

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 2a)

CX/FL 08/36/2

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

Thirty-sixth Session  
Ottawa, Canada, 28 April - 2 May 2008

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

#### A. GENERAL DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION

##### 1. Strategic Plan 2008-2013 of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

The Commission adopted the Strategic Plan 2008 - 2013. The Committee is therefore invited to review all the Activities relevant to its work in Part 2: Programme Areas and Planned Activities 2008-2013, and report back to the Commission on the outcome of its consideration. In particular the Committee's attention is drawn to the following activities:

- Goal 1: Activity 1.3
- Goal 3: Activity 3.3
- Goal 4: Activity 4.1
- Goal 5: Activities 5.5 and 5.6

##### 2. Review of Codex Committee Structure and Mandates of Codex Committees and Task Forces

The Commission considered the proposals contained in Circular Letter CL 2006/29-CAC and made several recommendations in this respect (ALINORM 07/30/REP, para. 144-156). The Committee should therefore consider **Proposals 3 and 4**, when discussing the date of its next meeting.

- **Proposal 3 (interval of meetings)**: The Committee should consider adopting a longer interval with the understanding that a structured, effective inter-session working mechanism should then be put in place in accordance with the Guidelines on Physical Working Groups and on Electronic Working Groups.
- **Proposal 4 (duration of meetings)**: The duration of a Codex session should be kept within seven days, including the pre-session meetings of working groups, if any, in order to keep its proceedings well focused, ensure transparency, and facilitate effective participation of the members, with the understanding that certain margin of flexibility should be allowed, depending on the workload of each subsidiary bodies.

##### 3. Elaboration of New Standards and Related Texts

The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to encourage Codex committees, task forces and Codex Members to prepare future project documents according to the format set out in the current revision of the Procedural Manual and provide sufficiently detailed, relevant information with particular regard to the evidence-based assessment against each of all the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities (ALINORM 07/30/REP, para. 97).

## **B. DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

### **1. Proposed Draft Amendment to the Guidelines for Organically Produced Foods (Ethylene)**

Some delegations, while not objecting in principle to the use of ethylene, expressed the view that this substance should be used only in accordance with good agricultural practices and that all required conditions for use should be met in order to ensure the safety and quality of the products treated with ethylene.

The Commission agreed that these comments should be taken into account in the finalisation of the amendment on the inclusion of ethylene.

### **2. Proposed Draft Amendment to the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (Quantitative Declaration of Ingredients)**

The Delegation of Norway, while not objecting to the adoption of the text, expressed concern with the deletion of the provisions for added sugars in view of their importance in the perspective of the WHO Global Strategy for Diet, Physical Activity and Health and proposed that the purpose of these provisions should not be lost and should be considered further by the Committee in relation with the implementation of the Global Strategy.

### **3. Proposed Draft Definition of Advertising in relation to health and nutrition claims**

The Delegation of China expressed the view that advertising should not be defined in the framework of Codex but should be left to national authorities.

The Commission recommended that the Committee on Food Labelling clarify in which text the definition should be included when finalised (ALINORM 07/30/REP, paras. 86-90).

The Commission adopted all the above texts at Step 5. They will be considered under **Agenda items 4b), 6 and 7.**

### **4. WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health**

The Commission considered the outcome of the consideration of the Global Strategy in the CCNFSDU and the CCFL and agreed that it would defer further consideration of the implementation of the Global Strategy to its next session in order to consider the outcome of the Committee on Food Labelling (ALINORM 07/30/REP, paras 181-188).

## **C. MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

### **Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses**

The Committee agreed to request the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission to approve new work on the revision of the Nutrient Reference Values of Vitamins and Minerals for Food Labelling Purposes (ALINORM 08/31/26, paras. 122-133 and Appendix VII)