

June 2007

codex alimentarius commission

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Thirtieth Session

FAO Headquarters, Rome (Italy), 2 - 7 July 2007

COMMUNICATION FROM OIV*

The International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV) and the Codex Alimentarius have coexisted over the past years and Codex delegates have perhaps heard of presentations made by OIV representatives during their meetings while not knowing precisely the type of organisation.

The OIV, a smaller independent sister organisation of the FAO, was established in 1924 as a intergovernmental organisation in charge with scientific and technical issues affecting the vine and vine-based products sector particularly wine, table grapes and raisins.

This organisation, which has cooperated with the FAO since 1948, was reconstructed and consolidated on a new legal basis with an international treaty signed in Paris on 3 April 2001. The 47 member's States and Observers obviously represent the major share of producer countries but also a significant part of consumer countries. This balanced approach is supported by the exclusive recourse to consensus concerning the drawing up of standards and international guidelines.

As stated in the Article 1 of the Agreement of 3rd April 2001, "the O.I.V shall be an intergovernmental organisation of a scientific and technical nature of recognised competence for its work concerning vines, wine, wine-based beverages, grapes, raisins and other vine products."

The OIV can be presented as a vertical Codex committee in charge of vine and wine-based products. To this effect, the OIV defines products, sets recommended limits in terms of additives and contaminants, determines methods of analysis of musts and wines, promotes labelling standards and draws up guidelines in the interest of both producers and consumers.

Since the decision made by the Codex Alimentarius Commission in 1974 not to draw up standards on wine, I am very pleased that the relations between our two organisations have always been fruitful. There are numerous crossed references which the OIV has contributed to. I shall cite three examples to illustrate the point:

Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods

Draft Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Ochratoxin A contamination in Wine

Prior to the 38th session of the CCFAC, the resulting discussion paper on OTA in wine, which had been prepared by an electronic working group led by the European Community, with the assistance of Chile, France, Italy, Morocco, United Kingdom, FIVS and the OIV, was studied by the ad hoc working group on contaminants and toxins in food.

* Document prepared by and under the responsibility of OIV

The CCFAC agreed to submit a project document for new work on the drafting of a Code of Practice, for the prevention and control of OTA contamination in wine, to the Codex Alimentarius Commission, for approval as new work for the CCFAC (see Appendix XXIII, Alinorm 06/29/12). The CCFAC clarified that the scope of this work should be limited to wine only and agreed that the Code should include a specific statement mentioning that this Code would be used only for regions where OTA had been found at significant levels in wine. It was also agreed that Maximum Levels for OTA in wine might be considered in the future, pending collection of data on levels in wine and assessment of outcomes of the drafting of the Code of Practice.

In accordance with the guidelines on cooperation between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and international intergovernmental organisations in the drafting of standards and related texts, adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission at its 28th session in July 2005, the CCFAC discussed the fact that a standard adopted by the member states of the OIV could be used as a basis for preparing the proposed draft Code.

Having ascertained its willingness, the Committee agreed to entrust to the OIV the initial drafting of the Code of Practice, subject to the approval of the Codex Alimentarius Commission of the new work, based on an existing standard on the “Code of sound vitivincultural practices in order to minimise levels of Ochratoxin A in vine based products”, which was adopted by the OIV Member States in October 2005. It was resolved that, in the event of approval, the proposed draft Code of Practice would be circulated for comment at Step 3 and considered at the first session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods.

The 29th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission approved the elaboration of a Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Ochratoxin A in Wine (N05-2006) as new work for the new Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods

During the first session in April 2007 in Beijing, the new Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods was invited to discuss the Proposed Draft Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Ochratoxin A in Wine, prepared by the International Organisation of Vine and Wine – OIV.

The Committee was also invited to draw its attention to that following:

This draft is based on the “Code of sound vitivincultural practices in order to minimise levels of Ochratoxin A in vine based products”, which was adopted by the OIV Member States in October 2005;

As is mentioned in the draft document, this proposed Code of Practice addresses all measures that have been proven to prevent and reduce OTA contamination in wine;

The Code covers all stages of the production chain (cultivation practices in the vineyard, harvest, transport, pre-fermentation treatments, fermentation treatments, and maturation and clarification treatments); and

the provisions of the existing OIV Code have been amended in order for the scope of the Codex document to be limited to wine only and in order to include a specific statement related to the use of this Code for regions only where OTA has been found at significant levels in wine.

The Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods examined, the proposed draft Code on the basis of the text prepared by the ad hoc physical Working Group on Contaminants and Toxins in Foods, after some amendment and additional changes the Committee agreed to forward the proposed draft Code of Practice to the 30th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission for adoption at Step 5/8, with the recommendation to omit Steps 6 and 7.

Codex Committee on additives in Foods

The OIV takes an active part also in work of the additive Codex Committee on Food additives in particular during the discussions concerning the food additive provisions of the Codex general standard for food additives (GSFA) in particular for the grape wines category and its sub-categories.

Few years ago, the OIV was one of the principal actors at the origin of the revision of the Food category System in particular by differentiating the category "grape wines" and the category "Wines (other than grapes)".

Codex Committee on Fresh fruit and Vegetables

Draft Codex Standard for table Grapes

The 12th Session of the Codex Committee on Fresh fruit and Vegetables considered the draft Codex Standard for Table Grapes and made a number of consequential amendments to bring the text into line with previous decisions taken applicable across Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables. The Committee reasserted its previous decision to retain the draft Codex Standard for Table Grapes at Step 7 pending finalization of the sections on maturity requirements and minimum bunch weigh.

The Committee based its discussion on the outcome of the deliberations of the Working Group on Table Grapes that met in Santiago, Chile (February 2006). The delegation of Chile led the Working Group on Table Grapes, with the assistance of European Community, United States, Italy, France, Germany, India, Australia, Thailand, Brazil, Mexico and the OIV.

During the 13th session, the Committee focused its discussion on the finalization of Sections 2.1.2 - Maturity Requirements and 3.1 - Minimum Bunch Weight so that a complete document could be forwarded to the Codex Alimentarius Commission for final adoption at Step 8. At this meeting, The OIV provided a scientific and technical document giving an important contribution to the final redaction of this Codex standard.

The OIV representative person referred to the information provided which indicated that it would be difficult to set minimum Brix levels based on varieties/group of varieties as this parameter might vary for the same varieties throughout the world depending on the climatic/soil/etc. conditions of the growing area and that if this was to be the case a more reliable parameter could be the sugar/acid ratio.

After the discussion, the Committee agreed to forward the draft Codex Standard for Table Grapes to the Codex Alimentarius Commission for adoption at Step 8. The Committee further agreed to forward the proposed draft Section 2.1.2 – Maturity Requirements and proposed draft Section 3.1 – Minimum Bunch Weight to the Codex Alimentarius Commission for adoption at Step 5/8 (with omission of Steps 6/7) on the understanding that, once both documents had been adopted by the Commission, the provisions for maturity requirements and sizing (minimum bunch weight) would be incorporated into the body of the Standard so that one single document can be published as a Codex Standard for Table Grapes.

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Moreover, the different principles established by the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems adopted by the Commission are taken into account in the discussions and in the elaboration of the OIV draft resolution related to the traceability guidelines in the vitivinicultural sector which has been submitted to the OIV Member states during the next General Assembly in June 2007 at Budapest (Hungary). This demonstrates the interest that the OIV has in the works of the Codex and also the need for our two organisations to coordinate and cooperate in fields of common interest.

Nowadays, as international standards have become increasingly important with the mechanisms set up by the World Trade Organisation, relations between the Codex Alimentarius and the vine and wine sector represented by the OIV should be consolidated. Grape-based beverages are an integral part of foodstuffs and constitute an increasing part of international trade. One out of three bottles is currently consumed outside of its country of origin and trade of vitivinicultural products for numerous countries is a significant part of their country's exports in terms of value.

Moreover, the OIV in relation to the FAO, and its member countries would like to develop programmes linked to the nutrient intake of table grape and raisin viticulture, particularly for developing countries.

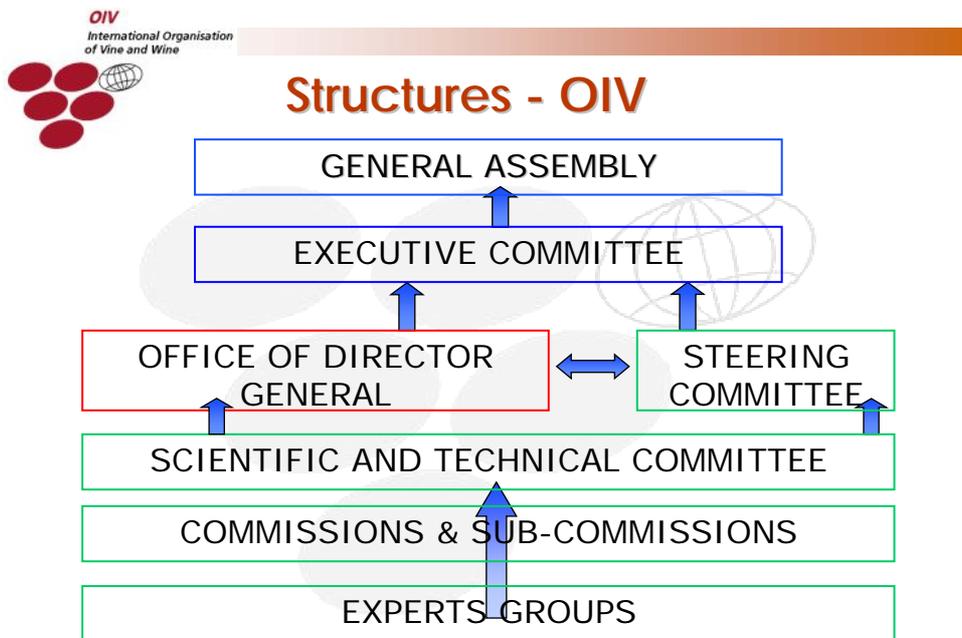
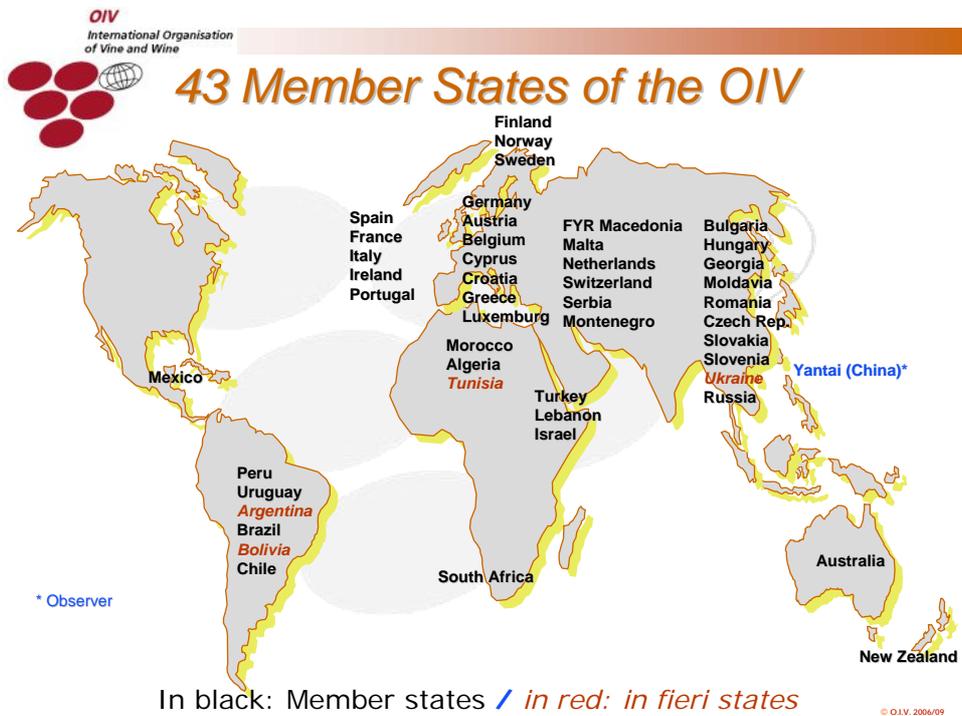
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OIV STRATEGIC PLAN**2005 – 2008***Adopted by the OIV Extraordinary General Assembly
on 17 June 2005***Vision**

To be the world scientific and technical reference organisation on vine and wine.

Mission

In full accordance with the missions referred to at Article 2.2 of the Agreement of 3 April 2001 and in order to achieve its vision, the OIV will foster an environment that is conducive to scientific and technical innovation, the dissemination of the results thereof and the development of the international vitivinicultural sector. It will promote, through its recommendations, international standards and guidelines, harmonisation and the sharing of information, and sound science-based knowledge, in order to enhance productivity, product safety and quality and the conditions for producing and marketing vine and wine products.

Objectives

In full accordance with the Agreement of 3 April 2001:

- a) to inform its members of measures whereby the concerns of producers, consumers and other players in the vine and wine products sector may be taken into consideration;
- b) to assist other international organisations, both intergovernmental and non-governmental, especially those which carry out standardisation activities;
- c) to contribute to international harmonisation of existing practices and standards and, as necessary, to the preparation of new international standards in order to improve the conditions for producing and marketing vine and wine products, and to help ensure that the interests of consumers are taken into account.

Objective	Strategy	Areas of Activity
To inform its members of measures whereby the concerns of producers, consumers and other players in the vine and wine products sector may be taken into consideration	<p>Promote and guide scientific and technical research and innovation.</p> <p>Help protect the health of consumers and contribute to food safety.</p> <p>Monitor, evaluate and inform members on scientific or technical developments.</p> <p>Gather, process and disseminate information.</p> <p>Foster dialogue and conclude arrangements with stakeholders.</p> <p>Take account of members' systems for producing vine products.</p> <p>Contribute to the development of training networks.</p> <p>Contribute to the recognition of world vine- and wine-growing heritage.</p> <p>Grant patronage to public or private events.</p>	<p>Via OIV initiated and collaborative activities, including in the areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - analysis of the structure of the sector, its development and economic impacts - market and consumption data collection and analysis - importance and limits of traceability - nutrition and health of all vine products - food safety and quality - biodiversity and natural genetic resources - innovative biotechnologies - viticultural environments, ecophysiological and soil/climate influence and sustainable vitiviniculture - training and education - targeted information collection, processing and dissemination
To assist other international organisations, both intergovernmental and non-governmental, especially those which carry out standardisation activities	<p>Foster cooperation between members</p>	<p>Via OIV initiated and collaborative activities, including in the areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - developing specific protocols for interaction with other international organisations - collaboration and communication with international, governmental or non-governmental organisations - strengthening relationship with all the players in the sector, including consumers and social agents

Objective	Strategy	Areas of Activity
<p>To contribute to international harmonisation of existing practices and standards and, as necessary, to the preparation of new international standards in order to improve the conditions for producing and marketing vine and wine products, and to help ensure that the interests of consumers are taken into account</p>	<p>Develop sound references in the scientific, technical and standardisation fields.</p> <p>Contribute to the harmonisation and adaptation of regulations by its members or, where relevant, to facilitate mutual recognition of practices within its field of activities</p> <p>Foster cooperation between members.</p> <p>Mediate between countries or organisations.</p> <p>Draw up and frame recommendations in relation to production conditions, oenological practices, product definition and methods for analysis.</p> <p>Submit proposals relating to guaranteeing authenticity of vine products, protecting geographical indications and recognising new vitivinicultural varieties.</p>	<p>Via OIV initiated and collaborative activities, including in the areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - adoption of recommendations facilitating harmonisation and, where relevant, mutual recognition of practices within its field of activities - definition and characterisation of vine products including table grapes and raisins - labelling - methods of analysis - oenological practices and techniques - developing model management systems - study of the use of different systems of characterisation and identification for vine products

ORGANISATION CHART FOR THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

