

## CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of  
the United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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Agenda Item 5

CX/EXEC 12/67/4  
English only

**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION  
Sixty-seventh Session  
FAO Headquarters, Rome, 26 – 29 June 2012**

**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.
2. The representatives of the Legal Counsels of FAO and WHO will provide information at the session, on any further research that may be necessary concerning some of the applicants and any conditions to be included in case of acceptance e.g. for reason of double representation.
3. 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.
4. This document contains the following applications (the additional information referenced in some of the applications will be made available in CRDs at the session in original language only):

<b>Annex</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Additional information</b>
Annex 1	ASN – American Society for Nutrition	CRD1
Annex 2	CCTA - Collagen Casings Trade Association	CRD2
Annex 3	YLFA - Association of Yoghurts & Live fermented milks	CRD3

**ANNEX 1: ASN**

*Founded in 1928, the American Society for Nutrition (ASN) is a nonprofit scientific society with over 4,500 members in more than 60 countries working in academia, practice, government and industry. ASN is dedicated to bringing together the world's top nutrition research scientists to advance our knowledge and application of nutrition. ASN appreciates the opportunity to apply to participate in the Codex Alimentarius Commission as an International Non-Governmental Organization with "Observer Status."*

**a) Official name of the organization in different languages (with acronym)**

American Society for Nutrition (ASN)

**b) Postal address, phone, fax and Email, as well as website addresses as appropriate**

9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland, United States 20814

Telephone: 301-634-7050; Fax: 301-634-7894; Email: [sec@nutrition.org](mailto:sec@nutrition.org); Website: [www.nutrition.org](http://www.nutrition.org)

**c) Mandate of the organization and methods of operation (Enclose charter, constitution, by-laws, rules of procedures, etc.); Date of establishment**

ASN's mission is to support the dissemination and application of nutrition science to improve public health and clinical practice worldwide; develop and extend knowledge of nutrition of all species through fundamental, multidisciplinary, and clinical research; facilitate contact among investigators in nutrition, medicine and related fields of interest; promote graduate education and training of physicians in nutrition; provide reliable nutrition information to those who need it, and advocate for nutrition research and its application to development and implementation of policies and practices related to nutrition. ASN's by-laws were adopted on July 1, 2005 and revised on January 12, 2011. The Society by-laws can be found online at <http://www.nutrition.org/about-asn/mission-and-bylaws/>.

The American Institute for Nutrition or AIN was first founded in 1928. In 2005, the American Society for Clinical Nutrition, the American Society for Nutritional Sciences (formerly The American Institute for Nutrition), and the Society for International Nutrition merged to form ASN.

**d) Member countries (name and address of main contact points)**

ASN has individual members in more than 60 countries throughout Africa, Asia, Australia, Canada, Europe, India, Latin America, the Middle East, South America, and the United States. ASN also has an International Nutrition Council (INC) for members with basic and applied human nutrition research interests related to economically-less developed countries and disadvantaged populations and the translation of this research into training, policies and programs. A representative of the INC sits on ASN's Board of Directors to reinforce ASN's global scientific mission. Individual ASN members reside in the following countries:

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mexico, The Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Rwanda, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tanzania, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela

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

The affairs of the Society are governed by a Board of Directors, which consists of ASN's elected officers of President, Past President, Vice President, Vice President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Board is also comprised of one representative from each of ASN's three Scientific Councils, one representative of ASN's Research Interest Sections, two at-large members, and one ex-officio, non-voting representative of ASN's Sustaining Members (industry partners). ASN's Board of Directors meets in-person twice a year and holds monthly conference calls. ASN also has 15 Committees that cover areas such as Public Policy and Finance. ASN's President and Executive Officer are ex-officio members of each Committee. In addition, ASN has approximately 20 staff members providing support structure to ASN.

**f) Members contributions****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**

ASN provides nutrition professionals a full calendar of educational, continuing education, and training experiences relating to current and emerging issues. Since its inception in 1928, ASN has convened a variety of professional forums, such as conferences and workshops, with partners or co-sponsors including academic institutions, federal government agencies, professional societies and other national and international health organizations on various topics where the latest scientific developments and technical advancements are shared and deliberated. In these settings of interactions, leading scientists and clinicians from diverse fields from around the world analyze and develop solutions to cutting-edge issues and problems related to "Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses," "Food Labeling," and other fields of activity covered by the Commission. Minutes from the last ASN Board of Directors in-person meeting held October, 2011, as well as the last conference call held January, 2012, are attached. (Minutes from the February, 2012, conference call have yet to be approved.)

