

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION **E**



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of  
the United Nations**



**World Health  
Organization**

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**REP11/EURO**

**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**

**CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

**Thirty-fourth Session**

**Geneva, Switzerland, 4-9 July 2011**

**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE  
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE**

*Warsaw, Poland*

*5-8 October 2010*

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The summary and conclusions of the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe are as follows:

### **Matters for consideration by the Commission:**

The Committee:

- agreed to nominate Poland for appointment as Regional Coordinator by the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission (para. 95);
- agreed to propose new work on the revision of the Regional Standard for Fresh Fungus “Chanterelle”(para. 39, Appendix II) and on a Regional Standard for ayran (para. 100, Appendix III).

### **Other matters of interest to the Commission:**

The Committee:

- considered Activities 4.5 and 5.5 of the Strategic Plan (paras. 8-9) and the preparation of the Strategic Plan 2013-2018 (paras. 10-13);
- considered the following issues referred by the Commission: private standards (paras. 14-23); processed cheese (paras. 24-25); development of guidelines for traceability/product tracing (paras. 26-27); options for physical working groups (paras. 28-33);
- expressed its views on the Codex Trust Fund Mid-Term Review (paras. 52-61);
- exchanged updated information on national food control systems, food legislation, consumer participation, and Codex structures, as well as the use of Codex standards (paras. 62-79);
- exchanged information on nutrition issues in the region (paras. 80-93).

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Opening of the Session .....	1-4
Adoption of the Agenda .....	5-7
Matters Arising from the Codex Alimentarius	
Commission and Other Codex Committees.....	8-39
Activities of FAO and WHO complementary to the work of the Codex Alimentarius	
Commission.....	40-61
National Food Control Systems and Consumer Participation in Food Standards Setting.....	62-73
Use of Codex Standards at National and Regional Level.....	74-79
Nutritional Issues within the Region .....	80-93
Nomination of the Coordinator .....	94-97
Other Business and Future Work .....	98-113
Date and Place of the Next Session.....	114

## APPENDICES

		<b>Pages</b>
<b>Appendix I</b>	List of Participants	13
<b>Appendix II</b>	Project Document: Revision of the Regional Standard for Fresh Fungus "Chanterelle"	21
<b>Appendix III</b>	Project Document for a Regional Standard for Ayran	24

## INTRODUCTION

1. The FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe held its 27<sup>th</sup> Session in Warsaw, Poland, from 5 to 8 October 2010 at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Poland. The Session was chaired by Professor Krzysztof Kwiatek, Head, Department of Hygiene in Animal Feeding, National Veterinary Research Institute, and attended by 80 delegates representing 32 member countries, one member organisation, one observer country and 4 international organizations. A complete list of participants, including the Secretariat, is given in Appendix I to this report.

## OPENING OF THE SESSION

2. Mr Marek Sawicki, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Poland welcomed participants and stressed the importance of Codex standards in protecting consumers' health and ensuring fair practices in food trade. He recalled that Poland had been a member of the Codex Alimentarius Commission since its creation and had continuously supported Codex work. Mr Sawicki highlighted the role of the Coordinating Committee to increase awareness of Codex and food safety issues throughout the region, and noted that the workshop held prior to the session had been very useful for this purpose. He thanked FAO, WHO and the Trust Fund donor countries for their support in order to strengthen Codex work and food control systems in the region, and wished participants all success in their work

3. The Chairperson, noting that the Commission had referred several substantial issues to the Committee, highlighted the important contribution of Coordinating Committees to the general orientation of Codex work. He recalled that the Codex process was open and inclusive, that decisions should be based on consensus and invited delegates to consider all issues on the agenda in a constructive spirit.

## Division of competence

4. The Committee noted the division of competence between the European Union and its Member States, as presented in CRD 1, according to Rule II.5 of the Rules of Procedure.

## ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda Item 1)<sup>1</sup>

5. The Committee agreed to discuss under Agenda Item 8 other business the project document on a regional standard for ayran (proposed by Turkey); the proposal for new work on fish oils proposed by Switzerland in the Committee on Fats and Oils; and the following questions proposed by the European Union

- MRL for ractopamine and more generally the use of veterinary drugs for non therapeutical purposes
- Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Control of Campylobacter and Salmonella spp. in chicken meat
- Labelling of Foods and Food Ingredients Obtained through certain Techniques of Genetic Modification/ Genetic Engineering (GM Labelling);
- the justification for the use of additives and the use of Note 161 in the General Standard for Food Additives

6. It was also agreed to consider the comments of the European Union on modified standardised common names under Agenda Item 2.

7. With these additions the Committee adopted the provisional agenda as its agenda for the Session.

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<sup>1</sup> CX/EURO 10/27/1

## **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES (Agenda Item 2)<sup>2</sup>**

### **Strategic Plan 2008-2013**

#### Activity 4.5 “Promote interdisciplinary coordination at the national and regional level”

8. The Committee noted that, according to the replies provided in writing and orally, effective mechanisms of coordination were in place in many countries and the European Union and in order to ensure interdisciplinary coordination on food standards issues.

#### Activity 5.5: Enhance participation of non-governmental organizations at international, regional and national level

9. The Committee noted that, according to the replies provided in writing and orally, NGOs participated actively in Codex work in many countries and the European Union. Some countries included NGO representatives in their delegations and the EU was also considering this possibility. The Committee welcomed this positive development and encouraged those countries that did not involve NGOs to establish appropriate mechanisms for this purpose.

### **Preparation of the Strategic Plan 2013-2018**

10. Following the decision of the Commission, the Chair and Vice-Chairs had prepared a questionnaire concerning the development of a new Strategic Plan, which was distributed for comments and consideration by all Coordinating Committees, in order to facilitate the preparation of a revised document for the next session of the Executive Committee.

11. The Delegation of Denmark, speaking as Vice-Chair of the Commission, noted that some goals were still valid from a general point of view, highlighted the importance of point f) on future issues and mentioned climate change, technological developments and new hazards to be considered.

12. The Delegation of Norway expressed the view that Codex work, in addition to health related issues, should also address consumers’ expectations as regards new production methods and technology, ethical and environmental considerations, and for this purpose proposed to review the question of other legitimate factors.

