

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: [codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org) - [www.codexalimentarius.org](http://www.codexalimentarius.org)

Agenda Item 5

CRD9

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS

25<sup>th</sup> Session

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 27 February - 3 March 2017

#### COMMENTS ON PROPOSED DRAFT REVISION TO THE *STANDARD FOR OLIVE OILS AND OLIVE POMACE OILS* (CODEX STAN 33-1981): REVISION OF THE LIMIT FOR CAMPESTEROL

(Comments of Egypt, European Union, India, Philippines and Turkey)

#### EGYPT

Egypt thanks Argentina, Australia and Italy for the good work and Egypt supports the addition of the new text in the footnote as provided in the proposed draft revision to this standard.

#### EUROPEAN UNION

The EU would like to reiterate that it is essential to enhance the protection of the quality and authenticity of olive oils to the profit of both the sector and consumers. The role of standards and their methods of analysis are crucial for this purpose.

Therefore the decision tree which will be established, should demonstrate its effectiveness:

- in detecting olive oil fraud
- in reducing the number of deviant samples of authentic virgin olive oils.

The EU is pleased that the members of the eWG agreed on most points for the proposed footnote to the campesterol limit in CODEX STAN 33-1981, and in particular that the limit of 0,05 mg/kg for stigmastadienes has been taken into account for all options.

Regarding the campesterol concentration when it naturally deviates from the current limit of 4.0%, the EU is of the view that a maximum concentration of 4.5% should be retained and that the footnote concerning the campesterol concentration in Section 3 of the Standard for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils CODEX STAN 33-1981 should read:

(\*) When an authentic oil naturally has a campesterol level >4.0% and ≤4.5%, it is considered virgin or extra virgin olive oil if the stigmastadienes level is ≤1.4% and the Δ7-stigmastadienes level is ≤0.3% and stigmastadienes level is ≤0.05 mg/kg. The other parameters shall meet the limits set out in the standard.

Moreover, the EU would like to stress again that beyond the campesterol decision tree it would also be necessary to review all the other parameters and methods of CODEX-STAN 33 – 1981 in order to enhance the harmonization of international standards and in particular with the IOC standard. Among others, the limits for stigmastadienes, waxes and myristic and other fatty acids are very important authenticity criteria. Within such review process the provisions finally agreed for campesterol could be subject to further reflection if it proves to be pertinent.

#### INDIA

India agrees with the footnote for the Campesterol level of ≤4.5%.

#### Rationale:

To avoid adulteration and maintaining the quality of olive oil so as to include variety of olive oil traded globally, it is important to revise the level of Campesterol.

## PHILIPPINES

The Philippines supports the Conclusion and Recommendations of the e-Working Group on the Proposed draft revision to the Standard for olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils (CODEX STAN 33-1981): Revision of the Limit for Campesterol, that is to continue with the discussion during the Committee Meeting to agree on the best option for the amendment to Section 3 of the Standard for Olive Oils and olive Pomace Oils (CODEX STAN 33-1981) and complete the work.

The Philippines has been importing most of its olive oils from Spain. The cost of importing olive oil from Spain is about \$ 558.88/30kg (Philippine Bureau of Customs, 2014).

## TURKEY

Turkey is the one of the biggest olive oil producer in the world. Technical barriers are very important for Turkey but at the same time, protecting the authenticity of the olive oil is another important issue. For this reason, we need to put a balance between them.

Turkey has had a comprehensive olive oil regulation since 1998. It was revised in line with the international regulations and standards (EU legislation, CAC Standard, IOC Standard) in 2007, 2010 and 2014. In the national regulation campesterol value is " $\leq 4\%$ " and since 2014 there has been a decision tree which is "*campesterol  $>4.0$  and  $\leq 4.5\%$ , it is considered virgin and extra virgin olive oil if the stigmaterol level is  $\leq 1.4\%$ , the delta-7-stigmastenol level is  $\leq 0.3\%$  and stigmastadienes is  $\leq 0.05$  mg/kg.*" same with IOC standard and EU regulation.

For this reason Turkey supports the proposed draft with the maximum value of campesterol as " $\leq [4.5\%]$ ".