

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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Agenda Item 9.2

CX/EXEC 16/71/12

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Seventy-first Session, FAO Headquarters  
Rome, Italy, 20-23 June 2016

### REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN OBSERVER STATUS

#### BACKGROUND

1. In July 2007, the Thirtieth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission adopted an amendment to the “Principles Concerning the Participation of International Non-Governmental Organizations in the Work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission” (hereinafter referred to as the “Principles”). As a result, Section VII Paragraph 6 of the aforementioned Principles reads now as follows: “*The Directors-General may terminate observer status if an Organization no longer meets the criteria in sections 3 and 4 above, or for reasons of exceptional nature, in accordance with the procedures set out in this section. [...]*”.
2. This amendment has provided a basis for reviewing the status of the current observers in the light of the criteria set out in the Principles.
3. In order to apply for and maintain observer status with the Codex Alimentarius Commission, an international non-governmental organization (NGO) must meet the criteria set out in paragraph 3 of the Principles, including the international in scope and structure of the NGO’s activities, have aims and purposes in conformity with the Statutes of Codex Alimentarius Commission, is concerned with matters covering a part or all of the work of Commission’s field of activity, and other criteria.
4. Furthermore, Section VII Paragraph 6 of the Principles provides that “*without prejudice to the preceding paragraph, an international non-governmental organization in Observer Status which has neither attended any meetings nor provided any written comments during a period of four years shall be deemed not to have sufficient interest to warrant the continuance of such relationship*”. The current review also takes this provision into account.
5. While the participation of NGOs benefits Codex work by increasing expertise available and enhancing transparency, arrangements with the NGOs, including the granting and maintaining of observer status, should be such that would advance the purposes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. In this context, and in the light of the above-mentioned provisions of the Principles, the Codex Secretariat has, in consultation with the legal services of FAO and WHO initiated a process of reviewing the NGOs in observer status with the Codex Alimentarius Commission.
6. All NGOs in observer status are concerned by periodic reviews. The present review of the existing observers has considered their participation in Codex activities in between January 2010 and September 2015.

## REVIEW PROCESS

7. As of 30 September 2015 there were a total of 164 NGOs in observer status with Codex Alimentarius Commission. Among them, ten NGOs were deemed still meeting the conditions set forth in Section VII, as they have only recently been granted with observer status. Among the final list of analyzed NGOs, 47 NGOs have been found, based on the preliminary search in the archive records maintained by Codex (e.g. Codex Reports, Physical Working Groups, Electronic Working Groups, communications from NGOs), to have neither attended any Codex sessions nor provided any written comments in the past 5 years (2010 – 2015).
8. According to the Principles (Section VII Paragraph 6), the Directors-General of FAO and WHO shall invite NGOs for which conditions indicated in Section VII Paragraph 6 materialize, to submit observations. By 2 October 2015, an enquiry was sent to the registered contact address of all the 47 NGOs identified as above. Where these addresses turned out to be obsolete or not optional, best efforts were made to find out new contact addresses and the query was forwarded to these addresses. The NGOs were invited to submit their observations by no later than 31 October 2015.
9. By 5 November 2015, replies were received from 27 NGOs out of the 47 contacted organizations. The Codex Secretariat acknowledged receipt of all observations received.
10. Among the 47 NGOs identified, 7 NGOs have submitted, in their written observations, proof of compliance with the criteria and conditions in the Principles (e.g. attendance at Codex meeting/submission of written comments in the last five years, membership and activities in at least three countries). These NGOs have been excluded from the review.
11. Among the remaining 40 NGOs, 19 NGOs did not meet the conditions set forth in Section VII Paragraph 6 of the Principles, and 18 did not reply by the deadline of 31 October 2015 and did not send replies even after a reminder was sent to them (Table I); 2 NGOs indicated that they were no longer interested to attend meetings as observers with Codex (Table II); 11 sent a reply within the deadline, 1 after the deadline, showing their interest in the work of Codex Alimentarius, asking for the permission to maintain the observer status (Table III); 7 NGOs provided different explanations on their lack of participation through years 2010 – 2015 (Table IV).