13. The Delegation of Belgium, speaking on behalf of the member states of the EU present at the session, expressed the following views. Goal 1 was still relevant and should be retained. Goal 2 should be reworded to read “Promoting widest and consistent application of risk analysis”, as risk management is not only based on science, other legitimate factors are not sufficiently well defined in Codex and there is no guidance on how to apply them in different areas. As regards Goal 4, priority should be given to closer cooperation with the OIE and IPPC in order to avoid duplications and gaps. Goal 5 was always relevant and in order to improve participation of developing countries, the use of mentoring or twinning should be considered. The Committee agreed with this position.

### **Private standards**

14. The Representative of FAO on behalf of FAO and WHO recalled that the paper (CX/CAC 10/33/13) which was discussed at the 64<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCEXEC and the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission provides readers with information and analysis of private *food safety* standards, the different types of private food standards, underlying factors that drive their development and an understanding of the related concerns. The Committee was reminded that the main points of analysis in the paper focused on key issues of concern in developing countries including – the stringency of food safety requirements with respect to Codex standards, the degree of prescription rather than outcome based approach, costs associated with certification requirements, the legitimacy of private standards and stakeholder involvement in their development.

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<sup>2</sup> CX/EURO 10/27/2, CX/EURO 10/27/2-Add.1, CL 2010/23-EURO, CL 2010/36-EURO, CL 2010/44-EURO, CX/EURO 10/27/3 (comments of Armenia, Czech Republic, Georgia, European Union, Poland, Slovak Republic, Sweden, Turkey), CX/EURO 10/27/3-Add.1 (comments of Armenia, European Union), CX/EURO 10/27/3-Add.2 (comments of Denmark, Hungary, Norway), CRD 3 (comments of European Union), CRD 4 (comments of IFT)

15. The paper also concluded that collective standards are largely consistent with Codex standards, whereas there is a tendency for individual firm standards to be more stringent, the cost of certification can be excessively burdensome especially for SMEs, there is limited opportunity for stakeholder input to their development, and private food standards should support public food safety policy rather than undermine it.

16. The Committee considered the comments put forward in reply to questions as follows

***Question 1: Have food producers/processors in your country experienced any problems in meeting private standards***

17. The Delegation of the European Union noted that private standards on pesticide residues existed but in general private standards covered other areas than food safety, and expressed the view that such standards could contribute to the implementation of Codex standards and to the efficiency of national food control systems.

18. The Delegation of Georgia indicated that difficulties could arise when private standards did not take into account the regulations applied by national authorities and therefore consultations should take place between government and stakeholders.

***Question 2: What are the financial implications of meeting private standards, especially implications for SMEs***

19. The Committee noted the view that, while private standards often result in higher costs, especially as regards certification, they may increase the value of the product and facilitate market access.

***Question 3: What measures have been taken to overcome/ease the problems in implementing private standards***

20. The Committee noted that legitimate concerns about private standards could be addressed by the following measures: increased transparency in private standards bodies, including consultation with developing countries in the standard-setting process; and improved harmonisation between private standards and certification requirements. It was also noted that cooperation between producers to comply with private standards could limit the additional costs.

***Question 4: What should the CAC/FAO/WHO do in the context of private standards***

21. The Delegation of the European Union expressed the view that, although private standards were not covered by the SPS Agreement, the SPS committee should play the main coordinating role as regards private standards, as it had been considering this issue for some years with the participation of Codex, OIE and IPPC, had established an *ad hoc* working group and was planning to develop a definition of “private standards”.

22. The Representative of FAO encouraged countries to continue to consider the issue of private standards in their local context which would require consultations between the private and public sectors in order to deepen their understanding of challenges of compliance with private standards. This would facilitate international discussions on this issue such as during the forthcoming FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG). This may include for example a better knowledge of whether food businesses face challenges and higher financial burden costs in meeting requirements set out in Codex standards or higher requirements set by private standards. The suggestion for Codex to more closely engage with private standard setters and the suggestion for them to become Codex Observers was noted and FAO is interested in ongoing and future discussions on this issue.

23. The Chairperson concluded that private standards could complement food control systems but could also create difficulties for producers due to lack of harmonization, that a definition of private standards in the SPS Committee was necessary and that Codex, FAO and WHO should continue to cooperate with the SPS Committee and other organisations, including ISO, in their work on private standards

**Processed Cheese**

24. The Committee recalled that the Commission had deferred its decision concerning discontinuation of work on processed cheese and had requested the views of Coordinating Committees.

25. The Committee recalled that the initial objective of the revision of existing standards was simplification, which would not be achieved with the development of regional standards; that despite considerable efforts, the CCMMP could not finalise the revision of the standards and it was unlikely to complete such difficult work in a regional committee; and that no trade problems had been identified. The Committee therefore agreed that there was no need for a regional standard and supported discontinuation of work on processed cheese.

#### **Development of Guidelines for Traceability/Product tracing**

26. The Committee noted the information provided by the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) in CRD 4 concerning their publication on product tracing analysis.

27. The Committee agreed that further guidance on traceability/product tracing would be useful, e.g. to address contamination issues, and suggested that this could be addressed in the framework of the Proposed Draft Principles and Guidelines for National Food Control Systems under consideration in the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems.

#### **New Options for Physical Working Groups**

28. The Committee recalled that the options presented in the working document had been discussed in the Executive Committee and that a document on this subject would be prepared for consideration by the next session of the Committee on General Principles. The Delegation of the United Kingdom (CCEXEC Member for Europe) recalled that these options would not replace the current procedures but would provide additional options for committees.

29. Several delegations expressed concerns with the proposal to limit participation in working groups as this was not consistent with the principles of openness, transparency and inclusiveness, according to which physical working groups should remain open to all members and observers; the wide range of views expressed in working groups was useful to identify and resolve problems; and the conclusions reached by restricted groups might be more difficult to be accepted in the committees.

30. Several delegations pointed out that restricted “regional” representation would limit the opportunities for developing countries to gain experience through participation in working group, and that other means of facilitating participation existed, especially through the Trust Fund. The Committee noted that current procedures allowed alternative arrangements, such as the use of a facilitator. Concerns were also expressed as to the selection of the representatives of regions to restricted working groups and their responsibilities.

31. Some delegations pointed out that these proposals were in direct contradiction with the current Guidelines on Physical Working Groups, whereby working groups are open to all.

32. Some delegations indicated that in their experience as host countries, working groups generally operated quite efficiently to facilitate progress in the Committees.

33. The Committee agreed that to ensure openness, inclusiveness, transparency, working groups should remain open to all members and observers, that many working groups worked efficiently, including those with a large membership, and therefore the current Guidelines should remain unchanged. The Committee agreed that alternative arrangements to facilitate consensus could be applied without limiting participation, and it was always possible to consider further improvements.

#### **Modified Standardised Names**

34. The Committee recalled that the Committee on Food Labelling had considered a discussion paper on modified standardised names and had agreed that commodity and coordinating committees should be invited to provide advice.

35. The Delegation of the European Union, referring to its written comments in CRD 3, expressed the following view: clear information should be provided regarding the identity of the product; consumers expected certain characteristics and quality from products with standardised names; the suggested horizontal guidance on the modification of such names could generate misleading labelling; and therefore such modification was better addressed in commodity standards on a case by case basis. These views were supported by other delegations.

36. The Committee agreed that the issue of modified standardised names should be addressed on a case-by-case basis by specific labelling provisions in commodity standards and that there was currently no need for CCFL to develop horizontal guidance.

### **Fresh Fungus “Chanterelle”**

37. The Committee recalled that the UNECE had revised the standard for fresh “Chanterelle” and that a Circular Letter had been issued on the need for conversion of the Regional Standard for “Chanterelle” into a worldwide standard for consideration by the Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV)

38. The Delegation of the European Union recalled that trade in fresh chanterelle appeared to be mainly concentrated in Europe and that, pending discussion in the Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, it would be preferable to undertake the revision of the regional standard in the CCEURO.

39. After some discussion of a project document prepared at the current session, the Committee agreed to propose to the Commission new work on the revision of the Regional Standard for Fresh Fungus “Chanterelle”. Subject to the approval of the Commission, the delegations of Belgium, European Union, France, and Poland, would prepare a Proposed Draft for circulation at Step 3 and consideration at the next session (see Appendix II). Any other interested delegations were encouraged to join the above delegations to contribute to this work.

### **FAO/WHO ACTIVITIES COMPLEMENTARY TO THE WORK OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (Agenda Item 3)<sup>3</sup>**

#### **Capacity building**

40. The Representatives of FAO and WHO introduced their capacity building programmes and activities since the 26th Session of the CCEURO.

41. Under their respective mandates, goals and workplans, FAO and WHO are engaged in a range of food safety and quality activities at national and regional levels, which support the Codex Strategic Plan 2008-2013, in particular, activities 1.7, 2.6 and 5.4. and are generally aimed at:

- upgrading the capacity of countries with transition economies in food safety, quality control and quality assurance and supporting their effective participation in the work of Codex;

- enhancing the respective roles of the agriculture and health sectors, trade and industry in ensuring food safety and quality;

- strengthening institutional, policy and legislative frameworks of food safety control systems along the food chain;

- strengthening cooperation and collaboration between FAO and WHO and partner organizations, in the field of food safety and quality;

- training on the application of risk analysis;

- training in the application of preventive-based food safety management systems by food business operators.

42. The Representative of WHO, in addition to the information provided in writing, informed the Committee that the topic for the World Health Day (WHD) in 2011 will be Antimicrobial Resistance. Antimicrobial resistance in a food safety perspective will be a component of the WHO work related to the WHD 2011 (7 April). The WHO will be pleased to support national work and awareness raising activities relating to antimicrobial resistance in a food safety perspective, in light of WHD 2011 and otherwise.

43. The Representative also indicated that a regional WHO/FAO workshop on food safety for the Central Asian Republics, funded by CTF, would be held in Uzbekistan in November 2010.

44. The Delegation of Serbia thanked WHO for the organization of the workshop on antimicrobial resistance in a food safety perspective, for Croatia, Romania, and Serbia (Belgrade, Serbia, May 2010), which had allowed countries to establish priorities in the framework of a risk based food control system.

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<sup>3</sup> CX/EURO 10/27/4, CX/EURO 10/27/4-Add.1, CX/EURO 10/27/4- Add.2 (comments of Armenia, Czech Republic, Denmark, EU, Finland, Hungary, Georgia, Norway, Poland, Slovak Republic, Turkey, Tajikistan), CX/EURO 10/27/4-Add.3 (comments of Armenia, European Union, Sweden), CRD 6 (comments of France), CRD 8 (comments of Ireland)



45. It was noted that an FAO technical meeting on food safety standards: adaptation and harmonization in the transition countries will be held in Kiev, Ukraine from the 7 – 9 December 2010. Countries from the Caucasian and Central Asian Republics have been invited to attend to discuss and share experiences on updating of food safety and quality standards, associated adaptation of control programmes with necessary involvement of public and private sectors.

46. The Delegation of Uzbekistan indicated that with the assistance of FAO/WHO, they intended to develop the regulatory framework and education programmes in food safety, and that national standards were taking into account Codex standards.

47. The Delegation of the European Union indicated that the programme “Better Training for Safer Food” would be further expanded in Europe regarding Codex capacity building and that they intended to involve FAO and WHO in the process.

48. In conjunction with the current session, FAO and WHO, in cooperation with Poland and financial support from the Codex Trust Fund and the Polish Government, arranged, on 4 October 2010, a pre-CCEURO workshop on Codex Alimentarius, specifically addressing the risk analysis paradigm. More information on this workshop is available in CRD 9, submitted by Poland.

#### ***Scientific advice***

49. The Representative of FAO on behalf of FAO and WHO advised the Committee that detailed information on FAO/WHO scientific advice was presented to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the CAC (CX/CAC 10/33/15). The members of CCEURO were informed of some current issues of relevance to their work within Codex and at national level. They included notification of web-based tools on the control of *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* in poultry and microbiological sampling plans under development by JEMRA and the forthcoming call for experts to establish an e-Discussion Group for the Development of a Tiered Approach for Risk Assessment of Nanomaterials (NMs).

50. The importance of accessing qualified experts and reliable data from as many parts of the world as possible was stressed as an important element of the FAO/WHO activities on scientific advice to ensure global relevance and use of the scientific advice generated. Countries were encouraged to disseminate FAO/WHO calls for experts and data to a wide audience.

51. The Representative of FAO also provided information on FAO and WHO efforts to target extra-budgetary resources for the provision of scientific advice and related activities through the Global Initiative for Food-related Scientific Advice (GIFSA). To further strengthen this Initiative FAO has developed a Strategy for the Provision of Scientific Advice for Food Safety (2010 – 2013), available from the FAO website.

#### **Codex Trust Fund**

52. The Representative of FAO provided, on behalf of FAO and WHO an overview of the process and main findings of the Mid-Term Review of the Codex Trust Fund (CTF) and the conclusions reached at the last sessions of the Executive Committee and the Commission, as presented in Annex 1 of CL 2010/44-CCEURO.

