



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAM
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
Fourth Session, Rome, 7-14 November 1966

COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE - THIRD MEETING
Vienna, 24-27 May 1966

REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL MINERAL WATERS
24-25 February 1966 at Baden/Aargau

Meeting place: Kursaal Baden
Chairman: Prof. Dr. O. Högl, Chairman of the Codex Committee
Participants: See appended list (appendix I)

AGENDA

1. Opening ceremony
2. Adoption of Agenda.
3. Discussion on the nature of the Codex standards and their definition.
4. Statements by delegations of various countries of their official or non-official regulations governing mineral waters (definition, acceptance, operating conditions and use).
5. Examination of international agreements (draft agreements) on mineral waters.
6. Discussion of draft Codex standard for Europe on natural mineral waters.
7. Drafting of resolutions.
8. Miscellaneous business

Point 1: Opening of the meeting

Prof. Högl welcomed the delegates and observers from nine countries, and FAO and WHO representatives (see list of participants) represented at this first meeting of the committee. He recalled that at the third session of the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission, 19 to 28 October 1965 in Rome, the Government of Switzerland was designated to hold the chairmanship of the committee for one year. He then made a short statement on the organization of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in general and its specific tasks in connection with natural mineral waters. He was further able to inform the meeting that the Swiss Government had appointed him chairman of its national committee for an additional three years and had placed an office at his disposal.

The Committee unanimously decided that Switzerland, with Prof. Högl at the head of its delegation, should continue to hold responsibility for the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters.

Point 2: Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted unanimously and without comment.

Point 3: Discussion on the nature of the Codex standards and their definition

Prof. Högl briefly commented on the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius (Appendix III of the Report of the Third Session of the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission, Rome, 19-28 October 1965) established by the Codex Committee on General Principles at its first meeting (4-8 October 1965 in Paris) governing the purpose of the Codex Alimentarius, its scope and nature of Codex standards. He also referred to the Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and indicated the ten steps necessary before a regional or world standard could be printed (see Annex IV of the same report).

After a general discussion of a standard for natural mineral waters from which it is clear that mineral water must be distinguished from ordinary drinking water, the nine proposals submitted in the working paper (Baden 3) were thoroughly discussed. In as far as possible the suggestions and demands of the various delegations will be considered when general proposals on elaboration of these standards are considered (see point 7).

Point 4: Statements by delegations of various countries of their official or non-official regulations governing mineral waters (definition, acceptance, operating conditions and use).

Before the meeting various questions regarding laws governing mineral waters were submitted to the delegates, in document Baden 4. Shortly afterwards information was obtained from five countries represented at the meeting, Austria, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany and Poland. Spain and Yugoslavia were unfortunately not able to send delegations to Baden but sent written replies while the chairman himself was able to report on conditions in Switzerland.

Some delegations supplemented their replies orally. The representatives of professional bodies of Belgium also reported on laws in their country.

All these statements were found highly informative and it appeared that it will be necessary to reach certain compromises in European-wide standards.

Points 5 and 6: Examination of international agreements (draft agreements) on mineral waters and discussion of draft Codex standard for Europe on mineral waters.

As the two items coincide, they are dealt with together.

A draft of the Union européenne des sources d'eaux minérales naturelles - UNSESEM (European Union of natural mineral water resources) was thoroughly examined and points that might be used for a Codex standard on natural mineral waters were considered.

We shall not here go into all proposals and individual contributions of the discussion for lack of space. However, the suggestions of the various delegations in connection with this draft will be summarized in a working paper that will go to the Drafting Committee.

As it was impossible to prepare final texts in such a short time this Drafting Committee was set up, its terms of reference being to prepare a text for transmittal to the participants containing all the various proposals and suggestions. The delegation will then be requested to send their observations to the chairman of the Committee prior to its next meeting where the draft texts would be discussed.

The following countries were placed on the drafting committee under the chairmanship of Switzerland (Prof. Högl): Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany and Italy plus one representative of the Coordinating Committee for Europe (Dr. Wildner, Austria).

In order for this Committee to be able to do good work promptly, the countries were requested not to appoint more than one, or at the maximum - two, representatives with mastery or good knowledge of at least two languages, since no translators would be available and the texts will have to be written in both German and French.