Leaders and researchers from around the world participate in ASN's Scientific Sessions and Annual Meeting, now in its 76<sup>th</sup> year, where results of original research are presented in symposia and other technical forums. More than 2,200 researchers typically attend ASN's Annual Meeting and more than 1,700 original research abstracts are presented. Over 525 individuals from around the globe attended the 2011 ASN Scientific Sessions and Annual Meeting (making nearly 25% of all attendees international), representing 48 countries: Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Ghana, Germany, Guatemala, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Korea, Oman, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Russia, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Spain, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom, Venezuela, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

ASN also conducts the annual Advances and Controversies in Clinical Nutrition conference to communicate significant, cutting-edge advances in nutrition research and stimulate discussion on emerging or controversial topics that impact human health. The inaugural conference, held in San Francisco, California, United States in February 2011, was a resounding success with 344 attendees (11% international).

**h) Relations with other international organizations (FAO, WHO, other UN organizations or other) (Indicate name of organization and type of relation)**

ASN has partnerships with many international organizations including the Canadian Nutrition Society, Chinese Nutrition Society, Korean Nutrition Society, UK Nutrition Society, and the Turkish Diabetes Foundation and Center for Diabetes Education. ASN often organizes and co-sponsors joint meetings with these organizations. Examples of joint meetings include:

- ASN partnered with The Nutrition Society Irish Section to conduct a program titled "Vitamins in Early Development and Healthy Aging: Impact on Infectious and Chronic Disease" in June 2011 in Cork, Ireland. More than 250 delegates from the UK, Ireland, North America, and mainland Europe participated.
- In February 2012, ASN is partnering with the Egyptian Diabetes Center's Center for Diabetes Education and the Turkish Diabetes Foundation on the inaugural "Middle East Congress: Nutrition in Health and Disease."
- ASN's International Nutrition Council is co-sponsoring a symposium with the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama (INCAP) in November 2012 in Peru. The title of this session is "Dietary and physical activity behavior change through mobile technology for prevention of cardiovascular disease." Although ASN represents the United States in the International Union of Nutritional Sciences (IUNS), the IUNS has no permanent staff and is therefore unable to effectively participate in Codex Alimentarius. U.S.-based ASN members serve as IUNS officers.

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

ASN plans to contribute to the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme by sending representatives to the Codex Commission meeting and various Codex Committee meetings and being actively involved in the work of select Committees and Working Groups, such as providing comments when requested and by sharing the latest nutrition science information on topics of relevance to select Committees through ASN statements, reports, and journal articles. ASN will also keep its broad membership informed of relevant Codex discussions and decisions through the many communication channels already in place.

**j) Past activities on behalf of, or in relation to, the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme**

ASN has not conducted past activities on behalf of, or in relation to, the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, although ASN does make its membership aware of

opportunities to participate on relevant Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committees/ Consultations and nominates members as appropriate.

**k) Area of activity in which participation as an observer is requested (Commission and/or Subsidiary Bodies)**

ASN requests observer status for the Codex Alimentarius Commission and General Subject Committees; specifically the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses and the Codex Committee on Food Labeling.

**l) Previous applications**

none

**m) Language of correspondence**

ASN's preferred language of correspondence is English

**n) Name, Function and address of the person providing the information**

ASN Director of Government Relations, Sarah Ohlhorst, M.S., R.D.; 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland, United States 20814; [sohlhorst@nutrition.org](mailto:sohlhorst@nutrition.org); 301-634-7281

**o) Signature and date**

March 20, 2012

Thank you for the opportunity to apply to participate in the Codex Alimentarius Commission as an International Non-Governmental Organization with "Observer Status." Please contact John E. Courtney, Ph.D., Executive Officer, if ASN may provide further information. He can be reached at 301.634.7078 or [jcourtney@nutrition.org](mailto:jcourtney@nutrition.org).

