



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE
Thirty-second Session
Virtual, 16 – 20 May 2022

CODEX WORK RELEVANT TO THE REGION

Comments by the European Union

***Mixed Competence
Member State Vote¹***

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) globally agree with the selection of Codex work of high priority for the region. The EUMS further note that currently, many emerging and strategic issues are included in the agenda of CCEXEC and therefore, invite CCEXEC to progress in a timely manner regarding these different work tracks, including by making full use of the Codex subsidiary bodies, taking into account their respective competences.

❖ **Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025:**

As we approach mid-term regarding the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan, the Member States of the European Union (MSEU) welcome the opportunity to refine the regional implementation roadmap. The MSEU further encourage the development of an inclusive approach, at the regional level, toward the development of the next Codex Strategic Plan.

❖ **Statements of Principle (SoP) concerning the role of science in the Codex decision-making process and the extent to which other factors are taken into account**

The MSEU continue to be fully committed in the on-going CCEXEC work aiming at clarifying and operationalizing the SoP. The MSEU note the good progress achieved within the CCEXEC subcommittee dedicated to this objective, and consider that this could allow the timely finalization of guidance, intended for chairs and for delegates, that would facilitate the use of SoP.

More specifically, the MSEU further underline that there will be benefit in clarifying statement 4 (“When the situation arises that members of Codex agree on the necessary level of protection of public health but hold differing views about other considerations, **members may abstain from acceptance of the relevant standard without necessarily preventing the decision by Codex**”).

The draft report of the CCEXEC Subcommittee on SoP will be discussed in CCEXEC82 (CX/EXEC 22/82/3). Members of CCEXEC will be invited to assess possible practical guidance and flowcharts designed at facilitating the implementation of the SoP and to propose an approach for consulting the wider Codex membership. The MSEU are of the view that this important work should be discussed in an inclusive manner and suggest CCGP as the appropriate forum to do so. Furthermore, the MSEU welcome continuing and strengthening, as appropriate, communication between CCEURO members regarding the final steps of this works.

❖ **One Health Approach**

The EUMS fully support the development and strengthening of a One Health approach within Codex activities, as well as integrating Codex in a global One Health agenda.

¹ This is without prejudice of the substantive competence that the European Union has for individual issues addressed under this agenda item.

The EUMS consider that the recent adoption of the *Code of practice to minimize and contain foodborne AMR* and of the *Guidelines on Integrated surveillance of foodborne AMR* are very good examples of how Codex can participate in the One Health approach, as those two texts complement existing texts for human health. Future work on pesticides standards (e.g. on biopesticides or on the settlement of MRLs for pesticides residues) could also encompass considerations of their impact on the environment or animal health.

❖ **Proposed draft MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride residues (fat, kidney, liver, bovine meat)**

The European Union (EU) recalls the positions adopted by CCEURO at its 30th and 31st session related to the non-usage of growth promoters and the establishment of Codex MRLs for such substances as zilpaterol hydrochloride. These positions were notably highlighting the importance of the work on the Statements of Principle concerning the Role of Science (SoP) and calling to explore all options identified in CX/EXEC 19/77/10, namely adoption by vote, holding a standard at Step 8, building differences of application into the text, not approving new work or discontinuation of work because of non-amenability to standardization, and reservations/SoP.

While the EU regrets that CCEXEC81 and CAC44 did not allow to have a genuine exchange on these elements, the EU welcomes the CAC44 decision to pursue the ongoing work on the SoP and to request the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons to undertake informal consultations to encourage and enable sustained efforts to build consensus in advance of CAC45. The EU is fully committed to engage within this process.