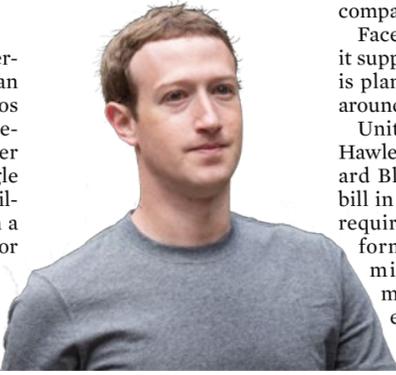


# Facebook to allow transfer of photos, videos to Google Photos

Reuters

Facebook Inc said yesterday it has introduced an option to transfer photos and videos from the social media network directly to other services, starting with Google Photos. The option will be available to users in Ireland, with a worldwide roll-out planned for the first half of 2020.

All data transfers will be encrypted and users will be asked for a password before the transfer is initiated, the



company said in a blog post.

Facebook said in September it supports data portability and is planning to build new tools around it.

United States Senators Josh Hawley, Mark Warner and Richard Blumenthal introduced a bill in late October that would require communications platforms with more than 100 million monthly active members to allow its users to easily move, or port, their data to another network.



Today, we're releasing a tool that will enable Facebook users to transfer their Facebook photos and videos directly to other services, starting with Google Photos.

STEVE SATTERFIELD, DIRECTOR OF PRIVACY AND PUBLIC POLICY, FACEBOOK

## Cuba takes another swipe at dual currency system

Reuters | Havana

Two Havana department stores began yesterday to give change only in pesos, instead of the local dollar equivalent known as the convertible peso, in another step toward ending Cuba's dual monetary system.

The Central Bank, in a brief note published by state-run media, termed the measure an experiment that could be extended to other establishments in the future.

"Depending on the results and effectiveness of the experiment, its gradual extension to other commercial establishments in Havana and the rest of the provinces will be eval-

uated," the Central Bank said.

There are currently two currencies circulating in Cuba, the peso and the convertible peso, which is valued at 24 pesos.

The exchange rate has not changed in more than a decade and the government claims the convertible peso is equal to the dollar, but imported appliances and other goods, when available, often have huge markups as they are purchased in tradable currencies while the peso and convertible peso have no value abroad.

Cubans are largely paid the equivalent of less than 100 dollars per month in pesos, irritating the population, which is often charged convertible pesos at retail outlets.



The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) held yesterday at its premises a workshop on "Maritime Fraud". BCCI's Deputy Chief Executive Officer Dr Abdulla Al Sada highlighted Bahrain's standing as a logistics hub and its ecosystem that encourages the growth and expansion of businesses. The workshop shed light on the types of maritime fraud, precautionary measures to avoid fraud, and the importance of insuring cargo and dealing with well-established agents. Representatives from Bahrain Chamber; Tamkeen, Export Bahrain, Bahrain Shipping Agents Association, Bahrain Polytechnic and the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications delivered presentations exhibiting the services and programs they offer.

## Green palm oil push: Kit Kat, Dove makers could face fines

Kuala Lumpur

Companies that make top brands including Kit Kat chocolate and Dove soap may face fines if they fail to buy more green palm oil under new rules aimed at improving the controversial industry's environmental sustainability.

Green groups cautiously welcomed the move from the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), a watchdog that sets environmentally-friendly standards and brings together a wide range of industry players, but were sceptical the rules would be strictly enforced.

The world's most widely used vegetable oil is found in everything from biscuits to make-up, but has long drawn the ire of environmentalists who blame it for fuelling widespread deforestation.

Swathes of jungle, particularly in the world's top producers Indonesia and Malaysia, continue to be cleared as plantations expand aggressively, laying waste to the habitats of a kaleidoscope of rare animals, including endangered orangutans and Borneo pygmy elephants.

Consumer pressure has increased in the West as activists mount strident campaigns denouncing the destructive industry, leading some companies to cut back on the commodity or stop using it entirely.

Public disgust was underlined last year when millions viewed a Christmas advert from British supermarket chain Iceland, which has stopped using palm oil in its own-brand products, featuring a cartoon orangutan telling a little girl its jungle home had been destroyed.

Iceland's man-



The world's most widely used vegetable oil is found in everything from biscuits to make-up

Consumer pressure has increased in the West as activists mount strident campaigns denouncing the destructive industry



aging director had previously criticised the "agonisingly slow" progress in sustainable palm oil production.

The RSPO was established in 2004 to promote green palm oil, and developed criteria for growers who want their product certified as "sustainable".

These include a ban on logging virgin forests for plantations and reducing use of fires -- which sometimes burn out of control

and spew toxic haze into the air -- to clear land, but activists regularly criticise the body for failing to enforce its rules.

### Green credentials

Joining the Kuala Lumpur-headquartered body is voluntary and it has attracted over 4,000 members, including growers, consumer goods giants and traders. Nineteen percent of palm oil globally is now RSPO-certified.

Major companies value membership as it boosts their green credentials and losing it can bring a flood of negative publicity.

When Kit Kat maker Nestle was thrown out last year for breaching the rules, they regained their membership within weeks after scrambling to meet requirements.

Critics however say progress towards making the industry

more environmentally friendly has been hampered by major firms such as Nestle and Unilever, which owns Dove, are not purchasing enough of the more expensive sustainable oil, discouraging farmers from growing it.

In a bid to force them into action, the watchdog will require companies to increase their purchases of sustainable palm oil by 15 percent every year or potentially face fines or suspension from the body.

"The production of RSPO-certified palm oil has been well ahead of the

demand for sustainable palm oil," Carl Bek-Nielsen, chief executive director of Malaysia-based palm oil grower United Plantations, told AFP.

"However, there is now hope for change."

But environmentalists voiced doubts over whether companies would accurately report how much sustainable oil they were buying and noted that details on fines and enforcement had not yet been made public.

"I am hopeful -- but I am not that positive," said Annisa Rahmawati, a Greenpeace forests campaigner.

### 'Keep to the rules'

The RSPO's board of governors recently endorsed the measures and is encouraging members to start working towards them next year, but precise details of sanctions are still being worked out.

Nestle, whose products also include Smarties and Quality Street chocolates, said it was committed to having 100 percent of its palm oil certified by the green body by 2023.

Last year Nestle's sustainable palm oil use reached 56 percent in Europe but in China, where there is less consumer pressure, the figure was zero, according to data the company provided to the RSPO.

Anglo-Dutch giant Unilever, which also makes Ben and Jerry's ice cream, welcomed the watchdog's new rules.

"Our ambition is to make sustainable palm oil commonplace," the company

said. But some said the watchdog should in the first instance ensure growers were complying with basic standards that ensure palm oil is sustainable.

"There is little point in all these companies buying more certified palm oil, if the companies producing it are not keeping to the rules," a spokeswoman for the Environmental Investigation Agency, which has produced reports critical of the green body, told AFP.

The RSPO has rebuffed claims in the EIA's reports, and insists it is still the best system to tackle issues in the industry.

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