Sincerely,  
Sharon M. Donovan, Ph.D., R.D.  
President, American Society for Nutrition

## ANNEX 2: CCTA

On behalf of the Collagen Casings Trade Association I wish to respectfully submit CCTA's request to be granted observer status of the Codex Alimentarius.

a. The official name of the non-governmental organization is Collagen Casings Trade Association. The association chooses to use only one language version, English. The abbreviation is CCTA, using the initials of the association's name.

b. The association's website is

<http://collagencasings.org/Default.aspx?pid=1>

The association's seat and postal address is

c/o

Dr. Rainer Bierwagen

BEITEN BURKHARDT

Avenue Louise 489

B-1050 Brussels

Belgium

Contact details:

Telephone +32 2 534 36 64

Telefax + 32 2 732 23 53

E-mail:

rainer.bierwagen@bblaw.com; or

info@collagencasings.org

c. The association furthers the common interests of the collagen casings producers worldwide and was established on 18 January 2006 in Brussels. Please find enclosed the Bylaws.

With respect to the objectives of the association, Article II of the Bylaws states

*"The objects and purposes of the Association shall be to advance the common interests of its members by representing the industry effectively in legislative and administrative matters. The Association shall provide a forum for its members to review legislative developments and shall actively promote the use of collagen casings."*

d. Any collagen producer worldwide can become a member of the association; see Article III of the Bylaws.

Currently, six collagen casings manufacturers are members of the association and they represent the majority of the collagen casings production worldwide.

The members are

**Devro** see <http://www.devro.plc.uk/>

**Fabios** see <http://www.fabios.com.pl/>

**Fibran** see <http://grupofibran.com/fibran/>

**Nippi Casing** <http://www.nippi-inc.co.jp/eng/>

**Nitta Casings** <http://www.nittacasings.com/>

**Viscofan** <http://www.viscofan.com/EN/Pages/default.aspx>

The companies have their corporate seats in at least five different countries and have subsidiaries in several more countries.

e. As to the structure, the members send representatives to several committees and working groups, in particular

The Management Committee

The Food and Safety Regulatory Affairs Committee

The Alternative Casings Committee

The Communications and Website Committee

The Chairman is elected by majority vote for a period of two years; see Article V of the bylaws.

- f. The association is funded in equal parts by its members.
- g. The association holds twice yearly Management meetings and as many meetings of the committees and ad-hoc working groups as appropriate. See for example the Minutes of the last Management meeting in November 2011.

The Chairman prepares and presides the meetings, assisted by the Secretary. The undersigned has been elected secretary since the establishment of the association.

- h. Status of relations with other international organizations

- UN and its organs: none
- Other international organizations: none

In the past, CCTA has made representations to authorities in Canada, the European Union (the European Commission and all the Member States authorities), Japan and the United States of America.

- i. Collagen casings are used by the food processing industry and are themselves manufactured from collagen. Accordingly, CCTA members have an interest in everything factual and legal relating to the food chain. In particular, CCTA regularly discusses additives, colours and processing aids. See for example the Minutes of the Food Safety and Regulatory Affairs Committee meeting in June 2011.

- j. None

- k. Given the activities of its members, the association is interested in the work of in particular the

- Codex Committee on Food Additives
- Codex Committee on Food Labeling

CCTA would be interested in contributing to the above-mentioned committees as an observer and possibly to the Commission as observer

- l. None

- m. The documentation should be sent in English.

- n. Dr Rainer Bierwagen, CCTA Secretary

- o. Signature and Date

**A. NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION:**

- English (original denomination): **YLFA International – Association of Yoghurts & Live fermented milks.**
- French : **YLFA International – Association des yaourts & laits fermentés vivants**

**Attachment I: bylaws** (last version, dated 9/12/2009 – in French, *original language*, and English).

**B. POSTAL ADDRESS:**

Rue de l'Association 32  
 1000 Brussels  
 Belgium  
 Tel: +32 2 210 20 30  
 Fax : +32 2 210 20 35  
 E-mail : [c.lambert@ylfa.org](mailto:c.lambert@ylfa.org)  
 Web: [www.ylfa.org](http://www.ylfa.org)

**C. AIMS AND SUBJECT FIELDS:****1. Mandate:** The purpose of the Association is to promote and defend **yoghurts, live fermented milks and other live fermented dairy products.**

To attain its purpose, the Association intends to pursue the following activities:

- Define the concepts of yoghurts and other live fermented milks.
- Act with national and international public authorities, particularly at the legislative level, to promote and ensure the recognition of the definition of yoghurts and other live fermented milks.
- Generate, coordinate and use all studies (scientific, consumer, economic, etc.) intended to show the benefits to consumers provided by "live" products and to promote knowledge about and the image of yoghurt products and other live fermented milks.
- Encourage relations and exchanges with international scientific experts studying yoghurts and other live fermented milks and their health benefits.
- Conduct information exchanges among members in compliance with the purpose of the Association and with competition legislation. To this end, the association shall adopt specific operating rules to help its bodies to comply with competition legislation.