The names of the delegates will be communicated later. The Drafting Committee was supposed to meet at the end of April 1966 in Baden but this meeting had to be postponed for organizational reasons.

As guidance for its work, aside from the working paper mentioned above, there are the general proposals for standards for natural mineral waters (see point 7 below).

Point 7: Drafting of resolutions

According to the decision of the third session of the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission, the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters was set up, the title being approved by the meeting.

The general proposals regarding standards for natural mineral waters under the Codex Alimentarius were briefly discussed and approved with slight amendments. Some delegations have certain reservations to make on certain points, primarily

because the draft texts are not in concordance with their countries' laws. They are, however, prepared to submit them to their countries with an explanation of the reasons therefor and to urge the competent authorities to consider adapting them to their own circumstances.

The texts with the comments appear in Appendix II. The proposals of the first meeting of the committee and those minutes will be transmitted to the third meeting of the Coordinating Committee for Europe at its meeting from 24 to 27 May in Vienna.

Point 8: Miscellaneous business

Mr. Reinle referred to the proposal of the delegations of Austria, Spain and Switzerland drawn up at the General Assembly in Berlin which might also be considered in the elaboration of standards by this committee, viz.:

1. Regulations governing soft drinks manufacture with mineral water is solely the competence of the Groupement européen des sources d'eaux minérales naturelles (European Association for Natural Mineral Water Resources) and the Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters.
2. As regards points not referring to mineral water, an agreement between UNESM and the Aerated Drink Association of the EEC Countries (UNESDA) is desirable.
3. As a matter of principles, we feel that any fraud or falsification to consumers as regards the contents, quality of products, in the labelling or in advertising (publicity) must be prevented.

The Committee took cognizance of this proposal and scheduled it for later discussion.

The next meeting of the Committee will probably be held in June 1967 in Switzerland.

Any comments of these minutes should be addressed to the Chairman of the Committee within a month, after which time they will be considered as having been adopted as they stand.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON NATURAL MINERAL WATERS
First Meeting, Baden, 24-25 February 1966

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chairman: Prof. Dr O. Högl, Codex Alimentarius, Taubenstrasse 18, Berne

Representatives

Germany (F.R.): Regierungsassessor J.B. Mennicken, Bundesministerium für Gesundheitswesen, Bad Godesberg (délégué)
Regierungsrat Dr. M. Kneilmann, Bundesministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Forsten, Bonn (délégué)
Dr. G. Schröder, Verband Deutscher Mineralbrunnen, Kennedyallee 28, Bad Godesberg (conseiller)
Mlle A. Stödt, Verband Deutscher Mineralbrunnen, Kennedyallee 28, Bad Godesberg
Rechtsanwalt Dr O. Wuttke, Verband Deutscher Mineralbrunnen, Kennedyallee 28, Bad Godesberg (conseiller)

Austria: Dr R. Wildner, Oesterreichische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Volksgesundheit, Stubenring 1, Wien I (délégué)
Dr G. Bancalari, Oesterreichischer Heilbäder-Verband, Preblausauerbrunn, Kärnten (conseiller)

France: M. A. Brailon, Inspecteur principal du service de la répression des fraudes, 42bis, Rue de Bourgogne, Paris 7e (délégué)
Mme le Dr O. Lacambre, Ministère des Affaires sociales, 8, Rue de la Tour des Dames, Paris 9e (délégué)
M. A. Lafont, Ministère des Affaires sociales, 8, rue de la Tour des Dames, Paris 9e (délégué)
M. R. Fayard, Chambre syndicale du commerce et de l'industrie des eaux minérales, 24, Rue du 4 Septembre, Paris 2e (conseiller)
M. J.P. Maret, Eaux Minérales du Bassin de Vichy, 114, Bd. Malesherbes, Paris (conseiller)

Luxembourg:

M. J. Barthel, Laboratoire des eaux à l'Institut d'Hygiène et de la Santé publique, Rue Auguste Lumière 1A, Luxembourg (délégué)

Poland:

M. J. Potocki, Ministère de la Santé publique, Ulica Skalbmierska 11A m6, Warszawa 45 (délégué)

Czechoslovakia:

Ing. J. Novotny, Heilquelleninspektorat, Gesundheitsministerium, W. Piecka 98, Praha-Vinohrady (délégué)

Switzerland:

Dr. F. Achermann, chimiste cantonal, 5, rue J.-de-Hochberg, Neuchâtel (délégué)

Dr. E. Feisst, Casa St. Uberto, Brissago (délégué)

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M. J. Bourgeois, Agis Getränke AG, Drahtzugstrasse 74, Zürich (conseiller)

M. E. Buchenhorner, Mineralquelle Eptingen AG, Sissach (conseiller)

M. J. Busslinger, Mineralquelle Adelboden AG, Adelboden (conseiller)

Dr. F. Glauser, Verband Schweiz. Mineralquellen, Limmatquai 94, Zürich (conseiller)

M. K. Hürlimann, Elmag Glarus Mineralquellen Elm, Glarus (conseiller)

M. W. Meier, Mineralquelle Eglisau AG, Eglisau (conseiller)

M. E. Reinle, Mineralquelle Eglisau AG, Eglisau (conseiller)

M. W. Reinle, Mineralquelle Eglisau AG, Eglisau (conseiller)

M. G. Rouge, Henniez-Lithinée SA, EMARO SA, Romanel (conseiller)

M. A. Schirmer, Verband Schweiz. Badekurorte, Stadtbachstrasse 12, Baden (conseiller)

M. P. Walser, Passugger Heilquellen AG, Passugg (conseiller)

M. H. Widmer, Weissenburg Mineralthermen AG, Thun (conseiller)

Dr. Ph. E. Zinsli, Schweiz. Gesellschaft für Balneologie und Klimatologie, Passugg (conseiller)

M. H. Zogg, Elmag Glarus Mineralquellen Elm, Glarus (conseiller)

Observers:

Belgium:

M. P. Bedoret, Chambre syndicale des eaux minérales, 26, rue du Lombard, Bruxelles 1

M. M. Cats, Chambre syndicale des eaux minérales, 26, rue du Lombard, Bruxelles 1

M. R. Delville, Chambre syndicale des eaux minérales, 26, rue du Lombard, Bruxelles 1

Italy:

Dr A. Valente, Terme Montecatini, viale Verdi 41, Montecatini

Av. F. Violati, Federazione Nazionale delle Industrie Idro-Termali, Viale Liegi, 52, Rome

International Organizations

FAO:

M. J. Nemeth, Assistant Officer, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Program, Via delle Terme di Caracalla, Rome

WHO:

Dr B. Dieterich, Sanitary engineer, Community Water Supply, Palais des Nations, Genève

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe: Dr. R. Wildner, Oesterreichische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Volksgesundheit, Stubenring 1, Wien I

Groupement européen des sources d'eaux minérales naturelles: M. R. Loubet, Chambre syndicale du commerce et de l'industrie des eaux minérales, 24, Rue du 4 Septembre, Paris 2e

Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters, Baden meeting, 24-25 February 1966

General proposals on setting of standards of natural mineral waters as approved for the Codex Alimentarius

Proposal 1 Definition of natural mineral waters

The description of mineral waters must distinguish them from ordinary drinking water because of their health-promoting qualities and/or geological-hydrological and chemical-physical properties.

Germany had certain reservations, since such a definition is not in accord with legislation in force in Germany at present.

Proposal 2 Legislation governing mineral water sources

In each country a neutral body should be vested with the necessary competence to designate mineral water as such.

Germany had certain reservations, since no such body is envisaged in its laws.

Proposal 3 Mineral water with curative properties, mineral water as a daily drink

This proposal was not deemed necessary and was therefore deleted.

Proposal 4 Treatment of natural mineral waters

The labelling of natural mineral water must indicate whether in order that it may be used as a daily drink it has been carbonated or purified of certain undesirable elements (for instance, ferric hydroxide or hydrogen sulphide).

France had reservations with regard to carbonation, since it allows only the use of carbon dioxide from the same source as the mineral water itself.

Czechoslovakia too had reservations, since it does not permit aeration with carbon dioxide.

Belgium had reservations, since it, and certain other countries, permits undeclared decantation.

Proposal 5 Use of carbon dioxide from the mineral water source itself

When carbon dioxide from the same source is added to natural mineral water, this should be stated on the label.

Czechoslovakia had reservations to make, since it does not permit carbonation.

France also had reservations, since it requires declaration of re-aeration even with gas from the same source.