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European Community Comments on
Circular Letter CL 2005/6-EXEC
REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE NEED FOR A CODEX
STANDARD FOR SOY SAUCE

The European Community and its 25 Member States appreciate the opportunity to address the Codex Alimentarius Commission's request for comments on the need for a Codex Standard for Soy Sauce (CL 2005/6-EXEC).

The development of a Codex standard for soy sauce is of real interest to the producing countries. However, as was specified at the 22nd session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables and confirmed by the Executive Committee, this work does not fall within the competence of this Committee, which is already in charge of numerous other files.

The continuation of the work in another Committee could be justified by the criteria for the establishment of work priorities: First of all, from the point of view of consumer protection and fraudulent practices (a): the consumer should be able to distinguish by means of a clear denomination, criteria of production and composition the traditional soy sauce ("*Fermented soy sauce* ") from other soy sauces ("*not fermented soy sauce* "and" *Mixed soy sauce* "). These products have different quality characteristics. Furthermore, confusion should be avoided between soy sauce and the hydrolyzed plant proteins.

The continuation of work is also justified in view of the volume and the regular consumption in many Asian countries (b), as well as the amenability of the product for standardization (e).

Concerning the choice between an international standard and a regional standard, only the examination of production statistics and worldwide exports and imports of this product will allow a decision on this question.