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codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
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WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 14

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Thirtieth Session

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

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

BACKGROUND

1. In accordance with Rule IX.4 of the Rules of Procedure, the Directors-General of FAO or WHO may invite intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations to attend as observers sessions of the Commission and of its subsidiary bodies. Participation of international organizations in the work of the Commission, and the relations between the Commission and such organizations are governed by the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission and of the Constitutions of FAO or WHO, as well as by the applicable regulations of FAO or WHO on relations with international organizations; such relations are handled by the Director-General of FAO or of WHO as appropriate.

A. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Relations between Codex and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)

2. The 28th Session of the Commission endorsed the four recommendations of the 55th Session of the Executive Committee related to the collaboration between Codex and OIE:

- OIE be encouraged to continue to participate actively in the standard-setting work of the Commission, namely through the work of relevant subsidiary bodies of the Commission;
- OIE be invited to regularly submit, to relevant Codex subsidiary bodies, reports on its activities relevant to the work of these subsidiary bodies, while these subsidiary bodies continue to seek ways to improve cooperation with OIE in their respective area of work and inform the Executive Committee of their decisions/recommendations accordingly; and

- OIE be invited to submit a summary report to the regular sessions of the Commission on its activities of relevance to the work of the Commission, including the outcome of the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety.¹

3. The Commission also noted the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the effectiveness of cooperative arrangements being made between Codex and OIE in accordance with the four recommendations should be reviewed by the 30th Session of the Commission (2007) with a view to considering if further arrangements would be necessary or desirable, including those provisions mentioned in Paragraph 13 of the *Guidelines on Cooperation between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and International Intergovernmental Organizations in the Elaboration on Standards and Related Texts*.

4. The Commission is therefore invited to consider if further arrangement is necessary or desirable, including the conclusion of an appropriate arrangement between the Directors-General of FAO and WHO and the Director-General of the OIE.

5. In accordance with the recommendations above, a summary report of the activities of the OIE relevant to the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission will be made available to the Commission separately (CAC/30 INF/4).

6. Since July 2006, the OIE the representatives of the OIE participated:

- At the 15th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (November 2006) and contributed to the work of the Committee on the finalisation of the Revision of the Guidelines for Generic Official Certificate Formats and the Production and Issuance of Certificates;
- At the 6th Session of the Codex *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology (November 2006). The OIE Representative provided an update on its recent activities on the topic of biotechnology and animal production. The Task Force agreed to monitor the progress of the ongoing work by OIE with respect to food safety relating to foods derived from animals exposed to protection against diseases through gene therapy or recombinant-DNA vaccines. In this regard, the Task Force decided to request the Codex Secretariat to liaise with OIE so that a report of OIE's activities in this area would be submitted to the next session of the Task Force, while informing OIE of the expectation of the Task Force on the ongoing work of the ad hoc Group (ALINORM 07/30/34, para. 71).
- At the 38th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (December 2006). The OIE Representative provided an update of the work of the OIE Animal Production Food Safety Working Group in relation to salmonellosis.
- At the 24th Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (April 2007).

7. Experts with knowledge and experiences in Codex and staff of the Codex Secretariat have continued to participate in the meetings of the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety (November 2006), the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Identification and Traceability of Live Animals (July 2006 and January 2007) and in the newly established *ad hoc* Groups on Animal Feed (October 2006) and on the Revision of the OIE Model Certificates (January 2007).

Relations between Codex and Intergovernmental Organizations other than the OIE

8. The 2nd Session of the International Plant Protection Convention's (IPPC) Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) was held in Rome from 26-30 March 2007. When reporting on cooperation with relevant organizations, the IPPC Secretariat informed the CPM that informal liaison continued between the Secretariats of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the IPPC. The Representative of the Codex Alimentarius Commission indicated the willingness of Codex Alimentarius to cooperate with the IPPC in issues of mutual interest such as standard setting and transparency. The Codex Secretariat has also attended other meetings of the IPPC, including some of its subsidiary bodies.

