

CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 2

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE

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Comments of Norway

Thank you to the keynote speaker for a detailed overview of some of the fraudulent activities being uncovered in the agri-food chain.

Norway recognizes and supports the need to address Food Fraud in the framework of Codex.

In the past 5 years, we have, in close cooperation with the EU Commission, Europol and Interpol taken part in a series of control programmes that have uncovered a high prevalence of activities that could be attributed to economically motivated fraudulent activity in the food chain.

We have also looked at how we best can tackle these activities within the framework of our National Food Control System. To that end, we have launched the following **activities**:

1. Developing an **Inter Nordic Threat Assessment** of food crime within the Nordic countries.
2. Taking actively part in the Europol/Interpol lead annual actions in the framework of **OPSON**, and also taking part in relevant EU lead coordinated control programmes.
3. We are considering alternative ways of organising our control activities in the field, including **setting up a specialised team of inspectors** who could help in the follow-up of more complicated suspect food fraud cases.
4. Developing good **communication channels** with the industry on the theme of food fraud.
5. **Increasing competence** of inspectors both in the field of economic crime and in the field of online food sales.

We are very positive to more engagement in Codex on these complicated themes and believe this could help build good bridges between Competent Authorities to better tackle cross border activities of criminals within the food chain.

We would like to present some quite specific needs identified:

- Develop a global approach to threat assessments within the food chain, as a different and more enforcement-oriented approach than risk assessment. There is also a need to clearly define the differences between a threat assessment and a risk assessment, so that we are not comparing two very different results.
- By threat assessment we mean
- We have experienced that official authenticity standards for many products (spices, herbs, honey) are not up to date to uncover new methods of adulteration developed by criminals. There is maybe a need to look at fast tracking certain authenticity standards to ensure the Governments can stay abreast of the latest developments.
- We also encourage Codex to engage in communication with NGOs about the most prevalent and pressing threats that they recognize.
- We would support a global approach to best practice guidelines for Governments on how to develop an efficient and proactive approach within the National Food Safety Control Systems to tackle Food Fraud, taking into account the very many different ways Governments choose to organize their Food Control Systems.