

Participation in the Panel “Food Authenticity and Integrity”

The OIV will participate in the panel ‘Food Authenticity and Integrity’ convened on the occasion of the 41st session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

The exchanges become more and more globalized:

The international trade of grapes, wine and spirituous beverages continues to grow. The share of export volumes of wine has developed significantly over the past decade: at over 100 million hectolitres, it is equivalent to 43% of world consumption, compared with 25% 10 years ago. Every two bottles out of five consumed in the world are imported.

The OIV mission

L'Organisation Internationale de la Vigne et du Vin" (OIV) est une organisation intergouvernementale qui compte actuellement 46 États membres producteurs et consommateurs de vins représentant respectivement 85% de la production mondiale et près de 80% de la consommation mondiale de vin. The International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV) is an intergovernmental organisation with 46 Member-States producers and consumers of wines representing 85% of world production and almost 80% of world wine consumption respectively.

The OIV contributes to the international harmonization of existing practices and standards and the development of new international standards in order to improve conditions for producing and marketing vitivinicultural products and to take into account the interests of consumers.

- ⇒ Facilitate international fair trade
- ⇒ Participate to the protection of health consumer
- ⇒ Guarantee the authenticity and quality of the wines (maintain the authentic character of the wines and its organoleptic qualities)

In addition, the OIV Strategic plan 2015-2019 mentions in axe 2 “to establish the authenticity rules of the vitivinicultural products and promote good regulatory practices”

Translation in standards proceeding

1. The definition of products

Note that in the descriptors of the general standard of food additives, the definition of wine of the OIV is referenced

2. Oenological Practices

For the OIV these practices and also oenological treatments take into account the following.

• Take into account the safety of the consumers

The work of the OIV in this domain is based, in particular, on evaluations of the safety of food additives of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA).

• Preserving the original qualities of grapes and wine.

Certain oenological practices are also subject to maximum dosages. For example:

- Acidification and certain stabilisers.
- Dealcoholisation, where limits were fixed in order to fit the definition of wine past which the product is no longer considered a wine and other definitions apply.

- **Not misleading consumers**

Certain practices are prohibited, such as colouring and aromatization, except for certain specific categories on wine.

Note: The defense of the authenticity and identity of wine has arisen at the CCFA via the introduction of oenological practices in the General Standard for Food Additives.

The Codex committee on Food Additives has, in a general manner, agreed to these principles “The Maximum level of the additive in grape wine set as Good Manufacturing Practice must not result in (i) the modification of the natural and essential characteristics of the wine and (ii) a substantial change in the composition of the wine”

3. Labelling rules

- **Indications of Origin**

Indications used for products which have a precise geographic origin and specific qualities or is known due to its links with the place of origin. These include, notably, Geographic Indications, Appellations of Origin or in certain countries Geographic Areas.

4. The establishment of traceability standards.

In 2007 the OIV published Traceability Guidelines as the base of the development of a coherent and harmonized approach to traceability which is applicable between countries for the vitivincultural sector. Its objectives include ensuring, throughout the production process, supply chain and the commercial life-cycle of a product, the availability, as appropriate, of key information to the competent authorities, sector operators, distributors, retailers and consumers. These OIV Guidelines are based on the Codex norm on traceability.

5. The establishment of Methods of Analysis to Control Traceability and Origin.

The OIV has adopted multiple analytical methods, which are internationally accepted. Among these certain regarding methods of analysis for isotopic ratio determination to verify:

- The Origin of Water (watering-down)
- The Origin of CO₂ in Sparkling Wines
- The Origin of Sugar (enrichment)
- The Origin of Ethanol

A network of over 1000 experts

The recommendations adopted by the OIV Members-states are based on scientific evidence resulting from the work of a thousand or so experts appointed by Member States, who meet regularly as part of the OIV's specialised scientific structures in viticulture, oenology, methods of analysis, economy, law, safety, health and grapes.

An adoption by consensus

The technical decisions are taken by consensus of the OIV Members-states, according to an 8-steps procedure comparable to the Codex Alimentarius, give to the OIV a technical and scientific references accepted by its Member States as well as a transparent functioning.

Fight against counterfeiting

All these elements do not exclude a possible counterfeit

1. Wine or wine spirits with high added value are more susceptible to counterfeiting

2. Setting up some container identification systems

The means of authentication of a bottle are a challenge to imitations that aim to reproduce or recover the container, or in some cases recombine the content. For example:

- RFID chips
- Indelible marking
- Electronic chips,
- Holograms
- Security seals

3. Consumer training

Train the consumer to better recognize the information mentioned on a label for example

Today in the domain of the authenticity of products and wine in particular, while international norms have grown significantly due to the mechanisms put in place by the WTO, the relationship between the Codex Alimentarius and the OIV should be consolidated, in particular in the wine and vine sectors.