

codex alimentarius commission^E



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 7

CX/EXEC 09/63/9
November 2009

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Sixty-third Session, WHO Headquarters, Geneva, 8 – 11 December 2009

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	Reason	Additional information
Annex 1	EUROGLACES	Clarification on re-application	
Annex 2	PRRI	new application	CRD 1

ANNEX 1: EUROGLACES

Excerpt from ALINORM 09/32/3:***EUROGLACES***

158. The Secretariat introduced the re-application, which had been requested due to a change in statutes of the organization. The application had been reviewed by the Codex Secretariat and the Legal Offices of FAO and WHO and had been found to be complete and all criteria met.

159. One member observed that the organization declares (see Annex 1, section 8.1) to be an active member of the Confederation of the Food and Drink Industries of the EU (CIAA) which is also a Codex observer and observer status was not normally granted in this case. Another member clarified that CIAA was a large organization and that some observers were already members of that body and that that should not lead to a rejection of the application.

160. The Secretariat clarified that the above Principles did contain in par 4.2 the sentence: “Observer status at specific meetings will not normally be granted to individual organizations that are members of a larger organization authorized and that intends to represent them at these meetings.”. He said that this had not previously been used as a reason for exclusion but that the organizations in question had been asked to clarify their relation and also informed that they could not both be represented at the same session as such but that in this case the member organization would participate through its umbrella organization. Previous similar cases had included ISO and CEN and Consumers International and BEUC (see also ALINORM 08/31/3A, par 150 for the opinion of the legal Counsel of WHO on this question).

161. After some discussion, the Committee agreed that EUROGLACES and CIAA should be requested to clarify how they would organize their participation in Codex while informing them about the constraints that were applied as mentioned above.

Possible course of action:

Given that EUROGLACES and CIAA have provided the necessary information the same procedure as for BEUC and Consumers International could be used namely that a statement would be included in the report that:

- (1) EUROGLACES will only participate as such in Codex meetings when CIAA is not represented;
- (2) At meetings where CIAA is represented, EUROGLACES can only participate as part of the CIAA delegation and not speak as EUROGLACES; and
- (3) EUROGLACES can submit written comments only on those issues for which CIAA does not submit any comments.



DG/113/09E



Mr Tom HEILANDT
Codex Alimentarius Commission
Secretariat
Food and Agriculture Organisation
Viale delle Terme de Caracalla
00153 ROME
ITALY

Brussels, 29 September 2009

Re: Re-Application of EUROGLACES for Continuation of Observer Status with Codex Alimentarius

Dear Mr Heilandt,

We refer to your request, dated 29th July 2009, for clarification of how the Codex participation of the Confederation of the Food and Drink Industries of the European Union (CIAA) and the European Ice Cream Association (EUROGLACES) would be organised in future, should EUROGLACES be granted continued observer status with Codex Alimentarius.

We can confirm that EUROGLACES is indeed a sectoral member of the CIAA, which supports EUROGLACE's request to be granted an extension of its status of NGO observer with respect to ice-cream-related issues.

EUROGLACES has enjoyed observer status with Codex for a number of years, during which time it has never requested that the CIAA approach Codex, or indeed any European or International institution, with regard to sector-specific issues. Instead, EUROGLACES expresses its comments as a sector in such instances. EUROGLACES will therefore only participate as EUROGLACES in Codex meetings in which CIAA is not present. EUROGLACES may, however, be present as part of the CIAA delegation. In either case, EUROGLACES will not represent CIAA, either by means of written or verbal submissions.

EUROGLACES will continue to rely upon CIAA to comment on cross-sectoral issues such as food contaminants. It will only contribute as EUROGLACES to Codex discussions specifically affecting the ice-cream sector as such, and on issues on which CIAA has not commented.

We hope that this clarifies the matter in a satisfactory manner, and remain at your disposal for any additional information which you may require.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mella Frewen', written in a cursive style.

