

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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REP22/EURO

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

*45<sup>th</sup> Session*

*21 - 25 November and 12 - 13 December 2022*

REPORT OF THE 32<sup>nd</sup> SESSION OF THE FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE

16 – 18 and 20 May 2022

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## SUMMARY AND STATUS OF WORK

Responsible Party	Purpose	Text/Topic	Paragraph
CAC45	Appointment	CCEURO32 unanimously agreed to recommend CAC45 to appoint Germany as Coordinator for Europe.	60
FAO/WHO, Codex Secretariat, Members	Information/ Action	CCEURO32 highlighted the importance of continuing the discussion on sustainable food systems transformation in the Commission and on strengthening the role of Codex in promoting sustainable food systems.	15iii
CCEXEC, Members	Information/ Action	CCEURO32 requested CCEXEC to consider the views of the Members in the European region as it continues to lead the discussions on the future of Codex.	21ii
Members, Codex Secretariat	Action	CCEURO32 encouraged Members and Observers to begin planning activities and events to mark the 60th anniversary of Codex as soon as possible and liaise with the Codex Secretariat accordingly.	21iii
CAC45	Action	CCEURO32 proposed amended text for section 8.2, labelling of non-retail containers, in the <i>Regional Standard for Chanterelles</i> (CXS 40R-1981) for adoption by CAC45	21iv, Appendix II
FAO/WHO, Members, Codex Secretariat	Information/ Action	CCEURO32: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Identified additional current and emerging issues affecting food safety and quality, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, emergency situations, changing consumer behaviours, ingredient substitution and labelling flexibility.</li> <li>ii. Agreed that CCEURO should continue to identify and share information on emerging issues affecting food safety and quality through appropriate means.</li> </ul>	31
		CCEURO32: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Encouraged Codex Members in the European region to continue working with FAO and WHO on the implementation of regional and country programmes and initiatives;</li> <li>ii. Noted the information provided on bilateral capacity development at country and regional level to strengthen food safety; and</li> <li>iii. Noted the upcoming new food safety strategies developed by FAO and WHO and encouraged Codex Members in the European region to collaborate, partner and invest in their implementation.</li> </ul>	42
Regional Coordinator, Members, Codex Secretariat, FAO/WHO	Information/ Action	CCEURO32: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Took note of the report of the Regional Coordinator on the implementation of the 2020-2021 work plan under the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025;</li> <li>ii. Endorsed goals 3 and 4 as the priority goals/objectives on which the European region would focus its contributions to the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 for the biennium 2022-2023; and</li> <li>iii. Endorsed the activities to be implemented in the European region to support achievement of the prioritized goals and objectives (Appendix III).</li> </ul>	59 Appendix III

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance
BTSF	Better Training for Safer Food
CAC	Codex Alimentarius Commission
CCEURO	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe
CCEXEC	Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission
CCFICS	Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems
CCFL	Codex Committee on Food Labelling
CCGP	Codex Committee on General Principles
CCP	Codex Contact Point
CRD	Conference Room Document
CTF	Codex Trust Fund
EWG	Electronic Working Group
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GAIN	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
MRL	Maximum Residue Limit
OIE	World Organization for Animal Health
RASFF	European Union's Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
RCCs	Regional Coordinating Committees or FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees
SDGs	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SoP	Statement of Principle
TFAMR	<i>Ad hoc</i> Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance
UNEP	UN Environment Programme
UNFSS	United Nations Food Systems Summit
WG	Working Group
WHO	World Health Organization

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. The 32nd Session of the FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committee for Europe (CCEURO32) was convened virtually, from 16 to 21 May 2022 at the kind invitation of the Government of Kazakhstan. Dr. Nailya Karsybekova, Regional Coordinator of CCEURO, chaired the Session, which was attended by 38 Member countries and one Member Organization from the European region, 13 Member countries from outside the Region, 9 Observer organizations, and Representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). A complete list of participants is contained in Appendix I.

## **OPENING OF THE SESSION**

2. The Chairperson welcomed the delegates and opened the meeting.
3. The Vice-Minister of Health Care of Kazakhstan, Chief Sanitary Doctor Mrs Aizhan Yesmagambetova and the Vice-Minister of Agriculture of Kazakhstan, Mr Rustem Kurmanov delivered opening remarks via video.
4. Markus Lipp, Senior Food Safety Officer, FAO and Peter Sousa Hoejskov, Technical Officer for Food Safety and Zoonotic Diseases, WHO Regional Office for Europe, delivered opening speeches and welcomed the attendees on behalf of FAO and WHO, respectively.
5. The meeting was also addressed by Steve Wearne, Chairperson of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and Tom Heilandt, Codex Secretary.

## **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda Item 1)<sup>1</sup>**

6. CCEURO32 adopted the Provisional Agenda as contained in CX/EURO 22/32/1 as the Agenda for the Session.
7. CCEURO32 further agreed to establish an in-session Working Group (WG), open to all Members and Observers, chaired by Germany and working in English and Russian, to consider section 4 of agenda item 7 on the regional work plan on priority activities to be undertaken in 2022 and 2023, for implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025, taking into account written comments received and to prepare recommendations for consideration by the plenary.

## **KEYNOTE ADDRESS: SUSTAINABILITY OF FOOD SYSTEMS AND THE ROLE OF CODEX (Agenda Item 2)<sup>2</sup>**

8. The Representative of FAO, speaking on behalf of FAO and WHO, introduced this item, recalling the role of the keynote address to stimulate discussion and information sharing on a topical issue of interest to the region related to food safety and Codex work.
9. The keynote address was delivered by Dr Marta Hugas<sup>3</sup>, former Chief Scientist of the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) and co-coordinator of Action Track 2: Shifting to sustainable consumption habits in the lead up to the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) held in 2021.
10. Dr Hugas gave an overview of some of the key issues related to the sustainability of food systems, such as the need to address social, economic and environmental sustainability in conjunction with food safety and quality; the reality of emerging issues and the important role of science; the critical importance of preventing food waste; and appropriate risk communication to consumers. She reflected on the fundamental need to assure food safety and quality as part of a healthy diet and food systems sustainability. She also emphasized the important role of Codex, including the need to consider all aspects of the food production chain in risk assessment.

## **Discussion**

11. Members welcomed the topic of the keynote address and confirmed its relevance and importance to the current and future work of Codex, and that sustainable food systems were critical to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Some initiatives implemented to improve

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<sup>1</sup> CX/EURO 22/32/1

<sup>2</sup> CX/EURO 22/32/2

<sup>3</sup> CX/EURO 22/32/CRD10

sustainability and transform food systems were highlighted, including the EU Farm to Fork Strategy and the EU Code of Conduct on regulating food businesses and marketing practices. Emphasis was given to One Health, animal welfare, reducing carbon and environmental footprints, the fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and to consulting and communicating clearly with consumers.

12. Members highlighted that important means to support the transformative agenda included using bilateral and multilateral collaboration and alliances, and through the implementation of the UNFSS national pathways. Furthermore, FAO and WHO food safety strategies were acknowledged as highlighting the link between food safety, the SDGs and One Health. Members acknowledged that international standardization bodies, including Codex could contribute to food system transformation and improving sustainability, and that Codex was already doing this to some extent. Examples of this included the provision of texts on consumer information and labelling (e.g. front of pack labelling), texts on improving food safety and quality (e.g. *General Principles of Food Hygiene*), reducing food loss and waste through the application of food safety and quality management systems in value chains, and guidance on specific areas such as date marking. It was suggested that Codex could continue to strengthen its work in this area, particularly as new food sources and production systems evolved, promoting science-based standards, and providing a platform for discussion and exchange of food safety and quality issues relevant to the global transition towards sustainable food systems.
13. The Representatives of FAO and WHO thanked the keynote speaker for the comprehensive and inspiring speech and all Members for their contributions to the discussion and for sharing experiences. They commended the ongoing work by Codex Members in the European region to transform food systems, their follow up to the UNFSS, including by implementing national pathways to increase sustainability, and for addressing food safety and quality issues in the broader context of sustainable food systems and by applying a One Health approach.
14. The Representatives of FAO and WHO further noted the importance placed on communicating with, providing information to and educating consumers to make healthy food choices, and handle and prepare food safely, and the importance of labelling which can also include information on sustainability. In this regard, the FAO/WHO handbook on risk communication applied to food safety was mentioned as an important tool to support national food safety authorities in strengthening risk communication practices and to communicate complex issues to the public.

### **Conclusion**

15. CCEURO32:
  - i. Thanked the keynote speaker, Dr. Marta Hugas for setting the context and outlining the issues for Codex Members in the European Region to consider.
  - ii. Noted the rich discussion and inputs, which should inform Members' continued work in transforming food systems at country and regional level and encouraged key issues to be integrated during the implementation of national pathways, as follow-up to the UNFSS.
  - iii. Highlighted the importance of continuing the discussion on sustainable food systems transformation in the Commission and on strengthening the role of Codex in promoting sustainable food systems.

