



Organización Internacional del Café
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Organisation Internationale du Café

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Declaration by Producing Members

The Executive Director presents his compliments and, for the information of Members, attaches a copy of a declaration by Producing Members urging the European Union to reconsider the adoption of OTA limits on coffee.

**DECLARATION OF PRODUCING COUNTRIES
WITHIN ICO**

**PRODUCING COUNTRIES, WHICH ARE PARTIES TO THE
2001 INTERNATIONAL COFFEE AGREEMENT,**

Recalling the vital importance of coffee to their economies;

Given the efforts undertaken by producing countries to improve the quality of coffee; efforts which are enhanced by the implementation of resolution 407;

Noting that the European Union is in the process of developing instruments to guarantee food safety, namely by setting threshold levels of OTA;

Considering that the project on the enhancement of coffee quality through the prevention of mould formation, which is financed by the Common Fund for Commodities, CIRAD, the government of the Netherlands and the European Union is currently being executed, under the supervision of FAO;

Given also that the data released from recent scientific research on the effects of OTA on human health seem to indicate that OTA is not a serious nor short term threat for consumers, and enable us to conclude that the issue of acceptable OTA rates has yet to be settled;

Noting with concern the lack of consistency and a big disproportionality, within the European Union, between OTA levels for coffee and other products such as wine and grains;

CONSIDER

That it is not opportune for the European Union to introduce maximum, restrictive and prohibitive levels of OTA, constituting unnecessary technical barriers;

ARE CONCERNED

With the tragic consequences which the implementation of such standards could have on coffee growers, thus reducing the effects of programs of poverty alleviation;

AND URGE

The European Union to reconsider the adoption of maximum OTA levels for coffee in any form.