

# Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 64, No. 26

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 99-010N]

#### Codex Alimentarius Commission: Sessions of the Executive Committee and the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex)

**AGENCY:** Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Under Secretary for Food Safety; United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA); United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are sponsoring a public meeting on February 11, 1999. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items to be discussed at the Forty-sixth Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Twenty-third Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission which will be held in Rome, Italy from June 24-25, 1999, and June 28-July 3, 1999, respectively.

**DATES:** The public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 11, 1999, from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM.

**ADDRESSES:** The public meeting will be held at the Arlington Hilton, 950 N. Stafford Street (Ballston Metro stop), Arlington, VA. Send an original and two copies of comments to: FSIS Docket Clerk, Docket #99-010N, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 102, Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700. All comments submitted in response to this notice will be available for public inspection in the Docket Clerk's Office

between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** F. Edward Scarbrough, Ph.D., U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius, Room 4861, South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 14th and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250; Telephone (202) 205-7760.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) was established in 1962 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization. Codex is the principal international organization for encouraging fair international trade in food and protecting the health and economic interests of consumers. Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to ensure that the world's food supply is sound, wholesome, free from adulteration, and correctly labeled. Codex meets biennially. The Executive Committee serves as the executive body of Codex between the biennial meetings.

##### Issues To be Discussed at the February 11, 1999, Public Meeting

1. Report on the Forty-fifth Session of the Executive Committee. (This includes proposals to the Commission regarding the general orientation and program of work of the Commission.)

2. Reports by Coordinators on Regional Activities. (Coordinators of each of the five Regional Coordinating Committees report on regional concerns about food standards and food control.)

3. Consideration of Draft Standards and Related Texts. (These are items being considered at Step 5 or Step 8 of the Codex Procedure for the elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts.)

4. Consideration of Proposals to Elaborate New Standards and/or Related Texts and Other Matters Arising from Reports of Codex Committees. (Items 5 through 9 are issues currently being considered in the Codex Committee on General Principles. They pertain to matters affecting the operations of the Commission.)

5. Measures Intended to Facilitate Consensus Affecting the Operations of Codex.

6. Review of the General Principles of Codex.

A. Revision of the Acceptance Procedure.

B. Consideration of special treatment of developing Countries.

7. Review of the Status and Objectives of Codex Texts.

8. Review of the Statements of Principle on the Role of Science and the Extent to Which other Factors are Taken into Account—Application in the Case of BST and PST.

9. Procedures concerning the participation of International Non-governmental Organizations.

10. Designation of Host Governments for Codex Committees.

11. Welcome public comments on any matters believed to be appropriate by Codex.

##### Public Meeting

The public meeting is scheduled for February 11, 1999, at the Arlington Hilton, 950 N. Stafford Street, (Ballston Metro stop) Arlington, VA. Attendees will hear brief descriptions of the issues and will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. Comments also may be sent to the FSIS Docket Room (see **ADDRESSES**). Please state that your comments relate to Codex activities and specify which issues your comments address.

Done at Washington, DC on February 3, 1999.

**Patrick Clerkin,**

*Director, U.S. Codex Staff.*

[FR Doc. 99-3116 Filed 2-4-99; 1:49 pm]

**BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P**

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Committee of Scientists Meeting

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Committee of Scientists will hold a public teleconference call on Tuesday, February 23, 1999. The teleconference call will begin at 11:00 a.m. and end at 2:00 p.m. (eastern standard time). The purpose of the telephone conference call is for the Committee of Scientists to continue discussion of its report and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Chief of the Forest