



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION
Rome, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla. Cables: FOODAGRI, Rome. Tel. 5797



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE
Genève, Palais des Nations. Câbles: UNISANTÉ, Genève. Tél. 33 10 00

ALINORM 65/4
EURO/REPORT/65/1

JOINT FAO/WHO PROGRAM ON FOOD STANDARDS
CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE

Report of First Meeting
Berne 1-2 July 1965

INTRODUCTION

1. The first meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee for Europe was held 1-2 July 1965 in Berne by courtesy of the Swiss Government. The meeting was attended by delegates from the following 16 countries of the European Region^{1/} and observers from the U.S.A., Cuba, Council of Europe and European Economic Community. Professor Dr. O. Högl, the Co-ordinator for Europe, was in the chair. (Appendix 1 - list of participants, was distributed at the meeting). Representatives of FAO and WHO were Joint Secretaries to the Committee.

2. The Provisional Agenda proposed by the Chairman was adopted by the Co-ordinating Committee on the understanding that there would not be a detailed examination of any of the items of the agenda dealing with specific commodities or subjects such as general principles and sampling.

CO-ORDINATOR FOR EUROPE

3. Professor Högl having informed the Committee that he would not be able to serve for a further term of office, it was unanimously agreed by the Committee to recommend to the Third Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission that Min. a.D. Dr. H. Frenzel, Chairman of the Austrian National Codex Committee, be appointed as Co-ordinator for Europe. The Committee further recommended that the Co-ordinator should be able in the event of temporary disability to designate a deputy from Austria.

^{1/} Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Greece, Israel, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, Yugoslavia.

INTERNAL ORGANIZATION OF THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

4. It was decided to postpone any consideration of these matters for at least a year until the Co-ordinating Committee had obtained sufficient operating experience to determine its needs in respect of organization and finance. In the meantime the Co-ordinator should be free to consult with the Chairmen of Codex Committees and Codex Contact Points in the Region. To avoid this subject becoming overlooked it would be placed on the agenda of successive meetings until such time as the Committee thought it appropriate to consider action.

NATURE OF STANDARDS

5. The Co-ordinating Committee heard a brief progress report on the arrangements being made by the French Government for the first meeting of the Codex Committee on General Principles to be held in Paris 4-8 October 1965. The Committee agreed that the scope and nature of Codex Standards should be dealt with, as recommended by the Commission, by the Codex Committee on General Principles. The Committee was informed that the Codex Committee on General Principles would also be considering the general principles and definitions of food legislations. The "Resolutions of the Codex Alimentarius Europeus" especially the "General Guiding Principles and Principles for Testing and Judging" would be taken into account by the Codex Committee on General Principles, together with comments submitted to the Second Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. In addition the Committee was informed that the Federal Republic of Germany had prepared a synopsis or comparative study on national food legislation. The Co-ordinating Committee requested that this be made available to the Codex Committee on General Principles.

SAMPLING

6. The Co-ordinating Committee discussed the need to expedite the development of general principles of sampling. The Codex Alimentarius Commission at its Second Session recommended that the "Resolution of the Codex Alimentarius Europeus on Sampling" should be considered by I.S.O. when preparing recommendations on the general principles of sampling for the Commission. The Co-ordinating Committee requested that I.S.O. be asked to make a progress report to the Commission at its Third Session. The Committee further considered it important to associate the work on sampling with that of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis under the Chairmanship of the Federal Republic of Germany. The Committee recommended that these matters should be brought to the attention of the Commission at its next session.

EDIBLE FUNGI

7. The Co-ordinating Committee was informed that the Codex Alimentarius Commission's proposal to work jointly with the UN Economic Commission for Europe to elaborate standards for wild, cultivated and processed mushrooms had not been accepted by the latter body. The standards for fresh cultivated mushrooms were shortly to be finalized by the UN Economic Commission for Europe. In view of this development the Codex Committee on Processed Fruit and Vegetables intended to prepare draft standards for canned mushrooms.