Mella Frewen
Director General
CIAA

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Myriam Goffings', written in a cursive style.

Myriam Goffings
Secretary General
EUROGLACES

ANNEX 2: PUBLIC RESEARCH AND REGULATION INITIATIVE (PRRI)

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

Official name of the organization:

- 1) In English: Public Research and Regulation Initiative (PRRI)
- 2) In Dutch: Stichting Publiek Onderzoek en Regelgeving

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

Postal address: Public Research and Regulation Initiative

Secretariat

Julianalaan 67

2628 BC Delft

The Netherlands

Telephone: +31-15-278-9289

Fax: +31-15-278-2355

Email: zuzana.kulichova@pubresreg.org

Website: www.pubresreg.org

3. Aims and subject fields (mandate) of organization, methods of operation and the date of establishment.

Statutes of the PRRI are enclosed in CRD.1.

a) Aims and subject fields (mandate) of organization

The association is a not-for-profit Society with the overall objective to inform and involve the public research sector in further development of regulations and guidelines relevant to the development and application of biotechnology, such as the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and Codex Alimentarius.

The initiative aims to realise these objectives by, amongst others:

- Raising awareness among the public research sector of the potential impact of regulations on their activities.
- Involvement of the public research sector in national, regional and international meetings relevant to biotechnology and its safe and responsible use.
- Stimulating the scientific basis, workability, predictability and transparency of regulations that are relevant to the development and application of biotechnology.
- Addressing the growing gap between the science of biotechnology on the one hand and policy, regulations and public perception on the other.
- Raising awareness and transferring correct and scientific information to policy makers and regulators by issuing position papers and reacting on the news and developments in the field of Biotechnology and related Biosafety issues.

b) Methods of operation**The Board of the Foundation of the Public Research and Regulation Initiative**

The board is the founder of the initiative and legally represents PRRI both judicially and extra judicially. The foundation chooses from its members a Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Each appointee serves an

indefinite term. Currently the board has three members. In the event of absence of one or more board members, for whatever reason, the remaining board member(s) nonetheless constitute a legal board. The board can take legal resolutions during a meeting if and only if the majority of the board members in function are present at a meeting. A record is made by the Secretary of such resolutions, including all the answers received, which will be added to the minutes upon co-signing by the Chairman. Each board member has the right to cast *one* vote. All board resolutions are taken by a simple majority of the validly cast votes. Abstentions will be regarded as non-cast votes. The board members are not remunerated for their activities.

c) Date of establishment

The date of the first registration with the Dutch Chamber of Commerce is 22.12.2004.

4. Structure (assembly or conference, council or other form of governing body, type of general secretariat, commissions on special topics)

a) The Steering Committee of the Initiative

The Steering Committee is the highest decision making body that consists of key representatives of the public sector research institutes across different regions of the globe. The role of the Steering Committee is to support the continuous implementation of the PRRI objectives by taking the following actions:

- Determine the strategic goals and objectives of the PRRI
- Approve the annual budget and the funding proposals
- Review the financial activities in accordance with the approved annual program
- Prepare and/or review all submissions and position papers that are being submitted on behalf of PRRI
- Identify and approve all potential areas where PRRI contribution might be relevant
- Approve all organizational changes within PRRI
- Organize annual meetings of members of the Steering Committee

Currently the members of the PRRI Steering Committee are:

- Prof. Atanas Atanassov, Agrobiointitute, Bulgaria
- Prof. Emerit. Klaus Ammann, Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands
- Dr. Roger Beachy, Donald Danforth Plant Sience Center, United States
- Prof. Yaroslav Blume, Institute of Cell Biology and Genetic Engineering, Ukraine
- Dr. Premendra Dwivedi, Food Toxicology Div Industrial Toxocology Research Centre, India
- Dr. Ismail El Hadrami, Laboratoire de Biotechnologies, Protection et Valorisation des Ressources Végétales (Biotec-VRV) , Marocco
- Dr. Christian Fatokun, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Nigeria
- Prof. Behzad Ghareyazie, Strategic Research Center of Iran, Iran
- Prof. Desiree Hautea, University of the Philippines, The Philippines
- Prof. Calestous Juma, Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, United States
- Prof. Julian Kinderlerer, University of Cape Town, South Africa and Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands
- Prof. Magdy Madkour, Arid Land Agricultural Research Institute (ALARI), Ain Shams University, Egypt
- Prof. Emerit. Marc van Montagu, Institute for Plant Biotechnology for Developing Countries (IPBO), Belgium (**Chairman**)
- Dr. Charles Mugoya, The Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), Uganda
- Dr. Zaida Lentini, International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Colombia
- Dr. Susana Sirvas-Cornejo, Universidad Nacional Federico Villarreal, Peru
- Dr. Natalia Stepanova, Centre Bioengineering of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), Russia
- Prof. Paul Teng, Nanyang Technological University, National Institute of Education, Singapore
- Dr. Arnoldo Khaleel Ventura, Office of the Prime Minister, Jamaica

b) PRRI Working Groups

Topics that are addressed by the initiative are carried out by Working Groups listed below. Working Groups are responsible for monitoring and addressing any development in the field of a particular interest. Each working group has two co – chairs who are appointed by the PRRI Steering Committee. Co - chairs propose the work plan of the Working Group, coordinate its activities and report back to the PRRI Steering Committee. Each PRRI member can become active in the Working Group by sending a notification to the PRRI secretariat. (List of working groups in CRD 1)

c) PRRI Forum

A large number of public research scientists and institutions, as well as other individuals and organisations have indicated endorsement of the Public Research and Regulation Initiative. Many public sector scientists wish to be informed about and actively involved in the activities of the initiative, such as providing comments on discussion papers on the topic that are relevant for public sector research. Currently about 270 public sector scientists and others have signed up to support the initiative and wish to be actively involved in its activities. The number is growing steadily.

d) PRRI Secretariat

Executive Secretary

Executive Secretary is responsible for the day-to-day activities of the PRRI, and provides full support to PRRI members. He facilitates the strategic direction of PRRI and drives forward the work of the PRRI to meet its strategic aims and objectives. He implements the Steering Committee decisions and ensures that they are kept informed of progress. He assists with the writing, editing, production and distribution of submissions, financial proposals, quarterly newsletters and yearly reports to the Steering Committee or other bodies when appropriate. He represents PRRI in the meetings, workshops and other relevant events. He is also actively involved in fund raising and preparation of grant applications for continued activities of PRRI.

Deputy Executive Secretary

Deputy Executive Secretary takes over the responsibilities of the Executive Secretary during his absence. The Deputy Executive Secretary is the first point of contact for members and prospective members contacting PRRI. She assists in recruiting new members by responding promptly to telephone and email inquiries, maintains all membership, prepares and distributes the annual Membership Directory, processes new membership applications and communicates all necessary information, provides administrative support for the membership and assists the Executive Secretary in writing, editing, production and distribution of submissions, financial proposals, quarterly newsletter and yearly reports to the Steering Committee or other bodies when appropriate. She represents PRRI in the meetings, workshops and other relevant events in the absence of Executive secretary.

5. Indication of source of funding

The PRRI has requested and received financial support from governments, national and international organisations and the private sector, to carry out its activities and to cover the costs of participation in international meetings. To ensure that PRRI maintains its independence, PRRI would not accept funding that comes with conditions as to the positions PRRI takes in international meetings or conditions regarding the selection of individual PRRI participants to international meetings. Conditions that earmark funds to only be used for participants from a certain region and conditions regarding proper accounting are acceptable. The overview of the financial contributions received between 2004 and 2009 can be seen below.

