

TACD

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RISK ANALYSIS AND THE ROLE OF "OTHER FACTORS"

(see detailed position papers Doc. Food-16pp1-00 and Food-16pp2-00)

The TACD urges the US and EU to work towards a more effective, inclusive and more consistent approach to risk analysis, and to push for the adoption of such an approach when international food standards are developed, for example, by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and more generally within the context of the provisions of the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS Agreement) relating to risk assessment. This approach should recognize the importance of public participation throughout the process and the need for greater openness and transparency.

The TACD also urges the US and EU governments to commit themselves to completing a policy on 'other legitimate factors' besides 'science' in risk analysis, a high priority within their Codex work, and to acknowledge that 'other legitimate factors' have an essential role to play and are already implicit in risk decisions even if they are currently not openly acknowledged. Every effort must be made to reach a consensus on these difficult but very important issues to improve the quality and transparency of decisions and to enhance consumer choice and protection.