## TERMINATION OF OBSERVER STATUS

12. The Executive Committee is hereby invited, in accordance with Section VII Paragraph 6 of the Principles, to provide advice regarding the termination of Observer Status for NGOs listed in Table I and Table II. The remaining NGOs listed in Table III and Table IV should not be terminated of Observer Status as they expressed interest and added explanations on their participation in Codex activities.
13. The final decision on the termination of the Observer Status will be taken by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO, taking into account the observations submitted by the NGOs concerned and the advice of the Executive Committee. In evaluating the information received, the legal offices of FAO and WHO will be consulted as appropriate.

## TABLES

**Table I. NGOs (19) that did not provide evidence of meeting the conditions set forth in Section VII Paragraph 6 of the Principles.**

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Full Name(s)</b>
<b>ALACCTA</b>	Asociación Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Ciencia y Tecnología de Alimentos (Latin American and Caribbean Food Science and Technology Association)
<b>AVOC</b>	ASEAN Vegetable Oils Club
<b>BIOPOLYMER</b>	BIOPOLYMER International
<b>CIDE</b>	Commission Intersyndicale des Déshydrateurs Européens
<b>COPANT</b>	Comisión Panamericana de Normas Técnicas
<b>EACA</b>	European Association of Communications Agencies
<b>EAN</b>	EAN International
<b>ECFF</b>	European Chilled Food Federation (ECFF)
<b>EFFA</b>	European Flavour and Fragrance Association
<b>EUROPABIO</b>	European Association for Bioindustries
<b>EWf</b>	European Wax Federation
<b>HIPA</b>	Honey International Packers Association
<b>ICTSD</b>	International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development
<b>IFEH</b>	The International Federation of Environmental Health
<b>INEC</b>	Institut européen des industries de la gomme de caroube
<b>ISF</b>	International Seed Federation
<b>PAN</b>	Pesticides Action Network
<b>WAAP</b>	World Association for Animal Production
<b>WMA</b>	World Medical Association

**Table II. NGOs (2) not having an interest in attending meetings of Codex as observer.**

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Full Name(s)</b>
<b>PROFEL</b>	Organisation européenne des industries transformatrices de fruits et de légumes
<b>TI</b>	Transfrigoroute International

**Table III. NGOs (12) showing their interest in the work of Codex Alimentarius, asking for permission to maintain observer status.**

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Full Name(s)</b>
<b>AIPCE-CEP<sup>1</sup></b>	Association des Industries du Poisson de l'U.E. and Comité des Organisations Nationales des Importateurs et Exportateurs de Poisson de l'U.E. - CEP
<b>APIMONDIA</b>	Fédération internationale des associations d'apiculture
<b>CLAM</b>	Comité de liaison de l'agrumiculture méditerranéenne
<b>COLEACP/PIP</b>	Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee for the Promotion of Tropical Fruits, Off-Season Vegetables, Flowers, Ornamental Plants and Spices
<b>EAPA</b>	European Animal Protein Association
<b>EFM</b>	European Flour Millers
<b>EUROGLACES</b>	European Ice Cream Association
<b>GREENPEACE</b>	Greenpeace International
<b>IHPC</b>	International Hydrolyzed Protein Council
<b>PRRI</b>	Public Research and Regulation Initiative
<b>WFA</b>	World Federation of Advertisers
<b>WGPAT</b>	Working Group on Prolamin Analysis and Toxicity

**Table IV. NGOs (7) providing different explanations on their lack of participation through years 2010 – 2015**

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Full Name(s)</b>
<b>BEUC</b>	Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs
<b>CLITRAVI</b>	Centre de liaison des industries transformatrices de viandes de l'UE
<b>ECA</b>	European Cocoa Association
<b>EFFPRA</b>	European Fat Processors and Renderers Association
<b>EPA</b>	European Association of Polyol Producers (EPA)
<b>WPCT</b>	World Processing Tomato Council
<b>WRO</b>	World Renderers Organization

<sup>1</sup> AIPCE-CEP replied on Wed 3/16/2016 11:28 AM