53. A brief overview was provided of the five questions formulated as the basis for consideration of the CTF Mid-Term Review and members of CCEURO were encouraged to provide feedback on 1) the emphasis (resources) to be given to the different Objectives of the CTF; 2) opinion on the future focus “niche” of the CTF in order to achieve these Objectives; 3) and 4) guidance on the issue of “graduate countries”; and 5) reflection on the need for extending the life of the CTF. CCEURO were reminded that FAO and WHO were looking forward to their feedback and opinion as a basis for FAO and WHO planning and implementing the next six years of the CTF activities.

#### **Question 1**

54. The Committee agreed that there should be a shift to Objective 2, while recognizing that Objective 1 was still important for many countries, and that Objective 3 was not such a high priority

#### **Question 2**

55. The Committee agreed that the focus of Trust Fund activities should remain on participation in Codex, and that there should be close cooperation with existing capacity building activities. The Representative of WHO indicated that this approach was applied when FAO/WHO were holding regional workshops on Codex

related issues with Trust Fund support, such as the forthcoming workshop on food safety for Central Asia. The Committee also agreed that the type of capacity building activities should be driven by the requests of beneficiary countries.

### Question 3

56. The Committee agreed that mechanisms should be established to continue supporting some countries once they "graduate", and that transparent rules should be defined to ensure that support is given to those who need it most.

57. The Delegations of Armenia and Georgia referred to their experience in this respect, as they had not been able to participate regularly in Codex meetings as they were entitled to do and although they had achieved significant progress, they needed further support to improve their participation.

58. The Delegation of Montenegro stated that as a new Codex member, it would need further support in order to improve participation in Codex and to develop the food safety system at the national level.

### Question 4

59. The Committee agreed that the criteria were still valid and should be retained, but that some fine-tuning was needed to facilitate participation of countries that have graduated from the Trust Fund, and specific programmes could be developed for this purpose, such as mentoring. The Committee noted that this practice was used in the SPS Committee and could be considered by the Trust Fund Secretariat.

### Question 5

60. The Committee agreed that it was too early at this stage to take a decision on the extension of the Trust Fund, and that its achievements and impact should be carefully monitored in order to determine further action.

### Conclusion

61. The Representatives of FAO and WHO thanked the Committee for their valuable comments and suggestions on strategic approaches for the future work of the CTF, and noted that they are working closely to ensure that capacity building activities funded by the CTF are implemented to enhance capacity in Codex, taking into account FAO and WHO broader programmes to strengthen food safety systems. They also supported the reference made by the Committee to include relevant indicators to monitor and evaluate the impact over the next six years.

## NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL SYSTEMS AND CONSUMER PARTICIPATION IN FOOD STANDARDS SETTING (Agenda Item 4)<sup>4</sup>

62. The Committee noted that many replies had been received to Circular Letter 2010/23-EURO, Part B on food control systems, food legislation, national Codex structures and consumer participation, including from Finland and Tajikistan, who were not present at the session. In addition, several delegations provided updates on their national food control systems, as summarized below.

63. In the FYR Macedonia, competences are shared between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health, and a new food and veterinary agency will soon be established to cover food control along the food chain; the Codex Contact Point in the Institute of Public Health has been operational for several years.

64. The food control authorities of Moldova are in the process of merging existing structures into a single authority to control food safety.

65. The law on food safety and quality was adopted in 2005 in Georgia and the new law passed in 2008 combined veterinary, food safety and plant protection services into a single authority to ensure effective management; pesticide residue control needs to be developed; and consultations with the FVO of the EU are underway, especially to develop fish export. Furthermore, Georgia has elaborated a food safety strategy according to which national legislation has been harmonised with EU legislation.

66. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Food Safety Agency is responsible for inspection of imported products while the State Veterinary Office controls domestically produced food; the main difficulties relate to laboratory capacities and support from EU and UNDP was provided in this area

<sup>4</sup>CL 2010/23-EURO, CX/EURO 10/27/6 (comments of Armenia, Croatia, Czech Republic, European Union, Finland, Georgia, Norway, Poland, Slovak Republic, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkey), CX/EURO 10/27/7-Add.1 (comments of Denmark, Hungary), CRD 6 (comments of France), CRD 8 (comments of Ireland)

67. In Kazakhstan food control is carried out by the Ministry of Health and several regional centres, while the Nutrition Institute provides scientific expertise, and recently a law on iodine deficiency was passed.

68. A new food law was passed in Serbia in 2009 to cover food safety in the framework of EU food law, and to establish new structures for food safety control. A new authority for risk assessment and risk communication will be established in 2011, while the main challenges are the need for more communication between different services, and the application of risk analysis.

69. The Committee noted the useful information on food safety structures in EU members provided by the Federal Institute of Risk Assessment (BfR) Institute in Germany in the “EU food safety almanac” available at

[http://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/238/eu\\_almanach\\_lebensmittelsicherheit.pdf](http://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/238/eu_almanach_lebensmittelsicherheit.pdf)

70. The Chairperson thanked the countries for providing comprehensive updates, and welcomed positive development in the improvement of food safety systems since the last session. He observed that there was still a need for capacity building especially in risk analysis, hazard analysis and Codex infrastructures. He also highlighted the need to involve consumers in the consultation process at the national level, as mentioned in the Strategic Plan (see Agenda Item 2).

71. FAO acknowledged that significant progress has been made in restructuring and strengthening food safety systems in several countries, from an institutional and legislative perspective. However, there was a great need for further capacity building and training covering topics such as the application of risk analysis, inspection service training on risk-based approaches; modern methods of analysis and sampling, better coordination between institutions. In this context further complementarity and synergy in the support to FAO and WHO member countries by FAO, WHO and EU would increase the efficiency of capacity building.

72. WHO welcomed the integrated approach followed by several countries for public health, veterinary issues and agriculture and noted that further capacity building was required to address complex food safety issues.

73. The Delegation of Armenia proposed to establish a network of Codex contact points in the region and to use mentoring mechanisms. The Chair drew the attention of delegates to the CCEURO website established by Poland, and FAO noted that further consideration would be given to the use of the FAO, WHO and Codex websites to facilitate exchanges between countries in the region, while the use of mentoring may also be considered in the framework of the Trust Fund.

#### **USE OF CODEX STANDARDS AT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL (Agenda Item 5)<sup>5</sup>**

74. The Committee noted that many comments had been put forward in reply to the Circular Letter, including by countries that were not present at the session (Finland and Tajikistan).

