



CODEx COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS (CCCF) EIGHTH SESSION

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

INTRODUCTION

From 31 March to 4 April 2014 approximately 250 experts and policy makers from around the world will gather in The Hague for the 8th meeting of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods.

This information note provides practical information to conference participants.

VENUE AND DATES

The Government of the Netherlands is hosting this meeting, which will be held at the Kurhaus from 31 March to 4 April 2014. This is located at the seaside district of The Hague.

Steigenberger Kurhaus Hotel
Gevers Deynootplein 30
2586 CK The Hague/Scheveningen
The Netherlands
Internet: www.kurhaus.nl

The official opening ceremony will take place on Monday 31 March at 10:00 hours.

REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION BADGES

Registration of participants will take place at the Kurhaus on:

Sunday 30 March 2014: from 16:00–19:00

Monday 31 March 2014: from 08:00–12:00

Name badges will be distributed at the registration desk. Delegates are requested to wear name badges visibly in order to gain admittance to the Kurhaus.

FORMALITIES FOR ENTRY INTO THE NETHERLANDS

Participants are advised to contact the consular authorities of the Netherlands well in advance, in order to allow sufficient time for the processing of visa applications (if necessary). The Netherlands has instructed the Dutch embassies to issue visas to participants. More information about visa application is available on the Internet site of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs at <http://www.government.nl/issues/visa-for-the-netherlands-and-the-caribbean-parts-of-the-kingdom>.

Please note that it is not possible to obtain a visa on arrival in the Netherlands.

In case of problems with visa applications or if you need a personalized invitation, please contact us by e-mail at info@codexalimentarius.nl

ACCESS TO THE NETHERLANDS / ARRIVAL DETAILS

The international airport in the Netherlands is Amsterdam Schiphol Airport.

There is a direct train connection from Schiphol Airport to Den Haag Centraal (The Hague Central Station) or Den Haag Holland Spoor (The Hague Hollands Spoor). Both stations are located in the city centre of The Hague. A train ticket can be purchased at the desk of the Dutch Railway Company (Nederlandse Spoorwegen – NS).

Make sure to buy a ticket in the railway station of the airport because it is not possible to buy one on the train.

Within The Hague there is an extensive system of public transport. For more information you can contact the information desk of the HTM at the railway stations in The Hague.

Taxis are also available at both railway stations.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION FOR DELEGATES

Delegates are reminded that they are responsible for making their own hotel accommodation arrangements. It is highly recommended that you make a hotel reservation as soon as possible as March/April are very busy months in The Hague.

The Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs has made block bookings with several hotels that apply only for reservations made **before the mentioned date**. Requests after this date are based upon availability. Reservation must be made with the hotels directly. See Annex I.

Please also consider to spend the weekend prior to CCCF in The Hague. There will be many festivities that weekend to celebrate *200 years Kingdom of the Netherlands*. For more information please visit www.200jaarkoninkrijk.nl/content/english.

INTERPRETATION

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish during the meeting.

DOCUMENTATION

Delegates are requested to bring their own documentation to the meeting; these are available in English, French and Spanish on www.codexalimentarius.net. Conference Room Documents and any additional documentation will be available in their original language in the conference room.

SIDE EVENTS

Monday 31 March:	Reception for all delegates
Wednesday 2 April:	Reception for Heads of Delegation

BANKING FACILITIES

There are cash dispenser machines nearby the Kurhaus. They are in operation 24/7 and accept most cards.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

The official language of the Netherlands is Dutch. English is widely spoken.

TIME ZONE

The time in the Netherlands is GMT + 01:00 hour.

CLIMATE

The Netherlands has a moderate coastal climate with cool summers and mild winters. The average temperature (day time) in March/April is 8-12 degrees Celsius.

As rain is not uncommon at any time of the year, we advise participants to bring a raincoat or an umbrella.

ELECTRICITY

230 Volts, 50 Hertz

CURRENCY

Only the Euro will be accepted in the Netherlands. Major credit cards are accepted in most of the hotels and stores.

THE NETHERLANDS / THE HAGUE/SCHEVENINGEN

The Netherlands is best known for tulips, windmills and clogs. Kinderdijk's 19 windmills are on the World Heritage List. Dutch flowers are well known all over the world. The scenery ranges from flat polder land in the west and north to forest and heathery land in the middle, south and east.

Over the centuries, the Dutch had to protect themselves against water by building dikes and reclaiming land from the sea, thus creating famous lowland polders and impressive water defences.

For sea lovers, the Netherlands offers splendid wide beaches. Also The Hague / Scheveningen, at just a few kilometres from the convention centre, is very famous for its beaches.

The Hague is the seat of the Royal Family and the Government. The legislature is formed by the two Houses of the States General (House of Representatives and the Senate) together with the Sovereign and Ministers.

The Hague plays an increasingly important role in the international political environment. The city is an important European centre for management decisions and is the headquarters of many advisory bodies and umbrella organizations. The Hague is also known as the Legal Capital of the World. The Permanent Court of Arbitration, the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court, are only a few of the many international legal institutes that are based here. The Hague hosts more than 80 embassies and consulates.

The Hague has everything to make both business and festive gatherings special. The city is centrally located and has an international ambience. It also offers ample opportunities for relaxation.

Scheveningen is one of the eight districts of The Hague. Scheveningen is a modern seaside resort with a long sandy beach and esplanade. The beach is popular for water sports such as windsurfing and kiteboarding. The harbor is used for both fishing and tourism activities.

INFORMATION AND QUESTIONS

Questions regarding logistics should be directed to the Codex Contact Point by mail: info@codexalimentarius.nl.

ANNEX I

List of recommended hotels

If making accommodation arrangements, please email the hotel and mention that you will be attending the Codex Alimentarius meeting to ensure that you receive the negotiated reduced conference rate. All prices are excluding city tax.			
Kurhaus**** Steigenberger Kurhaus Hotel Gevers Deynootplein 30 2586 CK The Hague www.kurhaus.nl	venue	Standard room single use: €135 Superior room single use: €155 Including breakfast For double use a supplement of €20 will be added	Please book before 31 January, after this date room will be available subject to availability. info@kurhaus.nl
Bilderberg**** Zwolsestraat 2 2587 VJ The Hague www.bilderberg.nl/hotels/europa-hotel	5 minutes by foot	Standard room single/double use: €109 Including breakfast	Please book before 31 December, after this date room will be available subject to availability. Europa.Reservation@bilderberg.nl
Carlton Beach**** Gevers Deynootweg 201 2586 HZ The Hague The Netherlands www.carlton.nl/beach	10 minutes by foot 1 minute by tram	Superior room for single use: € 127,50 Including breakfast	Please book before 15 January, after this date room will be available subject to availability. reservations@beach.carlton.nl
Ibis Scheveningen*** Gevers Deynootweg 63 2586 BJ The Hague www.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-1153- ibis-den-haag- scheveningen/index.shtml	5 minutes by foot	Superior room for double use: €95 Standard room for double use: €80 Breakfast: €16 per person	Please book before 31 January, after this date room will be available subject to availability. H1153-RE@accor.com
The prices shown are per room, per night.			