Codex Alimentarius Commission (28th Session)  
Rome, 4-9 July 2005

European Community Comments on  
Relations between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other  
International Organizations

(Agenda item 14, ALINORM 05/28/9E)

Member States Competence  
Member States Vote

The Member States of the European Community (hereinafter referred to as “the MSEC”) welcome the opportunity to discuss Relations between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other International Organizations.

A. Relations between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other International Intergovernmental Organizations

Relations between Codex and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)

Bearing in mind provisions of Article 3(4) of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), the MSEC consider that this is of paramount importance that “the relevant international organizations, and their subsidiary bodies, in particular the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the International Office of Epizootics, and the international and regional organizations operating within the framework of the International Plant Protection Convention” strengthen their cooperation, their coordination of work, and exchange information and expertise where appropriate.

Possible problems such as overlap of work, conflicting international standards (or lack of international standards) should be avoided. Technical consultations, ad hoc working groups such as the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety or any other possible form of regular dialogue between the relevant international organizations, including FAO and WHO, should be encouraged.

The MSEC are in favour of the endorsement of the Executive Committee recommendations addressing this.
B. Relations between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other International Non-Governmental Organizations

Non-Governmental Organizations with Observer Status in the Codex Alimentarius Commission

The Member States of the European Community take this opportunity to support the European Consumers' Organisation (BEUC) initiatives to gain an Observer status.

Relations between Codex and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

The Member States of the European Community have noted the information provided and support the views of the Executive Committee and point in particular to:

- ISO/CD 22519 (ISO 22005) (Traceability in feed and food chain) and ISO/TS 22003 (Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of food safety management systems): In order to avoid any overlap of work or conflicting standards, the MSEC are of the opinion that the attention of ISO should be formally drawn to the “Principles for the Application of Traceability/Product Tracing” discussed at the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS).