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OIV Boss Hails New Codex Chair

OIV Director John Barker Congratulates New Codex Chair at 47th Session

Wednesday, December 11, 2024



John Barker, Director General of the OIV

The Director General of the International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV), John Barker, participated in the 47th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, held from November 25 to 30, 2024, in Geneva, Switzerland. During his address, he congratulated the newly elected Commission Chair, Dr. Allan Azegele of Kenya, and delivered a message commemorating the centenary of the OIV.

In his remarks, Barker highlighted key decisions made by the Commission, with particular focus on the amendment to the General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars. This amendment introduces a specific Brix level for products derived from Vitis labrusca. The change is expected to facilitate international trade of juices and nectars made from this grape variety, aligning with scientific studies conducted by the OIV on the subject.

Barker emphasized that the OIV, as an observer to the Codex Alimentarius since its inception, takes pride in contributing to its work. He noted that the OIV's activities complement those of the Codex by providing objective, scientifically-based recommendations for all grape-derived products. This shared approach underscores the significance of both organizations in promoting safe and harmonized food standards on a global scale.

He also referenced the recognition of the OIV-Codex relationship by the ministers of the 37 OIV member countries in the Ministerial Declaration of October 13, 2024. This declaration reaffirmed the importance of collaboration between the two entities as a cornerstone for addressing global challenges related to food safety and consumer protection.

As part of its centennial celebrations, the OIV reiterated its commitment to strengthening ties with the Codex Alimentarius. Barker underscored that the two organizations share fundamental values and objectives, including the protection of consumers through scientifically-grounded standards and the promotion of international cooperation to tackle global issues. This spirit of partnership is considered crucial to achieving a unified approach to key issues concerning food safety and security.