

April 2008

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 8 (b)

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Sixty-first Session, WHO Headquarters, Geneva, 24 – 27 June 2008

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

APPLICATIONS FOR OBSERVER STATUS IN CODEX

1. The Executive Committee is hereby **invited**, in accordance with Rule IX.6 of the Rules of Procedure and the *Principles Concerning the Participation of International Non-Governmental Organizations in the Work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission*, to provide advice regarding the applications for observer status from the international non-governmental organizations neither having status with FAO nor official relations with WHO, as included in the Annexes. Other relevant information received from the applicant organizations will be made available to the Executive Committee in conference room documents.
2. The Directors-General of FAO and WHO will decide whether the applicant organizations are to be granted observer status, taking into account all relevant information received from the applicant and the advice of the Executive Committee.
3. This document contains the following applications:

Annex	Name	Additional information
Annex 1	GAIN (Global Alliance for improved Nutrition)	CRD 2
Annex 2	BEUC (Bureau europeen des unions des consommateurs)	CRD 3

4. The following applications are still pending submission of further information from applicants:
 - AfricaBIO
 - AIPG (Association for International Promotion of Gums)
 - ALINA (Asociacion Latino Americana de la Industria Nacional de Agroquimicos)
 - COPA/COGECA (Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations/ General Committee for Agricultural Cooperation in the European Union)
 - EFBW (European Federation of Bottled Waters) (already in observer status under the name GISENEC)
 - FAAA (Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Alliance)
 - ICBWA (International Council of Bottled Water Associations)
 - NPA (Natural Products Association)

ANNEX 1: APPLICATION FOR OBSERVER STATUS - GAIN

a. Official name of the organization in different languages (with initials)

Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)

b. Full postal address, Telephone, Facsimile and Email, as well as Telex and website addresses as appropriate

37-39 rue de Vermont,

PO Box 55, CH-1211

Geneva 20 – Switzerland

Tel: +41 22 749 1850; Fax: +41 22 749 1851

www.gainhealth.org

c. Aims and subject fields (mandate) of organization, and methods of operation. (Enclose charter, constitution, by-laws, rules of procedures, etc.). Date of establishment

GAIN's mission is to reduce malnutrition through the use of food fortification and other strategies aimed at improving the health and nutrition of populations at risk. GAIN builds alliances uniting both public and private partners around common objectives, and provides financial support and technical expertise. GAIN has set itself a target of reaching 1 billion people with food fortification programs. Current projects are expected to reach 650 million people when at full scale and new strategies are being developed to reach 350 million more.

GAIN's Food Fortification Program provides grants mainly on a competitive basis. At the country level, this seed money acts as a catalyst for the creation of National Fortification Alliances which support programs to add essential vitamins and minerals to the basic foods consumed by populations most in need. GAIN also supports more targeted projects at the regional level within countries for example to support the provision of nutrient dense meals to people living with HIV in Tamil Nadu State in India. GAIN is supporting major projects in 18 countries.

As part of GAIN's expanding role as a broad nutrition alliance, GAIN has established a second grant giving program stream on Infant and Young Child Nutrition (IYCN); this program is designed to stimulate public private sector partnerships to make fortified complementary foods and complementary food supplements more widely available. Undernutrition affects 130 million children and results in 1.8 million child deaths.

GAIN's Business Alliances worldwide are exploring ways to bring high quality, affordable fortified foods to those most in need, including the growing number of consumers described by business analysts as the "base of the pyramid". GAIN has entered into partnerships with selected companies and organizations. These partnerships are always outcome-oriented, have clear and measurable objectives, and follow the same project management process as the grant-funded activities.

A comprehensive communications program supports the implementation of media, social marketing and advocacy campaigns.

All GAIN programs are subject to performance measurement and monitoring to ensure that they are efficient and cost-effective, and are progressing towards agreed targets

GAIN was founded in 2002 at a Special Session on Children at the United Nations and was registered as a Swiss private foundation on 26 March 2003.

d. Member organizations (name and address of each national affiliate, method of affiliation, giving number of members where possible, and names of principal officers. If the organization has individual members, please indicate approximate number in each country. If the organization is of a federal nature and has international non-governmental organizations as members, please indicate whether any of those members already enjoy observer status with the Codex Alimentarius Commission)

Not applicable as GAIN is a private foundation established under Swiss law which does not allow membership.

e. Structure (assembly or conference; council or other form of governing body; type of general secretariat; commissions on special topics, if any; etc.)

GAIN is administered by a Secretariat based in Geneva and governed by a sixteen member Board comprised of leaders from business (Danone, Unilever, Lombard Odier), civil society (Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH), Micronutrient Initiative) and the international development agencies (World Health Organization, United Nations Children's Fund).

