

# Codex Meeting

Jim Roza is the Now delegate to Codex and has sent back this report. Advise if you wish to receive future reports by clicking on the return button.

From: Jim Roza  
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2005 10:05 AM

Dear Colleagues:

Risk analysis has moved back to step 2 in the Codex process. The United States will co-chair an electronic working group with Malaysia and Morocco that will attempt to identify the object and scope of risk analysis and those elements which pertain to it. A circular letter will be distributed for comments & review. This will be followed by a meeting to be convened a couple of days prior to the next CCGP in 2006. The results of these actions will then be considered by CCGP at that year's meeting.

This is the end result of a debate between delegations who debated whether it was the charge of CCGP to develop guidelines and if so, to what extent. After much discussion, the delegations basically split along four lines, 1.) those who wanted to continue the work 2.) those who wanted it discontinued 3.) those that felt that there were elements that could be salvaged and pursued i.e., risk assessment and 4.) those who wanted a new start. Since a consensus could not be established it was determined that a new working group chaired by the US (who favored discontinuation) could formulate a document that would address the concerns about the precautionary principle and would be accepted by all. Although the precautionary principle still is a major threat, the push back to step two and a committee chaired by two delegations that are opposed to PP & CCGPs involvement with risk analysis is a positive outcome.

In regards to a redrafting of the Codex definition for food, the committee achieved consensus not to alter the definition at this time. There were concerns that a re-draft of the original definition would have had negative consequences for food supplements by eliminating those products that are either regulated as food or drugs from the food category.

The committee also achieved consensus to eliminate the Codex acceptance procedure since it hasn't been used by member countries for a long time. The Codex secretariat was given the charge to initiate informal consultations with the WTO secretariat to monitor the use of Codex standards at a national level. The National Health Federation (NHF) attempted but failed to incorporate language from the abolished procedures which state that the Codex Alimentarius is not a substitute for, or

alternative to, national legislation into the Codex Alimentarius General Principles. Although their attempt failed, NHF or other delegations can make an appeal to the Codex Commission to have the General Principles modified to include that statement.

Kind regards,  
James Roza  
Director of Regulatory and External Affairs  
NOW  
395 S. Glen Ellyn Rd.  
Bloomington, Ill. 60108  
Phone: 630-545-9098 ext.120  
Fax: 630-858-8656  
Cell: 630-881-9818

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