

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



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TO: Codex Contact Points  
Interested International Organizations

FROM: Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission  
FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy

SUBJECT: **Review of the Regional Coordinating Committees**  
**FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe (24<sup>th</sup> Session, Bratislava, Slovak Republic, 20-23 September 2004)**

DEADLINE: **20 August 2004**

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## **REVIEW OF THE REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEES**

As a follow up to the recommendations of the Joint FAO/WHO Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other FAO and WHO Work on Food Standards, the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission decided that all the Committees and Task Forces would be reviewed together, bearing in mind the objective of reducing the number of meetings while also keeping them short and focused. With respect to Regional Coordinating Committees, the Commission instructed the Secretariat to prepare proposals for the review of the Regional Coordinating Committees to the next Regular Session of the Commission. (ALINORM 03/41, para. 154 and ALINORM 03/26/11 Add.1, para.15).

Concerning the review of the Regional Coordinating Committees, the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission agreed that a Circular Letter would be issued to all Codex Members to invite government comments in the following areas:

- Role of Regional Coordinating Committees in furthering the objectives of the Codex Alimentarius Commission;
- Membership of Regional Coordinating Committees, including their current geographic coverage;
- Terms of reference of the Regional Coordinating Committees as set out in the Procedural Manual, including the relevance of developing regional standards;

- Effectiveness of Regional Coordinating Committees in respect of country participation record and of venues and meeting intervals (currently every two years);
- Respective roles of the Regional Coordinator as *ex officio* Chairperson of the Regional Coordinating Committee and the Member(s) of the Executive Committee elected on a geographic basis, particularly within the framework of the Executive Committee; and
- Any other issues.

It was also decided that the Regional Coordinating Committees, at their forthcoming sessions, should consider the comments from the governments of their respective Region and forward their views and/or recommendations to the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission for its consideration (ALINORM 04/27/41).

The Coordinating Committee for Europe will consider this issue at its 24<sup>th</sup> Session (Bratislava, Slovak Republic, 20-23 September 2004). Therefore, members of the Coordinating Committee for Europe and observers are invited to provide their comments to the above addresses, preferably by email, **before 20 August 2004**.