75. The Delegation of the European Union indicated that, as EU and Codex standards were generally based on science, they were often convergent; direct reference to Codex standards was made when appropriate; as an example Codex MRLs for veterinary drugs were automatically adopted in the EU without further risk assessment, except in the case of EU objection to their adoption in Codex; and harmonisation was also carried out in other areas. The Delegation indicated that difficulties may arise in certain cases regarding the application of “other legitimate factors”, and recalled that in particular the EU did not support the administration of veterinary drugs to healthy animals only for growth promotion purposes.

76. The Delegation of Norway stated that Codex standards were used at the national level and that difficulties were the following: intake considerations when establishing pesticide MRLs; and fact that the existence of MRLs for substances prohibited by national legislation may be interpreted as allowing their use.

77. The Delegation of the FYR Macedonia informed the Committee that their national standards were harmonised with the EU and consequently with the Codex standards referred to in the EU and that several codes of practice had been translated into the national language and used by national authorities for inspection purposes and by the industry.

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<sup>5</sup> CL 2010/23-EURO, CX/EURO 10/27/7 (comments of Armenia, Croatia, Czech Republic, European Union, Finland, Georgia, Norway, Poland, Slovak Republic, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkey), CX/EURO 10/27/7-Add.1 (comments of Denmark, Hungary), CRD 6 (comments of France), CRD 8 (comments of Ireland)

78. The Committee noted with satisfaction that Codex standards were widely used, while recognising that some difficulties existed in cases of different scientific data, or due to other considerations, as mentioned above and that Codex texts were also used in national food control systems, especially when translation into national languages facilitated their application.

79. In addition, the Committee supported the views of the European Union that in the framework of risk analysis, Codex developed risk management recommendations which should be based on risk assessment and take into account other legitimate factors as appropriate.

#### **NUTRITIONAL ISSUES WITHIN THE REGION (Agenda Item 6)<sup>6</sup>**

80. The Representative of FAO highlighted the activities carried out at the international level in FAO, especially expert consultations held jointly with Who and the strengthened framework for the provision of scientific advice on nutrition to Codex Committees and member countries through the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Nutrition (JEMNU).

81. FAO informed the Committee about several projects and initiatives in the region, such as UNJP “Reducing malnutrition in children in Albania” launched in 2010 with technical support from FAO, WHO and UNICEF; the support to the establishment of a Network for Capacity building in Nutrition in Central and Eastern Europe, coordinated by nutritionists from Serbia.

82. The Regional Office offered to cooperate and provide inputs to the WHO Network launched in Geneva in March 2010 at the EU-WHO meeting on Nutrition friendly programmes for schools, particularly by promoting food-based approach to prevent micronutrient deficiencies.

83. The representative from WHO indicated that the establishment of a Global Network of Institutions for Scientific Advice on Nutrition in March 2010 is part of WHO's effort in strengthening its role in providing scientific advice and developing evidence-based policy and programme guidance. The Charter on counteracting obesity adopted in 2006, and the WHO European 2nd Action Plan on Food and Nutrition Policies 2007-2012 together provide the policy framework for nutrition work in the European region.

84. WHO also referred to its involvement in the joint WHO/EC (DG SANCO) project on monitoring the progress on improving nutrition and physical activity and preventing obesity in the European Union, and to the establishment of six different European networks on specific nutrition issues

85. The Delegations of the European Union, France, Italy and Norway drew the attention of the Committee to the information provided in their written comments. In addition the Committee noted the information provided at the session by several delegations, as follows.

86. In FYR Macedonia the second action plan for food and nutrition was endorsed in 2009 in order to address the increased incidence of non communicable diseases through the development and implementation of national prevention programmes.

87. The main nutrition issues in Moldova are iodine and iron deficiencies; programmes have been developed for the elimination of iodine deficiency diseases and to reduce diseases due to iron and folic acid deficiencies.

88. In Uzbekistan cardiovascular diseases and iodine deficiency are current issues. Relevant laws and strategies have been adopted to address these issues. Health and education authorities are developing special programmes to improve nutrition in schools.

89. Austria developed a nutrition action plan which includes many initiatives targeted towards infants, children, young adults and pregnant women; guidelines for school catering; salt reduction plan with intake reduction targets. Comprehensive nutrition reports are published every five years by the Ministry of Health.

90. In Belgium the national health plan focuses on providing information to consumers on nutrition, promoting fruits and vegetable consumption, and special emphasis is placed on salt consumption reduction, for which cooperation was developed with the food industry. Similar actions will also be developed for fat intake reduction, and to prevent iodine deficiency.

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<sup>6</sup> CL 2010/23-EURO, CX/EURO 10/27/8 (comments of Armenia, Croatia, Czech Republic, European Union, Finland, Georgia, Norway, Poland, Slovak Republic, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkey), CX/EURO 10/27/7-Add.1 (comments of Denmark, Hungary), CRD 6 (comments of France), CRD 8 (comments of Ireland), CRD 10 (comments of Italy), CRD 12 (information from FAO and WHO)

91. In Switzerland, the Swiss National Programme on Diet and Physical Activity is available at the following address: [http://www.bag.admin.ch/themen/ernaehrung\\_bewegung/05141/05142/index.html?lang=en](http://www.bag.admin.ch/themen/ernaehrung_bewegung/05141/05142/index.html?lang=en) in four languages and more information about the Swiss nutrition and physical activity policy is also available on the website of the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health.

92. The Observer from the International Council of Beverages Associations (ICBA) informed the Committee that it has worked for many years to implement programmes which focus on healthy lifestyles. ICBA members have also made commitments on restrictions on marketing to children. These guidelines available at the following address

<http://www.icba-net.org>

have gone through an independent compliance monitoring with a very high rate of compliance by international member companies.

93. The Chair noted that all the activities presented at the session were very important to implement to the WHO Global Strategy on Diet Physical Activity and Health. In the framework of Codex the development of scientific advice in nutrition through JEMNU was particularly relevant as well as the consideration of labelling and claims issues.

#### **NOMINATION OF THE COORDINATOR (Agenda Item 7)<sup>7</sup>**

94. The Committee recalled that the Republic of Poland had been appointed as Coordinator for Europe by 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission for its first term.

95. The Committee acknowledged the excellent contribution of Poland to Codex work in the region and unanimously supported the proposal of the Delegation of Switzerland to nominate Poland as Coordinator for Europe for a second term, for appointment by the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission.

96. The Committee noted the expressions of interest of the delegations of Turkey and Georgia to co-host the next session of the Committee.