2004: Total of financial contributions: \$30.000*

2005: Total of financial contributions: \$150.000*

2006: Total of financial contributions: \$155.000*

2006 - 2009: European Commission 6th Framework Programme Science 4 BioReg total of financial contributions: \$800.000*.

2007: Total of financial contributions in addition to the abovementioned EU budget: \$35.000
2008: Total of financial contributions in addition to the abovementioned EU budget: \$20.000
2009: Total financial contribution per 13 February 2009 in additional to the abovementioned EU budget: \$25.000

85% of the above funds have come from a public sector

* All currencies have been converted to USD

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

Up to date, PRRI successfully strengthened the awareness and participation of public researchers in the meetings of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Aarhus Convention and other relevant meetings. In 2008 and in early 2009, PRRI participated in the meetings that are listed in CRD.1.

Examples of reports of the meetings are provided in CRD.1.

7. Relation with other international organizations:

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

PRRI is actively involved in Negotiations under CBD and Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB). PRRI is a recognized as a Non Governmental Organization and is officially invited by the CBD and CPB secretariats.

b) Other international organizations (documents substantive activities)

PRRI has a Memorandum of understanding and official collaboration with the following organizations:

- i. **ANBio** - [Associação Nacional de Biossegurança](#)
- ii. **BSBA** - [Black Sea Biotechnology Association](#)
- iii. **EFB** - [European Federation on Biotechnology](#)
- iv. **FARA** - [Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa](#)
- v. **IFPRI** - [The International Food Policy Research Institute](#)

Memoranda of understanding are enclosed in CRD.1

PRRI is officially recognized as a Non Governmental Organization by Aarhus Convention, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and is invited to participate in meetings and share its positions.

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

Since its establishment in 2004, PRRI brings together public sector researchers with long experience in developing and/or regulating Genetically Modified Organisms developed for the use as food and medicine (amongst other uses). PRRI can bring its expertise and experiences in this field, in addition to its concerns of the impact of regulations and standards on the public research. PRRI is expected to provide an expertise and make a scientific contribution and advise to the participants in official meetings (as well as expert consultation meetings), prepare back ground paper, be involved in training and educational activities and capacity building programs around the globe. It is expected that PRRI will stimulate the scientific basis, workability, predictability and transparency of regulations that are relevant to the development and application of biotechnology. PRRI will raise awareness and transfer correct and scientific information to policy makers and regulators by issuing position papers and letters.

9. 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)

PRRI members have long history of collaboration with Codex Alimentarius Commission, FAO and WHO on safety assessment of foods derived from biotechnology in their personal capacity and/or as their respected governments' representatives to the negotiations and meetings. This collaboration includes consultancy in capacity building programmes and training courses, consultancy in expert meetings and participation in the official negotiations such as the Codex *ad hoc* intergovernmental task force on foods derived from biotechnology. However, the collective collaboration of the PRRI members waits for the approval of its observer status by FAO, WHO or the Commission. Some of PRRI members are (or were) holding official positions on their respected countries; positions such as the head of national Codex Committee on Foods derived from biotechnology, the Head of National Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS).

10. Area of activity in which participation as an observer is requested (commission and/or Subsidiary bodies).

PRRI offers its expertise and capacity for international standard settings, participation in capacity building programmes of FAO and WHO on safety issues of foods derived from Biotechnology, participation in expert consultation meetings and preparation of back ground papers, participation in the international and annual meetings in which relevant issues such as labelling, methods of analysis and sampling is discussed. PRRI has prepared several position papers and submissions on foods derived from genetically modified organisms.

11. 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.

PRRI has not submitted any application for an observer status with Codex Alimentarius Commission before.

12. Languages in which documentation should be sent to the international non-governmental organization

English

13. Name, function and address of the person providing the information

Prof. Em. Marc Van Montague

Chairman of the Public Research and Regulation Initiative

Secretariat Public Research and Regulation Initiative

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2628 BC Delft

The Netherlands

Web: www.pubresreg.org

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Marc van Montague, 10. 4. 2009