Board members are elected by an opened nomination procedure coordinated by the Secretariat to generate a pool of candidates which may include the following constituency groups: Governmental donors; Foundations and private donors; United Nations and other multilateral organizations; Industry and corporate associations; developing country experts (including non-governmental organizations, governments, academia, commercial sectors); international non-governmental organizations; scientific agencies; Organizations of developing countries; the Foundation host country.

f. Indication of source of funding (e.g., membership contributions, direct funding, external contributions, or grants)

GAIN receives/has received grants from the following donors in its history:

- a. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation:
- b. CIDA - Canadian International Development Agency
- c. USAID –United States Agency for International Development
- d. The World Bank

During the last fiscal year, GAIN received the following amounts from the following donors:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| a. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation: | US\$ 35'500'000 |
| b. The World Bank: | US\$ 5'099'520 |
| c. USAID: | US\$ 2'474'000 |

g. Meetings (indicate frequency and average attendance; send report of previous meeting, including any resolutions passed) that are concerned with matters covering all or part of the Commission's field of activity

The GAIN Board of Directors meets twice a year.

h. Relations with other international organizations:

a. UN and its organs (indicate consultative status or other relationship, if any)

GAIN benefits from very strong linkages with the United Nations system for instance through its board composition including high level representatives from United Nations Children's Fund and World Health Organization but also through its project implementation involving not only United Nations Children's Fund but also United Nations World Food Programme. GAIN was created at the United Nations Special Session on Children in 2002 and from its history has kept a deep respect and alignment to the United Nations mission and goal including the Millennium Development Goals. However, GAIN is not a United Nations body and has been created as an

independent agency/foundation. GAIN benefits enormously from its cooperation with United Nations agencies and many synergies can be identified.

b. Other international organizations (document substantive activities)

i. Expected contribution to the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

We would like to participate in the CODEX Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) on the electronic working group to work on new standard "Processed Cereal Based Foods for Underweight Infants and Young Children.

j. Past activities on behalf of, or in relation to, the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme (indicate any relationship by national affiliates with the Regional Coordinating Committees and/or the National Codex Contact Points or Committees for at least the last three years preceding the application)

None.

k. Area of activity in which participation as an observer is requested (Commission and/or Subsidiary Bodies). If more than one organization with similar interests is requesting observer status in any field of activity, such organizations will be encouraged to form themselves into a federation or association for the purpose of participation. If the formation of such a single organization is not feasible, the application should explain why this is so.

CODEX Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU)

l. Previous applications for observer status with the Codex Alimentarius Commission, including those made by a member organization of the applicant organization. If successful, please indicate why and when observer status was terminated. If unsuccessful, please indicate the reasons you were given.

None.

m. Languages (English, French or Spanish) in which documentation should be sent to the international non-governmental organization

English

n. Name, Function and address of the person providing the information

Marc Van Amerigen,
Executive Director, GAIN
Rue de Vermont 37-39, PO Box 55
CH-1211 Geneva 20

o. Signature and date

Marc Van Ameringen
Executive Director
Date:

Appendices: Register excerpt, Statutes, By-laws (see CRD 2)

ANNEX 2: APPLICATION FOR OBSERVER STATUS - BEUC

a. Official name of the organization in different languages (with initials)

BEUC - The European Consumers' Organisation

Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs

b. Full postal address, Telephone, Facsimile and Email, as well as Telex and website addresses as appropriate

Av de Tervuren 36 box 4

BE 1040 Brussels

Belgium

Tel +3227431590

Fax +3227402802

Food@beuc.eu

c. Aims and subject fields (mandate) of organization, and methods of operation. (Enclose charter, constitution, by-laws, rules of procedures, etc.). Date of establishment

The objective of BEUC is to act on behalf of its 41 national member organisations to seek to influence in the consumer interest the evolution of EU policy.

See CRD 3.

d. Member organizations (name and address of each national affiliate, method of affiliation, giving number of members where possible, and names of principal officers. If the organization has individual members, please indicate approximate number in each country. If the organization is of a federal nature and has international non-governmental organizations as members, please indicate whether any of those members already enjoy observer status with the Codex Alimentarius Commission)

Membership of BEUC is open to independent national consumer organisation from any European country. Full or voting membership is confined to organisations from EU/EEA member states.

See CRD 3.

e. Structure (assembly or conference; council or other form of governing body; type of general secretariat; commissions on special topics, if any; etc.)

The primary governing body of BEUC is the General Assembly of all members, which normally meets twice a year. Between General Assemblies the organisation is supervised by an Executive committee and managed by the director and secretariat. The secretariat currently consists of 34 employees.

Governing body: Executive See CRD 3.

