

# codex alimentarius commission

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

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**CX 3/1**

**CL 2000/19-EURO  
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**TO:** Codex Contact Points  
Interested International Organizations

**FROM:** Secretary, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme  
FAO, 00100 Rome, Italy

**SUBJECT:** **Preparation of the 22nd Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Europe  
(3- 6 October 2000, Madrid, Spain)**

**DEADLINE:** **5 September 2000**

**COMMENTS:** To: Secretary  
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## **A. FOOD LEGISLATION AND FOOD CONTROL MATTERS**

Coordinating Committees regularly consider issues relating to harmonization of food legislation, especially in the perspective of economic integration, food control systems, export/import matters, and relevant training activities, in order to promote exchange of information and cooperation within the Region. The 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee noted that a number of countries were undergoing changes in the organization and structure of their food legislation and food control services, and an updated survey of the situation in the region will be considered at the next session.

Member countries are therefore invited to provide the following updated information for consideration by the next session of CCEURO:

### **Official Agencies**

Updated Structure and organization of the official services responsible for food legislation and food control

### **Import/Export Matters**

Exchange of information on import/export matters relating to food safety and quality

### **Food Legislation**

Developments regarding harmonization of food safety and quality regulations, including the use of Codex standards, Codes and related texts.

## **Cooperation activities**

Contacts with other countries on food legislation and food control matters (bilateral, subregional or regional), including training of inspection and laboratory personnel.

### **B. CONSUMER PARTICIPATION**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission considered consumers' involvement in Codex work and agreed to consider the development of a checklist of measurable objectives to assess consumer participation in Codex work at the national and international levels and asked the Committee on General Principles to review the proposal contained in the document (see Annex).

The Commission also proposed that Regional Coordinating Committees continue to take the opportunity to provide a forum for the exchange of experiences on the ways and means of developing consumer input into National Codex Committees and Contact Points (ALINORM 99/37, para. 43).

The 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on General Principles considered the recommendations of the Commission concerning Measurable Objectives to Assess Consumer Participation in Codex.

The Committee welcomed the progress made in addressing the question of increasing consumer participation in Codex work, both in the Commission and at the national and regional levels. It welcomed the proposed draft Guidance on Measurable Objectives to Assess Consumer Participation in Codex and focussed its attention of the proposals in Appendix A to the discussion paper.

The Committee agreed to modify these proposals by providing that the names be included of countries that have established a national Codex Committee or Contact Point or held open consultations with consumers when developing national positions for Codex meetings. It was also agreed to include information on the action of governments to support the establishment and activities of consumer NGOs. On that basis the Draft Guidance was endorsed by the Committee as being appropriate for the development of a baseline set of data and for consideration by the Regional Coordinating Committees when discussing the standing item on consumer participation in the countries of the various regions. The Committee called upon the Secretariat to begin the development of a set of baseline data as soon as possible. It was recommended that a report should be made to the Commission every two years (ALINORM 01/33, paras. 109-110).

Governments are invited to provide information on the "measurable objectives" listed above and in the Annex, and generally about consumer participation in the elaboration of national legislation and/or the preparation of Codex meetings.

Governments and international organizations wishing to submit information and comments on points A. and B. above should do so in writing to the above addresses, preferably by e-mail, **before 5 September 2000**.

**Appendix A: Proposed Draft Guidance on Measurable Objectives  
to Assess Consumer Participation in Codex**

To assist Codex in assessing the goal of increasing consumer participation in Codex over time, the following measures may be useful to consider:

1. the number or percentage of member countries that have established a National Codex Contact Point
2. the number or percentage of member countries that have established a National Codex Committee
3. the number or percentage of member countries which hold public consultations when developing national positions for Codex meetings
4. the number or percentage of member countries that have identified independent consumer NGOs and invited them to participate in Codex meetings or in submitting written comments
5. the number or percentage of member countries where independent consumer NGOs have participated in developing national positions for Codex meetings.
6. the number of consumer NGOs that participate in the Codex process at the national level.