¹ ALINORM 05/28/41 paras 201-203

9. Reports of activities relevant to the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission will be provided from the World Trade Organization (WTO) (CAC/30 INF/5) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (CAC/30 INF/6) and the Organisation Internationale de la Vigne et du Vin (OIV) (CAC/30 INF/7). A Representative of the IAEA participated in the 39th Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues where the IAEA chairs the EWG on Estimation of Uncertainty of Results for the Determination of Pesticide Residues. A Representative of the OIV participated in the First Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods and assisted in the finalisation of the draft Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Ochratoxin A Contamination in Wine.

10. The staff of the Codex Secretariat participated in the regular sessions of the SPS and TBT Committees of the WTO and informed the Committees, orally and in writing, of the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission relevant to the WTO. The Codex Secretariat also participated in, and provided support to selected regional or sub-regional workshops on the SPS or TBT Agreement organised by the WTO.

11. The Commission is **invited** to note the information above and provide any guidance deemed appropriate to further cooperation and coordination between the Commission and other intergovernmental organizations.

B. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

12. In accordance with Article 6 of the *Principles Concerning the Participation of International Non-Governmental Organizations in the Work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission*², the Secretary reports to the Codex Alimentarius Commission on the relations between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and international non-governmental organizations established in accordance with the present procedures and provides a list of organizations granted Observer Status, with an indication of the membership that they represent.

13. A list of all international non-governmental organizations currently in observer status with the Codex Alimentarius Commission and a list of all applications for observer status considered since the 30th Session of the Commission will be provided to the Commission for information (CAC/30 INF/2).

Relations between Codex and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

14. Following previous discussions in the Executive Committee and the Commission, the Commission at its 29th Session supported continued cooperation and coordination with ISO and agreed that the Codex Secretariat should maintain its contacts with ISO and continue to report regularly to the Commission on ISO activities of relevance to Codex work.³

15. An information paper on ISO activities relevant to Codex work was submitted by the ISO Central Secretariat to the Commission (CAC/30 INF/8). Additionally, the information provided by the Secretariat of ISO Technical Committee 34, on selected work items of interest to Codex, is summarised in Table 1 below.

16. The Commission is **invited** to note the information provided, identify those areas where coordination of work between Codex and ISO should be maintained or strengthened and make proposals on practical modalities for implementing such coordination, as appropriate.

² An amendment to these Principles will be considered by the 30th Session of the Commission under Item 4 (see ALINORM 07/30/4).

³ ALINORM 06/29/41, para.213

Table 1. Selected ISO/TC 34 work items of interest to Codex (as of May 2007)

PROJECT NUMBER	TITLE	STATUS
ISO 22000:2005	Food safety management systems – Requirements for any organization in the food chain	Published in September 2005.
ISO/TS 22003:2007	Food safety management systems — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of food safety management systems	Published in February 2007.
ISO/TS 22004:2005	Food safety management systems — Guidance on the application of ISO 22000:2005	Published in November 2005.
ISO/FDIS 22005	Traceability in feed and food chain — General principles and basic requirements for system design and implementation	FDIS vote launched April 2007. To be published before autumn 2007.
ISO/CD 22006	Quality Management Systems – Guidance on the application of ISO 9001:2000 for crop production	ISO/TC 34/WG 12 was established in October 2005; Currently at the Committee Draft stage.
ISO/CD 22008	Food irradiation – Good processing practices for the irradiation of foods intended to human consumption	Should be submitted to the DIS vote in Autumn 2007.
ISO 26642	Food products — Determination of the glycemic index (GI) and relevant Classification	The document is currently being voted on as a Committee Draft.
ISO/TS 22964:2006	Milk and milk products — Detection of <i>Enterobacter sakazakii</i>	Published in January 2006. A horizontal International Standard for food products for the detection of <i>Enterobacter sakazakii</i> is at the Committee Draft stage in ISO/TC 34/SC 9.