

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of  
the United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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CL 2012/17-EURO  
June 2012

**TO:** Codex Contact Points  
Interested International Organizations

**FROM:** Secretariat,  
Codex Alimentarius Commission

**SUBJECT:** Request for comments and updated information on: national food control systems, Codex Contact Points and other national structures for Codex matters including consumer participation in food standards setting; use of Codex standards and related texts at national level; nutrition issues in the region; and participation in Codex work and in FAO/WHO activities on scientific advice.

**DEADLINE:** 01 September 2012

**COMMENTS:**

**To:**

Secretariat,  
Codex Alimentarius Commission,  
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**With a copy to:**

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## BACKGROUND

The present Circular Letter aims to collect information on developments since the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee at the national level in the countries of the Codex European region to facilitate discussion of issues relating to national food control systems, consumer participation in food standards setting and the involvement in Codex work and use of Codex standards at the national level. A questionnaire is attached to the present Circular Letter to continue gathering information on the status of food control systems development, current priorities and capacity development/training needs.

## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

In preparation of the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe (CCEURO), members of the CCEURO region and relevant international organizations are requested to **provide updated information** since the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee, using the template for the submission of information, preferably by e-mail, not later than **1 September 2012**.

**Template for the submission of information of CCEURO countries**  
**(updated information since the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee)**

***Question 1: Strengthening National Food Control Systems***

1. Please describe any significant development/actions taken in your country to improve national food control systems since the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee. These may include actions relating to:
  - a. National food law and regulations;
  - b. Food safety policy/strategy (e.g. risk analysis);
  - c. Food control management (e.g. food control administration structures);
  - d. Inspection services;
  - e. Laboratory infrastructure and activities;
  - f. Trade facilitation agreements;
  - g. Information dissemination; and
  - h. Training/capacity building
2. Please describe recently established mechanisms/structures for inter-sectoral/multi-disciplinary collaboration for risk assessment, risk management and/or risk communication purposes at national level (including or other than National Codex Committee) as well as the effectiveness of these mechanisms/structures.

***Question 2: Strengthening Codex structures at the national level***

3. Please describe any significant actions that your country has taken since the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee to strengthen Codex structures at the national level and to promote more effective participation in Codex.
4. Please describe the structure, composition and operation of the National Codex Committee (or equivalent or similar structure), or plans for its establishment.
5. Please describe:
  - a. any specific actions taken since the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee aimed at strengthening the Codex Contact Point (i.e. inter-sectoral consultative processes on Codex matters, including promoting increased involvement and participation of consumers and other stakeholders) ;
  - b. current shortcomings identified for the Codex Contact Point and National Codex Committee (or equivalent or similar structure); and
  - c. identified need for capacity development to strengthen the Codex Contact Point and National Codex Committee (or equivalent or similar structure).

***Question 3: Priority areas for implementation and related training needs***

6. Please describe:
  - a. Current priority food safety issues to be addressed nationally and regionally;
  - b. Current priority areas for training (ongoing and for future); and
  - c. what additional support through training and development is required.

***Question 4: Codex Standards: national priorities and interests***

7. Please describe:
  - a. which specific Codex standards and related texts (currently under development or already existent) are currently of most importance and interest to your country;
  - b. what are the current priority areas for setting national standards; and
  - c. how Codex standards are currently being used and their relevance at national level.

**Question 5: Scientific activities (risk-based approach) and data collection activities**

8. Please describe developments since the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee regarding:
  - a. areas of risk-based approach application (e.g. monitoring programmes, sampling programmes, inspection, scientific basis of food safety decisions);
  - b. key data collection activities ongoing to identify or monitor key food safety hazards and contaminants in the food supply and to identify or monitor foodborne disease and outbreaks;
  - c. use of data collected through inspection and control or monitoring by institutions/agencies involved in food safety risk assessment and/or management;
  - d. mechanisms for identifying national food consumption data in relation to consumer exposure assessment for food safety hazards; and
  - e. ongoing activities or interests in relevant scientific advice on risk assessment, such as risk/benefit analysis (e.g. food safety risk vs nutritional benefit).

***Question 6: Issues related to nutrition in the region***

9. Please describe any developments since the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee regarding issues related to nutrition, such as: obesity, overweight, underweight, micronutrient deficiencies and any public health-oriented actions undertaken, including nutrition education and the use of nutritional labelling and claims, and implementation of the WHO *Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health*.

***Question 7: Cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations***

10. Please provide information on initiatives since the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee at national and regional level to promote coordination of work on food standards with other international and regional organizations.

***Question 8: Any other matters***

11. Please provide any other comments you would like to make in any of the areas covered by the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe.