

# Codex Alimentarius Commission

## Transcript from part of a meeting held in Rome, Italy, on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2005.

### Agenda item 16

#### *Other Matters Arising from FAO and WHO: World Health Assembly Resolution on Infant and Young Children Nutrition*

**Chairman:** .....could I ask WHO for the third part please?

**Dr. Schlundt (WHO):** Yeah, the third item, we couldn't find any other staff so I have to talk about that.

It's about the infant and young child nutrition, the World Health Assembly Resolution, from this year's World Health Assembly 2005. In this Resolution the World Health Assembly clearly states a number of things, and some of them are directly relevant to Codex work.

In the Resolution it states that there is a problem of contamination of powdered infant formula with micro organisms, including *Enterobacter sakazakii*, but also other micro organisms.

It states also that caregivers of infants should be informed about the risks associated with this contamination.

In addition it urges Member States to ensure that this information, where applicable, is conveyed through an explicit warning on packaging.

The Resolution also requests the Codex Alimentarius Commission to complete, urgently, its ongoing work on addressing this risk, and to establish appropriate microbiological criteria or standards related to *E. sakazakii* and other relevant micro organisms in powdered infant formula.

The Resolution also requests WHO, in collaboration with FAO, to develop guidelines for caregivers on the preparation, use, handling and storage of infant formula, so as to minimize the risks.

In addition to this, the Resolution also gives two important directions, one to Codex, one to the Director-General of WHO, in relation to the interaction between Codex and the World Health Assembly.

The Resolution requests the Codex Alimentarius Commission to continue to give full consideration when elaborating standards, guidelines and recommendations, to those Resolutions of the Health Assembly that are relevant in the framework of its operational mandate.

And, it requests the Director-General of WHO to report to the Health Assembly each even year about any progress in the consideration of matters referred to the Codex Alimentarius Commission for its action. This means that in 2006 we will have to report back about the activities in Codex to the World Health Assembly.

We will try to keep Parmesan Cheese out of that report! (*Joke*)

Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you very much.

These are very important matters so it's important the we, the Commission note these, and also could we perhaps just get some clarification of where we are with this *Enterobacter*. Is it at CC.....is it at the Food Hygiene Committee? Yes.

**Dr. Schlundt (WHO):** The work is ongoing in the CCFH, and there's been a working group meeting last November, and the outcome of that working group was discussed at the CCFH in March, I believe.

And there's been ongoing work, hopefully resulting in something that could be criteria for these products at the next CCFH, which I'm sorry to say is only in 2006. I think it's October or November 2006; but that's just the unavoidable delay.

Thank you.

**Chairman:** Okay. Thank you very much for all this information. Can we now close this agenda item or does anybody want to make any comment?

We thank the organizations FAO and WHO for the information. We also thank them for providing us with, through the expert bodies, with the expert, the scientific basis for our standards.

*Transcribed from audio recordings available online in English at  
[ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/audio/cac\\_28/audio\\_en.htm](ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/audio/cac_28/audio_en.htm)*

*See [ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/audio/cac\\_28/recordings\\_en/07-07-05%20PM%203.mp3](ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/audio/cac_28/recordings_en/07-07-05%20PM%203.mp3)  
(Thursday , 7 July, 14:30-17:30, Part 3).*