

WORLD FOOD REGULATION REVIEW

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FEATURE

They did it! During the last ten days of March 2019, about 350 food safety regulators from all over the world attended the 51st session of the Codex Alimentarius Committee on Food Additives (CCFA51) and found consensus on all issues on the session's agenda, even faster than expected. The consensus included (i) the first colour provisions considered since 2011 and other GSFA provisions; (ii) the way forward on nitrites and nitrates; (iii) alternative notes to advance solutions on sweeteners by starting to phase out existing references to Note 161; (iv) clarification on parent names of food additives; (v) further alignment of the food additives provisions between the Codex Alimentarius General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) and an impressive list of commodity standards; (vi) changes to the International Numbering System (INS); (vii) Codex Alimentarius-approved Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) specifications; or (viii) the JECFA priority list, global food safety regulators agreed on a way forward for all of them. Here is an attempt to summarize what many delegates dared to describe as an "historical successful session". "God speed" CCFA, for now, on and on!
By Christophe Leprêtre and Katia Merten-Lenz 18

INTERNATIONAL

New Study Finds Poor Diet Kills More People Globally than Tobacco and High Blood Pressure / Codex Looks to Harmonise Regulation of Biopesticides / Removing International Trade Challenges For Ripened Cheeses / JECFA "Has Its Work Cut Out For It" / International Scientific Conference Takes Stock of Genomics for Food Safety / New Standards to Curb the Global Spread of Plant Pests and Diseases 28