97. The Delegation of Poland expressed its thanks to the Committee and its commitment to continue working with all delegations on matters of common interest in the region.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE WORK (Agenda Item 8)<sup>8</sup>**

##### **Project document on ayran**

98. The Delegation of Turkey introduced the project document that had been prepared following the discussions on the proposal to include ayran in the Standard for Fermented Milk in the Committee on Milk and Milk Products. The Delegation highlighted the important consumption and trade in ayran in the region and its essential characteristics. Several delegations informed the Committee that they also produced or traded ayran and supported the development of a regional standard.

99. The Delegation of Uzbekistan indicated that they also produce and trade ayran of a different composition and supported the development of a standard. The Committee noted that all specific issues related to ayran composition, technology and production would be addressed in the framework of a working group if new work was approved.

100. The Committee therefore agreed to propose to the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission to undertake new work on a regional standard for ayran, as described in the project document (see Appendix III).

101. The Committee agreed that, subject to approval by the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission, an electronic working group led by Turkey, and working in English, would be established with the mandate of developing a Proposed Draft Regional Standard for Ayran for comments at Step 3 and consideration at the next session. If necessary and feasible, a physical working group chaired by Turkey would also be held with the same mandate.

<sup>7</sup> CX/EURO 10/27/7

<sup>8</sup> CX/EURO 10/27/10 (project document on ayran prepared by Turkey), CRD 2 (comments of European Union)

### **Maximum residue levels for Ractopamine**

102. The Delegation of the European Union expressed its strong opposition to the adoption of MRLs for ractopamine as currently proposed due to outstanding concerns on safety assessment, taking into account the data submitted by China on high residues in lungs and the EFSA opinion, and due to the negative impact on consumer confidence. Recalling that the general policy of the EU is to prohibit the administration of veterinary drugs to healthy animals solely for growth promotion purposes, the Delegation indicated that it did not intend to prevent the trade of particular foods between countries but intended to defend its principles in the interest of its consumers.

103. The Delegation pointed out that Codex decisions should be based on consensus and that there was no consensus on MRLs for ractopamine; in order to facilitate a compromise, the EU had proposed the insertion of a footnote limiting the scope of the MRL at the Commission; and it also expressed its willingness to work towards a constructive and innovative compromise for the benefit of all Codex members.

104. Several delegations supported these views, pointing out that the use of veterinary drugs for growth promotion purposes was not acceptable and that other legitimate factors should be taken into account. Some other concerns were also noted in the discussion: consumption of pig lung at the national level in some countries; and potential trade problems related to presence of ractopamine in imported products.

105. The Observer of IFAH expressed concern with these proposals as Codex decisions should be based on science and the JECFA evaluation of ractopamine and additional data submitted by China had demonstrated that no safety concern existed. The Observer also recalled that the CCRVDF had included the request from China on an MRL for ractopamine in pig's lung in the JECFA priority list.

106. The Committee concluded that it opposed the adoption of MRLs for ractopamine as currently proposed due to safety concerns and because it did not support administration of veterinary drugs solely for growth promotion purposes. The Committee expressed the wish that informal consultations ("friends of the Chair") would facilitate a compromise solution.

### **Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Control of *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* spp. in Chicken Meat**

107. The Delegation of the European Union stated that decontaminants cannot be seen as a replacement of GHP at farm level and slaughterhouses, and outlined outstanding concerns on the safety of antimicrobial substances, including those containing chlorine. Although the EU did not allow antimicrobials for decontamination purposes, it wished the work to progress in the Committee on Food hygiene, due to the importance of the Guidelines in particular for developing countries and proposed to insert a clear requirement that the use of chemical decontaminants is subject to approval/authorisation in the country of retail sale of the final products.

108. Several delegations supported this position as they did not use antimicrobials for decontamination of carcasses due to safety concerns and because food safety should be achieved through good hygienic practice along the food chain. The Committee therefore supported the position of the European Union.

109. The Committee also encouraged all delegations to participate actively in the work of the CCFH on the control of *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* spp. in chicken meat.

### **Proposed Draft Recommendations for the Labelling of Foods and Food Ingredients Obtained through Certain Techniques of GM/GE**

110. The Committee agreed that Codex should provide recommendations on the labelling of GM foods, which would be of particular importance for developing countries and therefore encouraged CCEURO members to participate in the facilitated session hosted by EU, chaired by Ghana and facilitated by the Chair of the Committee on Food Labelling (see CRD 3 for details).

### **Justification for the Use of Food Additives**

111. The Committee recalled that in accordance with section 1.2 of the Preamble of the *General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA)*, commodity committees should provide adequate technological justification for the use of food additives while the Committee on Food Additives is focused on the safety of additives, and therefore, when food categories defined by the GSFA are much broader than the scope of the commodity standards, commodity standard should not refer only to the list of food additives allowed in the corresponding food category.

**Use of note 161 in the General Standard for Food Additives<sup>9</sup>**

112. The Committee recalled that the Committee on Food Additives was currently reviewing the conditions of use of Note 161, as the views were expressed that it is not consistent with the purpose and objectives of Codex. The Committee agreed that Note 161 should be allowed on a case by case basis in particular where proposals are not fully in line with the criteria in Section 3.2 of the GSFA Preamble, and when members can provide appropriate justification to support their national maximum level.

**Fats and Oils**

113. The Delegation of Switzerland drew the attention of the Committee to the proposal for new work on a standard for fish oils that they had put forward in the Committee on fats and oils, to be held in February 2011.

**DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION (Agenda Item 9)**

114. The Committee noted that its 28<sup>th</sup> Session would be held in approximately two years' time, the final arrangements to be determined by the host country and Codex Secretariat, subject to the appointment of the Coordinator by the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission.

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<sup>9</sup> Note 161 in the General Standard for Food additives (GSFA): "*Subject to national legislation of the importing country aimed, in particular, at consistency with Section 3.2 of the Preamble*"

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## PROJECT DOCUMENT

REVISION OF THE CODEX STANDARD FOR FRESH FUNGUS "CHANTERELLE"  
(European Regional Standard) (CODEX STAN 40-1981)**1. The purposes and scope of the Standard:**

The Standard will address quality and safety matters specific to species of edible mushrooms of the genera *Cantharellus* and *Craterellus*, wild or cultivated, to be supplied fresh to the consumer, chanterelles for industrial processing being excluded.

**2. Its relevance and timeliness:**

There is important trade in fresh chanterelles between countries in the European Region whilst the world wide trade in chanterelles mainly involves processed product (dried and canned). Therefore, it is appropriate to maintain the standard as a European regional standard.

