

**Decree No. 2-03-140 of 6 Dhul Hijja 1425 (17 January 2005) establishing
the National Codex Alimentarius Committee**

(OG No 5288 of Thursday, 3 February 2005, page 131)

THE PRIME MINISTER,

Having regard to Article 63 of the Constitution;

After examination by the Council of Ministers at its meeting on 24 Dhul Kaada 1425 (6 January 2005),

Decrees:

Article 1 - A National Codex Alimentarius Committee (NCC) is hereby established within the government authority in charge of agriculture. Its mission shall be to study issues relating to Codex Alimentarius standards and to advise the government on the national implications of these standards.

Article 2 - In this capacity, the NCC shall be responsible for giving its opinion on:

- The proposals of the Codex Alimentarius Commission responsible for implementing the joint programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) on food standards;
- The participation of national delegations to the works of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies;
- The proposals for standards that Morocco intends to submit to the Codex Alimentarius Commission with a view to their adoption as Codex standards;
- The adoption of Codex standards as Moroccan standards within the framework of the legal provisions governing national standardization;
- Studies and research relating to food standardization and safety in connection with the works of the Codex Alimentarius;
- Any other questions relating to the Codex Alimentarius.

Article 3: The NCC comprises, under the chairmanship of the Minister in charge of agriculture or his representative:

A representative of the government authorities in charge of:

- agriculture;
- health;
- industry and commerce;
- foreign trade;
- maritime fisheries;
- environment;
- interior;
- justice;
- finances;
- higher education;
- executives training;

- scientific research;
- foreign affairs and cooperation.

Where the nature of the issues dealt with by the NCC so requires, representatives of other ministerial departments may also participate in the works of the said committee:

- five representatives of the most representative group of companies in Morocco designated by said group;
- a representative for each of the federations of consumer associations, designated by said federation.

The President may invite to meetings of the NCC, in an advisory capacity, persons with experience in areas related to the works of the Codex Alimentarius.

Article 3 - The secretariat of the NCC is provided by the Directorate for Plant Protection, Technical Controls, and Fraud Control, which falls under the Ministry of Agriculture.

The NCC shall draw up and adopt internal regulations defining the terms of its operation, in particular with regard to:

- The mandate of its secretariat;
- The creation of Codex working groups, their mandate, composition, and operation;
- The procedure for carrying out its work;
- The procedure for consultation and coordination of national delegations designated to participate in the activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies;
- The frequency of its meetings.

Article 4 - The NCC may create any technical, specialized, or ad hoc commission it deems necessary to carry out certain of its missions, for which it shall determine the mandate, composition, and operation.

Article 5 - The government in charge of agriculture shall prepare an annual report on the activities of the NCC as well as a report on the participation of national delegations in the works of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and submit both reports to the Prime Minister.

Article 6 - The Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Maritime Fisheries is responsible for the implementation of this decree which will be published in the Official Gazette.

Done in Rabat, on 6 Dhul Kaada 1425 (17 January 2005).

Prime Minister DRISS JETTOU

For countersignature:

Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Maritime Fisheries, MOHAND LANSAR.