The Co-ordinating Committee thought that European Regional Standards for fresh wild edible fungi were necessary and requested the Delegation of Poland to study the standard prepared by the Codex Alimentarius Europeus in the light of the governments' comments which were made available to the Codex Alimentarius Commission at its Second Session and to report to the next meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee in October 1965 so that a recommendation for future action could be made to the Codex Alimentarius Commission at its Third Session. The Commission's Secretariat would send governments' comments to the Polish Codex Contact Point as soon as possible.

DIETETIC FOODS

8. The Committee decided to recommend to the Commission that European standards for dietetic foods be elaborated as a first step towards world-wide standards. The Federal Republic of Germany has already commenced work in this field and therefore the Committee proposed that Germany should be asked by the Commission to accept responsibility for a European Codex Committee on Dietetic Foodstuffs. The Committee considered that a clear definition of the term "dietetic food" and precise terms of references would be required for the Codex Committee. The delegations of the Federal Republic of Germany and United Kingdom undertook to collaborate in the preparation of draft terms of reference for the proposed Codex Committee and a definition of the term "dietetic food". The Co-ordinating Committee would consider these drafts at its next meeting in October 1965 and make proposals to the Commission at its Third Session.

HONEY

9. The Committee considered in general terms the draft European regional standard for Honey prepared by the Committee of Experts which met under the Chairmanship of the Government of Austria. The draft would be sent to Member Governments of the Commission as a working paper for the Third Session of the Commission. It was agreed that the members of the Co-ordinating Committee interested in Honey would send their comments to Codex Contact Points on the draft standard in advance of the Commission Session. All countries present indicated they would be sending their comments to Contact Points.

MINERAL WATERS

10. The Co-ordinating Committee discussed the priority to be assigned to standards for mineral waters. Five countries were in favour of work being commenced in the near future on such standards and the Delegation of Switzerland indicated a willingness to accept responsibility for a Codex Committee on Mineral Waters. The result would be put to the Commission for consideration at its Third Session.

BROTHS AND SOUPS

11. After hearing about work being carried out by the International Soup Manufacturers' Association on standards the Committee requested the Swiss delegation to submit a progress report on the question of standards for soup.

to the next meeting of the Committee in October. The Co-ordinating Committee would then decide in the light of this report what proposals to make to the Codex Alimentarius Commission for future work whether on a world-wide or European basis.

JAMS, JELLIES AND MARMELADES

12. The Co-ordinating Committee discussed the existing arrangements for the elaboration of standards for jams, jellies and marmelades by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruit and Vegetables. The Committee also examined generally draft standards for these products prepared by the Government of France for the Codex Alimentarius Europeus. The Committee thought it would be desirable, as recommended by the Commission at its First Session, that the Codex Committee should take fully into account the work of the French Committee. It was agreed to propose to the Commission that France should assume responsibility within the Codex Committee on Processed Fruit and Vegetables for the preparation of draft standards for jams and marmelades in collaboration with the U.K., Sweden and the Netherlands. Other countries wishing to participate in the preparatory work on the drafts would have an opportunity to inform the Commission at its Third Session.

WINE

13. The Co-ordinating Committee decided not to discuss this subject for the time being. The item was therefore deleted from the Agenda.

OTHER BUSINESS

14. Prof. Krauze (Poland) requested that the attention of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis be drawn to the need for real collaboration between the various international organizations already working in this field. Prof. Krauze as a past Vice President of the Codex Alimentarius Europeus expressed a wish for shorter sessions of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and a reduction in the number of working documents to be considered at each session. The Secretariat informed the meeting that the Provisional Agenda and length of each session was determined by the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in the light of actual business requiring to be transacted by the Commission.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

15. It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee for Europe on the 20th October 1965 at FAO Headquarters, Rome. This would mean suspending the plenary session of the Commission for a day.