

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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CX 4/10

**CL 2009/37-GP
December 2009**

TO: Codex Contact Points
Interested International Organizations

FROM: Secretariat of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, 00153 Rome, Italy

SUBJECT: Proposal to amend the terms of reference of the Committee on General Principles

DEADLINE: 15 February 2010

Background

The present terms of reference (TOR) of the Committee read as follows:

“To deal with such procedural and general matters as are referred to it by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Such matters have included the establishment of the General Principles which define the purpose and scope of the Codex Alimentarius, the nature of Codex standards and the forms of acceptance by countries of Codex standards; the development of Guidelines for Codex Committees; the development of a mechanism for examining any economic impact statements submitted by governments concerning possible implications for their economies of some of the individual standards or some of the provisions thereof; the establishment of a Code of Ethics for the International Trade in Food.”

The 25th Session of the Committee on General Principles (CCGP) proposed to the Commission to delete the second sentence of the TOR because it made reference to the acceptance proposal and also was phrased in the terms of previous activities and not accurately describing its current responsibilities. There was some opposition to this because the deletion of the reference to economic impact statements.¹

The 32nd Session of the Commission discussed the matter as follows:

“Several delegations, while supporting the deletion of the reference to the acceptance procedure, expressed the view that other aspects of the work of the Committee on General Principles, such as the mechanism to examine the economic impact of standards, should be retained. These delegations proposed to review carefully the terms of reference of the Committee in view of its overarching nature and the implications of its work, taking into account the implementation of the Strategic Plan. The Commission therefore agreed to request the Committee on General Principles to review its terms of reference and did not make any amendment to the current text.”²

¹ ALINORM 09/32/33, paras 142-146

² ALINORM 09/32/REP, para 2

Proposal

Amend the TOR of the Committee as follows:

~~“To deal with such procedural and general matters as are referred to it by the Codex Alimentarius Commission or one of its subsidiary bodies.~~

To endorse procedural provisions/ texts forwarded by subsidiary bodies (e.g. work management, risk analysis).

To propose amendments to the Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and to develop its structure.

To keep under review the Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food, the Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Principles for Risk Analysis for Application by Governments.

~~Such matters have included the establishment of the General Principles which define the purpose and scope of the Codex Alimentarius, the nature of Codex standards and the forms of acceptance by countries of Codex standards; the development of Guidelines for Codex Committees; the development of a mechanism for examining any economic impact statements submitted by governments concerning possible implications for their economies of some of the individual standards or some of the provisions thereof; the establishment of a Code of Ethics for the International Trade in Food.”~~

Governments and international organizations wishing to submit comments on the above proposal should do so in writing, preferably by E-mail to the Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy (Email: codex@fao.org, fax : +39 06 57054593) **before 28 February 2010.**