National Quality Assurance Committees.

Speaker: Mr. Mauricio Garcia-Perera, Grupo Cetto, Mexico

Mauricio García graduated in Business Administration from the Economic School at Anahuac University in Mexico City. During an 8-year career in the public sector, he worked on trade and standards issues for the National Bureau of Standards at the Economy Ministry and worked as Deputy Director of Standards at the Agriculture Ministry. In 2008, he joined Grupo Cetto, the largest winery in Mexico, as Public Affairs Director where he is in charge of linking the company with related offices in the government and the private sector, covering national and international trade policy issues. Mauricio serves on the Mexican Grape Growers and Vintners Council and at the National Agricultural Council as the chair of the standards commission. Mauricio is being an active member on the APEC Wine Regulatory Forum since the beginning of the Project.

Speaker: Mr. Paul Huckaba, Bronco Wine Company, USA

Since 2007, Paul Huckaba has been the Analytical Laboratory Manager at Bronco Wine Company, a family owned winery committed to growing, producing and selling wines in over 90 countries worldwide. He serves as a member of the American Society for Enology and Viticulture's Lab Proficiency Committee and is also a certified chemist by the US Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) for the analysis of wine for export. Paul is involved with the Wine Institute Technical Advisory Committee where he currently serves as the Chair for the Quality, Safety, Authenticity and Technology working group and is a member of FIVS' Scientific and Technical Committee. He is also on the Executive Board of the National Ag Science Center where he serves as the Vice President. Mr. Huckaba received a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

Speaker: Mr. Jeffrey Clarke, New Zealand Winegrowers

Jeffrey Clarke was appointed General Manager Advocacy & General Counsel of New Zealand Winegrowers in 2014. New Zealand Winegrowers is the unified national organisation for all of New Zealand's winemakers and independent grape growers. The organisation currently has approximately 750 grower members and 700 winery members.

Jeffrey is responsible for ensuring that growers and wineries are able to produce, market and sell their wines competitively around the world. His role covers international trade, government relations, regulation, standards, intellectual property and providing information to members. He is also responsible for leading the provision of all legal advice to New Zealand Winegrowers.

Before moving into the world of wine, Jeffrey spent over 20 years working as a lawyer and advocate for top firms in New Zealand, New York, and London, managing the legal department of a major State Owned energy company, and representing New Zealand in Paris at the OECD and the International Energy Agency.

Speaker: Ms. Sara Azevedo, E. & J. Gallo Winery, USA

Sara Azevedo is a Senior Compliance and Regulatory Affairs Analyst at E. & J. Gallo Winery. For the past five years she has worked to facilitate the global trade of wine as a member of the Wine Institute Technical Advisory Committee and as an industry representative to the APEC Wine Regulators Forum, International Wine Technical Summit, and the World Wine Trade Group. Prior to joining Gallo, she worked in contracts administration for the General Services Administration in the Pacific Rim.

Sara holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Master of Public Administration both from California State University Stanislaus, an International Food Law Certificate from Michigan State University, and attended the Wine and Spirits Law Academy at University of California, Davis.

Speaker: Ms. Laurie McDonald, VQA Ontario, Canada

As the chief staff officer at VQA Ontario, Laurie oversees the management and operations of the local wine authority. VQA Ontario administers provincial regulations that govern wine composition and labelling for Ontario wines and ensure label integrity for consumers. She has been with VQA Ontario since its establishment in 2000.

Before joining VQA Ontario, Laurie worked as an engineer and later was the Registrar of the licensing authority for Professional Engineers in Ontario, responsible for the regulation of the practice of engineering.

Speaker: Dr. Dave Lunn, Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand

After joining the New Zealand Department of Agriculture in 1972 to work in the area of pesticide regulation, particularly the pre-clearance safety evaluation of pesticides, since 1995 Dave has been involved in the more technical aspects of pesticide residue assessment and MRL-setting. In recent years he has concentrated on providing technical advice to New Zealand exporters and producer groups on NZ's trading partner pesticide residue requirements.

In his current position as Principal Adviser (Residues) with the Plant Exports Group of the NZ Ministry for Primary Industries, his main areas of work include the evaluation of pesticide residue dossiers as part of the NZ pesticide registration process and providing technical advice on national and international pesticide residue standards (MRLs), residue testing and compliance policies.

He is also a member of the New Zealand delegation to the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) and has been the Rapporteur for that Committee for close to 20 years. In addition, he is a member of the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR), an independent panel of experts providing advice to CCPR on pesticide MRLs and residue risk assessment.

Speaker: Dr. Greg Hodson, EJ Gallo / FIVS President, USA

Greg is Chief Technical Regulatory Liaison for the E. & J. Gallo Winery and is the President of FIVS-Abridge. He has a bachelor's degree in biochemistry and a doctorate in food chemistry. After working as an analytical chemist in the dairy industry, he spent 12 years working with the UK government on technical aspects of food legislation. During this time, he conducted negotiations for the UK in the European Union, Codex Alimentarius, the United Nations and the OIV. Greg moved to Gallo in 1997 and has held a wide variety of positions in winery research management, regulatory affairs, and compliance. He is currently responsible for technical regulatory affairs issues in connection with trade in wine, both in the USA and internationally. He is Chair of the California Wine Institute's Technical Advisory Committee and is a member of the US industry delegation to both the World Wine Trade Group and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation's Wine Regulatory Forum. He co-Chairs the FIVS Scientific and Technical Committee, as well as its OIV Liaison activity.

Speaker: Mr. Tom LaFaille, Wine Institute, USA

Tom LaFaille is Vice President and International Trade Counsel at Wine Institute, the public policy trade association representing 1,000 California wineries at the state, federal and international levels. Tom works with the U.S. Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service and U.S. Commerce Department, other governments and industry groups to reduce trade barriers and open export markets for U.S. wineries.

Based in Washington, D.C., he leads the U.S. industry delegation in the World Wine Trade Group and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Wine Regulatory Forum and serves on the U.S. Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade. Tom is a former aide to U.S. Congressman Mike Thompson (Napa Valley), directing wine-related legislation and regulatory issues in the U.S. House of Representatives and California State Senate. He is a graduate of San Francisco State University and the University of California's Hastings College of the Law and is a member of the California State Bar.

Speaker: Ms. Jamie Ferman, U.S. Department of Commerce

Ms. Ferman is a Senior International Trade Specialist focusing on the distilled spirits, toys, and wine industries and is the Co-Project Overseer with the Wine Institute on the APEC Wine Regulatory Forum. Ms. Ferman has worked on technical barriers to trade issues for 18 years. She works closely with the U.S. Trade Representative's Office to ensure that trade barrier issues affecting her industries are addressed at the World Trade Organization's Technical Barriers to Trade Committee and she has worked closely with the APEC Secretariat on toy and wine projects since 2000. She is a graduate of the University of Washington in Seattle with degrees in International Business and Swedish Language and Literature.

Speaker: Dr. Vu Van Hong, Ministry and Science and Technology, Viet Nam

After finishing his PhD degree at the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden in 1999, he worked for the Institute of Materials Science – The Viet Nam Academy of Science and Technology in the field of chemistry and new materials science as researcher.

From 2006 he work for the Directorate for Standards, Metrology and Quality (STAMEQ) - Ministry of Science and Technology as the Director of International Cooperation Department and representative for APEC/SCSC. Next year is APEC Viet Nam 2017 and STAMEQ will be host SCSC1 and SCSC2.