

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



JOINT OFFICE: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00100 ROME Tel: 39 06 57051 www.codexalimentarius.net Email: codex@fao.org Facsimile: 39 06 5705 4593

Agenda Item 2a)

CX/FFP 03/2-Add.3

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

Twenty-sixth Session  
Ålesund, Norway, 13 - 17 October 2003

### MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES

#### COMMENTS OF CHILE

Chile wishes to express its disagreement and surprise with the decision adopted by the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission to return to the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products at Step 3 the amendment to the Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products.

In this respect it should be considered that Chile complied with all the applicable requirements to date for the inclusion of new species in the standard, that include taxonomical information, presence, types of marketing and sensory reports from laboratories in countries of the European Union, all of which was presented and analyzed in the meeting of the Committee that concluded with the agreement to include the species *Clupea bentincki* in the Standard for Canned Sardine and Sardine-Type Products at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products, Bergen 1998. This conclusion was adopted by consensus, as there was no opposition from any country to the incorporation of this species in the said Standard.

Notwithstanding, when this was submitted to the CAC for adoption, countries that were present in the meeting of the CCFFP did not accept the decision of the Committee, asking for a modification of the rules applied to Chile, among other countries, in order to analyze anew the incorporation of *Clupea bentincki* in the species in the Standard for Canned Sardine and Sardine-Type Products.

It is not conceivable that when a country considers that it is affected commercially by a measure adopted in a technical Committee, validated through technical procedures, the Codex Alimentarius Commission should approve the motion to revise the current procedures, with the only objective of delaying or cancelling the decision previously adopted through consensus.

For Chile this decision is arbitrary and contrary to the terms of reference of the Codex Alimentarius, insofar as it refers to fair trade practices. The current standard was applied integrally and this situation should be confirmed taking into account the said standard. If it is decided to analyze and amend the standard in the future this should result in the revision of the technical background of all similar species that have been included into the standard.

Chile asks that this situation be reconsidered and requests that this background be forwarded to the Committee on General Principles so as to obtain a clear verdict in this respect, considering that the current procedures have been misused, and that they affect a developing country in the same way as Morocco.

Chile chose to follow and compete according to the precept and mandates of Codex Alimentarius, but these have been changed unilaterally in this occasion, without clear arguments.