**2. Association's fields of study**

**Association's fields of study:** YLFA works to safeguard and protect the specificity of (live) yoghurt and live fermented milks and closely monitors all international, regional and Page 2 08/05/2012 national standards and regulations that may impact the yoghurt and live fermented milks industry.

This includes amongst others, standards on definitions and denominations (e.g. the Codex Standard on fermented milk, the FAO definition of probiotics), food safety (e.g. the legal status of living organisms), as well as nutrition and health benefits (e.g. nutrient profile and health claims).

**3. Date of establishment:**

- On **20 January 2005**, Danone, Nestlé, Yakult Honsha and Yoplait founded **YLFA International in Paris**. Lactalis-Nestlé *produits frais* and later, Danisco and Chr Hansen as associate members, joined the founders in 2006.

The association was based at the "Maison du Lait", rue de Chateaudun in Paris.

The project first arose with the start of the Codex negotiations on the "International Standard on Fermented Milks" in 1996, which led to the final adoption of the Codex Alimentarius Standard in Rome, 2003.

Given the importance of these negotiations, Danone, Nestlé and Yoplait felt the need to form an independent association.

- In November 2007, the board of YLFA International decided to reinforce the international and European dimension of their association. They envisaged moving YLFA from Paris to Brussels. The final decision was taken in February 2008.

- YLFA moved to Brussels in September 2008** and was initially based in the FIL-IDF premises. The dossiers and assets were transferred from Paris to Brussels.

In Belgium, the legal process for obtaining the status of non-profit International Associations is very strict and lengthy. The signature of the Minister of Justice and the King are needed.

Due to successive political crises and lack of government(s) in Belgium in that period, the whole process was delayed. New bylaws establishing YLFA as an international non-profit association, according to Belgian Law, were signed on 2 December 2009 and were published in the Official Gazette (*Moniteur belge*) only on 16 June 2010.

In the meantime, YLFA duly functioned on the basis of an adaptation of the French bylaws of 2005.

The original French association was officially dissolved and the accounts closed on 31 December 2009.

□ **In conclusion**, YLFA International was founded in Paris in 2005. The members decided to move to Brussels with the same aim, members, mandate and field of studies. Following the relocation from Paris to Brussels, they transferred the assets of the French structure to the Belgian association and adapted the bylaws according to the legislation into force in the new location.

**Attachment II:** Original bylaws of 20 January 2005 – YLFA was an International non-profit association according to French Law.

**Attachment III:** extracts of Board decision taken in November 2007 and February 2008.

**Attachment IV:** attestation of dissolution of the French structure. Page 3 08/05/2012

## D. MEMBERS

### *Members*

Organisations, companies, or institutions which are directly interested in the development of the yoghurt and other live fermented milk products industry may be members.

More precisely, the Association is composed of **active members** and **associate members**.

**Active members** are members that manufacture yoghurts and other live fermented milks. Currently, active members are leading companies such as Danone, Lactalis-Nestlé produits frais, Yoplait and Yakult.

**Associate members** are organisations, companies, institutions and entities that are directly or indirectly interested in the development of the yoghurt and live fermented milks industry, without, however, producing them.

Currently, the Association counts two associate members, both being cultures producers: Chr. Hansen and Danisco.

Our members are active in more than **65 countries**.

**Attachment V: Member's list.**

### *Procedure and criteria for affiliation:*

Organisations, companies, institutions, entities and individuals who wish to join the Association must send their application to the Chairman of the Board of Directors or to the Executive Director of the Association.

The application shall be submitted for approval at the next **Extraordinary General Meeting** of the Association.

## E. STRUCTURE

YLFA is governed by the General Meeting ('Assemblée Générale') made up of all the active members.

Other governing bodies include:

□ The **Board of Directors** which is composed of a minimum of three Members appointed by the General Meeting, including one President and one treasurer.