Secretariat: See CRD 3.

f. Indication of source of funding (e.g., membership contributions, direct funding, external contributions, or grants)

Over 50% of BEUC's income comes in the form of membership contributions from member organisations – based on 0.45% of their annual turnover. We also receive an annual subsidy from the European Commission in the range of 43-47% of our total budget. Our ordinary budget (excluding once-off projects) is about 2.3 million euros

g. Meetings (indicate frequency and average attendance; send report of previous meeting, including any resolutions passed) that are concerned with matters covering all or part of the Commission's field of activity

See See CRD 3.

h. Relations with other international organizations:

- a. UN and its organs (indicate consultative status or other relationship, if any)
- b. Other international organizations (document substantive activities)

BEUC is an affiliate (non-voting) member of Consumers International

BEUC is a member and active participant in the Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue, working with US consumer organisations on food issues among many others

BEUC is a member of the European Commission's European Consumers Consultative Group (ECCG).

i. Expected contribution to the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

Our contribution would be to reflect the consensus views of our members on consumer issues in different Codex committees. Given the adhesion of the European Commission and the fact that many European industry associations already have observer status we wish to add the voice of European consumer organisations to the work of CODEX.

j. Past activities on behalf of, or in relation to, the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme (indicate any relationship by national affiliates with the Regional Coordinating Committees and/or the National Codex Contact Points or Committees for at least the last three years preceding the application)

BEUC has contributed so far via CI on the following issues:

- Pesticides - Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues ;
- Hygiene - Codex Committee on Food Hygiene;
- Claims/labelling - Codex Committee on Food Labelling and Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses;
- Regular consideration or contribution to Codex Alimentarius Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology.

k. Area of activity in which participation as an observer is requested (Commission and/or Subsidiary Bodies). If more than one organization with similar interests is requesting observer status in any field of activity, such organizations will be encouraged to form themselves into a federation or association for the purpose of participation. If the formation of such a single organization is not feasible, the application should explain why this is so.

The Codex Committee on General Principles and the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminates are particularly important for us.

There have been a number of previous contacts with the regional European committee.

While reflecting the concerns of our members in Europe, BEUC will continue to work closely with Consumers International and continue to share the task of articulating the consumer voice in our work with CODEX.

l. Previous applications for observer status with the Codex Alimentarius Commission, including those made by a member organization of the applicant organization. If successful, please indicate why and when observer status was terminated. If unsuccessful, please indicate the reasons you were given.

October 2004 – no definite decision

m. Languages (English, French or Spanish) in which documentation should be sent to the international non-governmental organization

Preferably in English; if possible also in French

n. Name, Function and address of the person providing the information

Monique Goyens

BEUC General Director

Avenue de Tervueren 36/4

B-1040 Brussels

o. Signature and date

Appendices:

Working Relations with Consumers International (see below)
Statutes, List of members, 2006 annual report (see CRD 3)

Working Relations with Consumers International

This annex is added to clarify the working relation between BEUC and Consumers International (CI) in relation to Codex.

BEUC is a member of Consumers International. BEUC and CI are close allies, with overlapping members but each with a different focus. CI focuses on global issues and BEUC is concerned with developments affecting the European Union.

BEUC's interest in Codex is to follow issues of particular concern to European consumers, particularly since the adherence of the European Commission, but to do so in partnership with CI.

Where a meeting is of interest to CI and BEUC we would simply join the CI delegation. If a meeting is of interest only to BEUC we would wish to participate as BEUC.

Occasions may arise when we would wish to have a separate BEUC intervention, on points of interest specific only to BEUC, at meetings at which CI is also represented. However, we would put forward a distinct point of view at such meetings (subject to Codex rules) only when the issue directly affects European consumers and only when CI has no objection. We would not wish to put forward a view that was in any way at odds with that of CI.

It is not possible therefore to give in advance a list of meetings where we might wish to have a distinct BEUC representation. It is more a matter of specific issues than the type of meetings involved. At any rate, there would be few such occasions. Even pooling our resources and working together, as we do, we find it very difficult to ensure adequate representation of the consumer interest in CODEX.

To summarise:

- 1 BEUC does not seek separate or parallel representation specifically in relation to the CODEX Commission or any subsidiary body as such.
- 2 Consumers international, with the full support of BEUC, will have the lead role in relation to consumer representation at CODEX.
- 3 There are three sets of circumstances in which BEUC may wish to have separate or parallel representation – to the extent that this is permitted under the relevant CODEX rules:
 - At a meeting in which BEUC has a specific interest and at which CI is not represented.
 - At a meeting at which CI is represented, but on an agenda item of specific interest to BEUC but not to CI. There may, for example, be issues that have a specific regional (European), but not global, impact. In relation to such items, only BEUC would intervene. In practice there may be few such occasions but the possibility cannot be excluded.

Should our application be accepted we would like to avail of the above forms of separate or parallel representation, but subject of course to any limitations that may be imposed by CODEX rules. END