

A Meeting to Keep Our Eye On (Codex)

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Interestingly, there is a meeting to be held in Paris, France, scheduled a week **after** the standard yearly Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (26th Session) meeting. The 26th Session is November 1-5th, 2004, in Bonn, Germany and three NHF representatives (Scott Tips, Paul Anthony Taylor, and Sepp Hasslberger - NGO's), will be attending.

This gathering on November 8-12th 2004 in Paris, is entitled, Agenda for the (Extraordinary) meeting of the Codex Committee On General Principles. It is a Codex Committee on General Principles meeting, attended by the joint agencies, FAO and WHO Food Standards Program. FAO, being the Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and WHO, being the World Health Organization.

What sparks concern is the listed provisional agenda, specifically item # 6:

"Review of the Principles concerning Participation of International Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in the Work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission"

This surely implies that Codex plans to tighten up the rules on NGO participation and that some NGOs are clearly seen as a threat. There have been individuals in the health-freedom movement who have misunderstood and felt that NGO's are just "window-dressing." To coerce Codex into agenda specifically on this matter, clearly shows our attendance is putting them on the defensive and the value of our presence is highly warranted.

The National Health Federation will have one of its representatives attending this Paris, France meeting.

We shall see what this meeting brings....