□ The **Secretariat** counts one member of staff dedicated to YLFA International. The Secretariat is in charge of the daily management of the association, as well as the representation of the Association before EU and international institutions, the coordination of the working groups and the general secretarial work.

□ The **Working Groups**: Technical & Regulatory Working Group and Communications group. Special ad hoc groups may be appointed to work on specific issues; for instance, ad hoc groups are appointed to work on fermented milks and yoghurt (health benefits, Q&A...), on probiotics (probiotic food category) or on inherent characteristics of fermented milks.

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## F. FUNDING:

YLFA is financed solely and directly via membership fixed contributions. No external funding or grants are received.

## G. MEETINGS:



- **General Meeting:** meetings at least once a year with an average attendance of 15 people.
- **Board of Directors:** meetings at least three times a year with an average attendance of 10 people.
- **Working Groups:** four to six meetings a year with 10 attendees on average.

Regarding the Codex Alimentarius activities, we were intensively involved in the discussions and adoption of the Codex standard on fermented milks STAN 243-2003.

We expressed our views through some of the Members States of the Codex.

In attachment, you will find our position regarding the last modification of the Codex STAN 243-2003.

Currently, regional drafts on fermented milks like the one on Ayran or Doogh are or will be in discussion. This is the reason why we send you our application as observer.

**Attachment VI: Position paper Codex Standard on Fermented milks**

#### **H. RELATIONS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

YLFA represents the fermented milks industry mainly before European institutions, in particular before the various Directorates General of the European Commission such as Directorate General for Health and Consumers Protection (DG Sanco) and DG Agri with which it maintains frequent contacts.

Currently we work mainly on health claims, nutrient profiles or – in collaboration with other associations – on food information or quality standards.

YLFA International is the **only** association at European and international level representing yoghurt and fermented milk producers.

YLFA is not a Member of any other international (like IDF) or European association representing dairy products. No other association is member of YLFA.

Therefore, YLFA has no relationship with associations having the status of observer at Codex level.

**Attachment VII: Example of position paper sent to the EU Commission.** Page 5 08/05/2012

#### **I. EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION TO THE JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARD PROGRAMME**

As an expanding association representing the key producers of yoghurt and fermented milks worldwide, YLFA is a highly qualified representative to express industry views and share out experience on fermented milks.

##### *Market*

*The yoghurt and fermented milks market represents € 55 billion and 20 million tons produced per year with North America, Europe and Asia accounting for 50% of the market. Sales of yoghurt and fermented milks also continue to expand worldwide, most noticeably in emerging markets such as China and Russia as well as in countries of the Middle East, North Africa and Latin America.*

*In the span of 5 years, the global sales value increased of about 25 %.*

*The functional fermented milks market grew from € 2, 13 billion in 2005 to € 3, 3 billion in 2010, which means an increase of 55%. In particular the probiotic drinks have contributed to fermented milks market growth, leading to some of the most innovative new products in the dairy sector today.*

#### **J. PAST ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF, OR IN RELATION TO, THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND THE JOINT FAO/WHO FOODS STANDARDS PROGRAMME**

As expressed under point G, we were indirectly involved in Codex activities – through our close collaboration with some of the Codex Members or the EU Commission.

#### **K. AREA OF ACTIVITY IN WHICH PARTICIPATION AS AN OBSERVER IS REQUESTED**

Observer status is requested in relation to any Codex Commission work likely to affect fermented milks, in particular, works on the Codex Standard on Fermented Milks (STAN 243-2003) or the Regional Standards on Fermented Milks like Ayran or Doogh.

We are also interested in the related matters like the works of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses or Food labelling.

#### **L. PREVIOUS APPLICATIONS FOR OBSERVER STATUS WITH THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION, INCLUDING THOSE MADE BY A MEMBER ORGANIZATION OF THE APPLICANT ORGANIZATION.**

To our knowledge, no application was ever made by any member of YLFA.

#### **M. LANGUAGES:**

Working languages during meetings/conference calls: French/English.

Documents may be sent to the Secretariat in French, English and Spanish. Page 6 08/05/2012

**N. NAME AND FUNCTION OF THE PERSON PROVIDING THE INFORMATION.**

Carine Lambert  
Secretary General  
Rue de l'Association 32  
1000 Brussels  
Belgium

**O. SIGNATURE AND DATE**

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