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Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA  
**Federal Office of Public Health FOPH**  
Division of International Affairs

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To  
Members of the European Region  
(CCEURO)  
Codex Alimentarius Commission  
c/o Codex Contact Points

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Liebefeld, 27<sup>th</sup> August 2008

**Codex Coordinating Committee for Europe (CCEURO)  
26<sup>th</sup> Session, Warsaw, Poland, 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of Switzerland, and in my capacity as Chairperson of the FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committee for Europe (CCEURO), I wish to extend a personal invitation to Members of the CCEURO Region to attend the forthcoming session of the CCEURO which will take place from 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

This 26<sup>th</sup> session of the CCEURO is indeed a very special event since it is a **joint venture between the Governments of the Republic of Poland and Switzerland**. Convened under the authority of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Poland, the 26<sup>th</sup> session will take place in Warsaw, Poland. The formal Invitation and Provisional Agenda for this session were issued by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO and sent out to all Codex Contact Points last June.

Prior to the 26<sup>th</sup> session, an **FAO/WHO Regional Workshop on the Codex Alimentarius will take place in Warsaw on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2008**. This important event is primarily targeted towards delegations from East and Central European Countries.

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However, “Codex Newcomers” from other countries who wish to attend the Workshop will also be admitted, upon prior request.

### **New On-line Discussion Group**

With less than six weeks to go until the CCEURO session, I wish to set up an **On-line Discussion Group**.

### **Main objectives**

The **main objectives** of this On-line Discussion Group will be as follows:

- To share and disseminate information related to the CCEURO and the FAO/WHO Regional Workshop on the Codex Alimentarius ;
- To answer any questions that participants might have as the CCEURO approaches;
- To enhance the overall participation and preparedness for both these important events.

### **The On-line Discussion Group Audience**

All information issued by Switzerland will be sent to the official Codex Contact Points of the members of the CCEURO region by E-mail. I kindly request all those who will receive this information to share it with all interested parties in their countries, including their country delegates once these have been nominated.

### **Important websites**

The following websites will be updated regularly in order to provide you with the most recent information.

The Codex Alimentarius Commission Website: [www.codexalimentarius.net](http://www.codexalimentarius.net)

The Codex Trust Fund Website: [www.who.int/foodsafety/codex/trustfund/en/](http://www.who.int/foodsafety/codex/trustfund/en/)

The Swiss CCEURO Website: [www.codexeurope.ch](http://www.codexeurope.ch)

The Polish Codex Website: [www.ijhar-s.gov.pl](http://www.ijhar-s.gov.pl)

### **Working Documents**

As stated earlier, the official Invitations and Provisional Agendas in English, French and Spanish were issued by the Directors-General of the FAO and WHO last June. These documents are also available on the above-given Websites.

You can access the available working documents which have already been issued in view of the CCEURO session on the Codex Alimentarius Commission website. The information regarding the FAO/WHO Regional Workshop on the Codex Alimentarius will be made available shortly on the Swiss CCEURO Website as well as on the Polish Codex Website. All working documents which will be translated into Russian will also be posted on both Websites.

With this first Newsletter, I hope that I have provided you with some preliminary information regarding our forthcoming events. More substantial information regarding the various Agenda Items will follow shortly.

I sincerely hope that our On-line Discussion Group will be a dynamic “lieu d’échanges” and that you will not hesitate to put forward any queries, comments, suggestions, etc. that you may have regarding our meetings. I look forward to reading your e-mails.

Yours sincerely,

Awilo Ochieng Pernet, Chairperson  
CCEURO