The current Standard carries outdated provisions that have the potential to become barriers to trade as they no more correspond to current marketing practices. Moreover, the current Standard lacks provisions on certain important issues, such as minimum requirements and classification. Also the safety provisions are outdated. The revised Standard will therefore provide European member countries and the industry with an updated guidance to prevent and reduce trade concerns while ensuring consumers' health and fair trade practices.

**3. The main aspects to be covered:**

The revision will mainly look into those non-safety provisions that need updating in view of current trade practices. This involves developing provisions on the definition of the product and on quality parameters, including minimum requirements and classification. The provisions on sizing, quality tolerances, presentation and labelling will need to be updated. Special consideration will need to be given to the information of the consumer, in particular regarding the wild or cultivated origin of the product. The revision will also look into safety matters in order to align them with relevant horizontal Codex texts.

**4. An assessment against the *Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities*:**

The following criteria were found relevant for the revision of the Codex European Regional Standard for Fresh Chanterelle:

General criterion

*Consumer protection from the point of view of health, food safety, ensuring fair practices in the food trade and taking into account the identified needs of developing countries:* Updating the safety provisions will have a positive impact on the protection of consumer health. Development of the provisions on the definition of the product and on quality parameters, including minimum requirements and classification will promote fair trade practices.

Criteria applicable to commodities

a) *Volume of production and consumption in individual countries and volume and pattern of trade between countries: see Annex.*

b) *Diversification of national legislations and apparent resultant or potential impediments to international trade:* This new work will update and improve the existing standard thus providing a sound basis for regionally harmonised conditions for trade in fresh chanterelle and reducing the risk of trade impediments.

c) *International or regional market potential:* It is expected that the updated and improved standard will contribute positively to regional trade in fresh chanterelle.

d) *Amenability of the commodity to standardisation:* The commodity is amenable to standardisation as demonstrated by the existing standard CODEX STAN 40-1981.

e) *Coverage of the main consumer protection and trade issues by existing or proposed general standards:* Fresh chanterelles are not covered by general standards which necessitates the maintenance and revision of the commodity specific standard.



f) *Number of commodities which would need separate standards indicating whether raw, semi-processed or processed:* The work will cover a single well-defined commodity which, due to its specific characteristics, needs to be covered by a separate standard.

g) *Work already undertaken by other international organisations in this field and/or suggested by the relevant international intergovernmental body(ies):* The 65th Session of the UNECE Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (Geneva, November 2009) adopted a UNECE Standard for Chanterelles (UNECE STANDARD FFV-55). The UNECE has a long-standing cooperation with Codex in the development and revision of Codex texts concerning fresh fruit and vegetables. The revision of the Codex European Regional Standard for Fresh Chanterelle will benefit of the work already undertaken by the UNECE to avoid conflicting or duplicating standards having the potential to create technical barriers to trade while incorporating those horizontal Codex provisions which are particular to Codex commodity standards.

#### **5. Relevance to the Codex Strategic Objectives:**

The proposed revision meets the criteria outlined in *Goal 1 – Promoting sound regulatory frameworks of the Strategic Plan 2008-2013 of the Codex Alimentarius Commission*. In particular, *Goal 1.2 - Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food quality* provides for the revision of commodity standards in order to ensure that they are generic in nature whilst maintaining inclusiveness and focus on essential characteristics to avoid being overly prescriptive and not more trade restrictive than necessary. In addition, the revision is consistent with the need to reflect new developments in science and technology. This will in turn facilitate application of Codex standards at national and regional level, facilitate trade, and provide for market access in fresh chanterelles. The revision is also consistent with *Goal 4 – Promoting cooperation between Codex and other relevant international organization*, particularly *Goal 4.1 – Track the activities of other international standard-setting bodies* in order to identify areas of potential complementarities, gaps, duplication, or conflict.

#### **6. Information on the relation between the proposal and other existing Codex documents:**

This proposal relates to the revision of the Codex European Regional Standard for Fresh Fungus "Chanterelle" and has no relation to other Codex texts, with the exception of references to the relevant standards developed by the general subject committees.

#### **7. Identification of any requirement for and availability of expert scientific advice:**

No provision for scientific advice is foreseen.

#### **8. Identification of any need for technical input to the Standard from external bodies so that this can be planned for:**

None identified.

#### **9. The proposed time-line for completion of the new work, including the start date, the proposed date for Adoption at Step 5, and the proposed date for adoption by the Commission**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Body</b>	<b>Step</b>
October 2010	CCEURO27	Agreement to initiate new work as revision of the existing regional standard
July 2011	CAC34	Approval of new work
End 2012	CCEURO28	Consideration of the proposed draft Standard at Step 4
July 2013	CAC36	Adoption at Step 5 or 5/8 (depending on the progress of development)
End 2014	CCEURO29	Consideration of the draft Standard at Step 7
July 2015	CAC38	Adoption at Step 8

## ANNEX

INTRA EUROPEAN IMPORTS OF FRESH OR CHILLED EDIBLE CHANTERELLES	Quantity in 100 kg	
	2008	2009
AUSTRIA	3437	4465
BELARUS (BELORUSSIA)	21602	24523
BELGIUM	10582	7458
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	681	1285
BULGARIA	3762	6016
CROATIA	811	335
CYPRUS	254	1316
CZECH REPUBLIC	1406	1551
DENMARK	43	86
ESTONIA	618	556
EU27_INTRA	262434	303526
FINLAND	761	847
FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA	1912	3263
FRANCE	8487	7006
GERMANY	8817	11680
GREECE	2642	1540
HUNGARY	7698	5847
IRELAND	3093	7424
ITALY	9984	13113
KOSOVO	39	431
LATVIA	646	144
LITHUANIA	15114	11673
LUXEMBOURG	15	24
MONTENEGRO	321	703
POLAND	7564	7905
SERBIA	2990	5027
SLOVAKIA	377	794
SLOVENIA	577	618
SPAIN	7173	6124
SWEDEN	328	291
SWITZERLAND	17	6
TURKEY	2158	4126
UKRAINE	4192	4192
UNITED KINGDOM	2015	1355

## **PROJECT DOCUMENT FOR A REGIONAL STANDARD FOR AYRAN**

### **1. The purpose and the scope of the standard**

The regional standard for ayran will be elaborated to determine the specifications of “ayran” in order to ensure food safety, essential quality, hygiene and labelling requirements for the purposes of protecting the health of the consumers and ensuring fair practices in food trade.

The objective of the standard is to consider the characteristics of ayran for consumption in an international document.

### **2. Its relevance and timeliness**

Ayran is a fermented milk product, obtained by mixing yogurt with water or obtained from milk with modification of dry matter content by the action of symbiotic cultures of *Streptococcus thermophilus* and *Lactobacillus delbrueckii* subsp. *bulgaricus* with or without the addition of salt. These starter microorganisms shall be viable, active and abundant in the product to the date of minimum durability. The salt content is max 1%.

Ayran is a yogurt-based beverage and traditional Turkish fermented milk drink. Ayran is also popular in other countries of the Balkans, the Middle East and Central Asia.

Published legislation on Ayran in Turkey;

- 1- Regulation on Manufacture, presentation and sale of milk and milk products  
Official Gazette date: 29.07.1935 and number: 3066
- 2- Regulation on Foodstuffs and Public Health  
Official Gazette date: 07.09.1942 and number: 18542
- 3- Regulation on Foodstuffs and Public Health  
Official Gazette date: 18.10.1952 and number: 8236
- 4- Turkish Standard Institution -3810 (September 1982) - Ayran  
Turkish Standard Institution -3810 (September 2003) – Ayran
- 5- Communiqué on Fermented Milk  
Official Gazette date: 03.09.2001 and number: 24512
- 6- Communiqué on Fermented Milk  
Official Gazette date: 16.02.2009 and number: 27143

Due to the growing trend of ayran production and trade, it is necessary to establish a standard covering the safety, quality and hygiene in order to have a reference document which has been internationally agreed upon by consensus between member countries.

In addition, the drafting of a Codex regional standard for ayran will help to protect consumers' health and to promote fair trade in accordance with the different international agreements.

It is of particular importance to point out that the Codex Alimentarius does not include a Codex standard for ayran until now.

### 3. The main aspects to be covered

The standard covers essential quality, safety and labeling aspects of ayran.

### 4. An assessment against the *Criteria for the establishment of work priorities*

#### General criterion

Consumer protection from the point of view of health and the prevention of fraudulent practices. Quality of the produce to meet consumer needs and the minimum requirements of food safety. The elaboration of the standard for ayran would be to the benefit of developing countries in particular, because developing countries are the major producer, exporter and consumer of ayran

#### Criteria applicable to commodities

##### **a) Volume of production and consumption in individual countries and volume and pattern of trade between countries:**

- *Ayran, which is* a kind of fermented milk product with a composition different from that of drinks based on fermented milk, in particular a higher percentage of milk protein. The total production of *ayran* represented a large percentage of the overall production of drinks based on fermented milk.
- 736.000 tons of fermented milk is produced annually in all over the world. But, Ayran is not included in this data. Whereas approximately 280.000 tons/year ayran is produced in Turkey. To take into consideration home-made ayran, predictable 1.250.000 tons/year ayran is consumed in Turkey.

##### **b) Diversification of national legislations and apparent resultant or potential impediments to international trade:**

Some importers have commented that ayran is exported under the conditions of the national Turkish standard. They would prefer to import ayran under international criteria based on a Codex standard. Therefore, the new work would provide internationally recognized specific standards in order to enhance international trade and to accommodate the importers requirements.

**c) International or regional market potential:** Regional markets have shown an increase and growing trade of this product in the world over last few years.

**d) Amenability of the commodity to standardization:** The characteristics of ayran composition, quality and packaging are adequate parameters for the standardization of the product.

#### **Fat content of Ayran**

whole-fat ayran	milk fat $\geq$ % 1,8
low fat ayran	% 1,2 > milk fat $\geq$ % 0,8
non fat ayran	milk fat $\leq$ % 0,5
%..... fat ayran	milk fat other than

### Composition of Ayran

	Milk Protein (% m/m)	Non fat dry matter ( %m/m)	Titration acidity, expressed as % lactic acid (% m/m)	Sum of microorganisms constituting the starter culture defined in section 2 (cfu/g, in total)
Ayran	min 2	min 6	min 0.5 max 1	min 10 <sup>6</sup>

**e) Coverage of the main consumer protection and trade issues by existing or proposed general standards:** Codex General Standard for Fermented Milks only partly covers proposed standard for ayran. The new work will enhance consumer protection and facilitate ayran trade by establishing an internationally agreed quality standard.

**f) Work already undertaken by other international organizations in this field:** [None. The history of ayran is based on the Middle East from 552 to 745 A.D., to Göktürks who are the first Turkish people. They made incidentally ayran by adding water to sour yoghurt to reduce the sourness (Prof. Dr. Ziya Mocan. Turkish News Weekly). Turkey is the number one producer and exporter of ayran].

### 5. Relevance to the Codex strategic objectives

The elaboration of a Codex standard for ayran is in line with the strategic objective to promote the maximum application of Codex standards by countries in their national legislation and to facilitate international trade. This proposal is based on scientific considerations and contributes to state the minimum quality requirements for ayran for human consumption, with the purpose of protecting the consumer's health and achieving fair practices in the food trade. This proposal is relevant to Activity 1.2 "Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food quality" of the Codex Strategic Plan 2008-2013.

### 6. Information on the relationship between the proposal and other existing Codex documents

This new work was considered at the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products at its ninth session. The Committee was of the view that regional standards for these types of products could be developed (ALINORM 10/33/11 paras 38 and 98-100).

The standard will be used in conjunction with all existing Codex standards.

It will take into account the Codex Standard for Fermented Milks (CODEX STAN 243-2003), Recommended International Code of Practice-General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP 1-1969) and the Code of Hygienic Practice for Milk and Milk Products (CAC/RCP 57-2004), General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985) and the Codex General Standard for Food Additives (CODEX STAN 192-1995).

### 7. Identification of any requirement for any availability of expert scientific advice

Nil

### 8. Identification of any need for technical input to the standard from external bodies

Nil

### 9. The proposed time line for completion of the new work

<b>Step</b>	<b>Date</b>
Agreement to initiate new work on a regional standard for ayran.	October 2010
34 <sup>th</sup> Session of the CAC - approval of new work by Commission.	July 2011
Circulation for comments at Step 3.	End of 2011
Consideration by the 28 <sup>th</sup> Session of the CCEURO	End 2012
Adoption at Step 5 or 5/8 [depending on the progress of development].	July 2013
Consideration of the draft Standard at Step 7 by the 29th Session of CCEURO	End 2014
Adoption of the regional standard for ayran by the Commission	July 2015