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND CODEX SUBSIDIARY BODIES (Agenda Item 3)<sup>4</sup>**

#### **Matters for information**

16. CCEURO32 took note of the matters for information provided in document CX/EURO 22/32/3 and noted the additional information presented and/or made comments as follows:

#### The future of Codex

17. Members expressed the following views:

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<sup>4</sup> CX/EURO 22/32/3

- appreciation for the ongoing work to develop a blueprint for the future of Codex;
- the important role physical meetings played in building relationships among Codex delegates and the need for physical meetings to be part of the considerations on the future of Codex;
- recognition of the added value that virtual tools may provide to all physical meetings of the future and the role that virtual working mechanisms can play between physical meetings; and
- the need for inclusiveness, including considering remote participation as we transition from the current virtual setting.

#### Use of Codex Standards

18. CCEURO32 noted the additional information provided by the Codex Secretariat on the work underway to develop a mechanism to monitor the use and impact of Codex standards, recognizing the role that the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees (RCCs) play in promoting use of Codex texts and the linkage of this to goal 3 of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025. It was noted that further information on the approach would be shared through a working document for the upcoming 82nd session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC82).

#### The 60th Anniversary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

19. CCEURO32 noted the additional information provided by the Codex Secretariat as follows:
- the key focus areas for the Codex@60 celebrations would be Essential@60 (to highlight the ongoing importance of Codex); the future of Codex; and the people of Codex;
  - World Food Safety Day 2023 would be dedicated to standards and together with the Commission at the end of 2023, provided a natural celebration point for Codex@60;
  - the aim was to have a year of celebrations and Members and Observers were encouraged to identify an opportunity or event during 2023 to celebrate Codex with high level engagement as a means of getting the necessary commitment to participate in Codex and adopt and implement Codex standards, seeking support from the Codex Secretariat on certain aspects as needed;
  - the request to CCEURO to consider an event to celebrate Codex@60 in 2023 as part of its regional workplan for the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025;
  - the work to identify the greatest achievements of Codex and to develop case studies to showcase the use of Codex standards considering the perspective of the regulator, the industry and the consumer and the benefits for the food industry and the consumer; and
  - the reminder to engage with the Codex Secretariat to contribute to the global initiatives by 30 September 2022.

#### **Matters for action**

20. CCEURO32 considered CRD03 as the basis for its discussion on amending Section 8.2, labelling of non-retail containers, in the *Regional Standard for Chanterelles* (CXS 40R-1981) to align with the new *Standard for the Labelling of Non-retail Containers of Foods* (CXS 346-2021) and agreed with the amendments proposed therein.

#### **Conclusion**

21. CCEURO32:
- i. took note of the information provided in the working document and by the Secretariat during the session;
  - ii. requested CCEXEC to consider the views of the Members in the European region as it continues to lead the discussions on the future of Codex;
  - iii. encouraged Members and Observers to begin planning activities and events to mark the 60th anniversary of Codex as soon as possible and liaise with the Codex Secretariat accordingly; and

- iv. proposed amended text for section 8.2, labelling of non-retail containers, in the *Regional Standard for Chanterelles* (CXS 40R-1981) for adoption by the 45th session of CAC (CAC45) (See Appendix II).

#### **FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY IN THE REGION INCLUDING CURRENT AND EMERGING ISSUES – COUNTRY UPDATES (Item 4)<sup>5</sup>**

22. The representatives of WHO and FAO introduced this agenda item, recalling the discussion on current and emerging food safety and quality issues in the region at CCEURO31 (2019).
23. It was highlighted that much of the work since CCEURO31 had been overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and further time was needed to review and consider follow-up to the issues identified at that session. It was recalled that a survey to identify emerging food safety and quality issues was not conducted for this round of RCCs. Instead, countries were encouraged to consider the ongoing relevance of the previously identified emerging issues, discuss the actions being taken to address them, determine any further follow-up, and identify new emerging issues affecting food safety and quality in the region.

#### **Discussion**

24. Referring to CRDs 4, 5, 7, and 8, several Members expressed their deep concern about the Russian Federation aggression against Ukraine and the short as well as long-term effects it may have on food security, food quality, and food safety in Ukraine and beyond. Reference was also made to the discussion and outcome of the 33rd FAO Regional Conference for Europe (2022).<sup>6</sup>
25. Ukraine also requested the next Regional Coordinator for Europe to explore options, in consultation with CCEURO Member States, to suspend the technical cooperation and assistance provided by the WHO and FAO to the Russian Federation. Ukraine also called upon the next Regional Coordinator to consider temporarily suspending all regional meetings scheduled to take place in the Russian Federation, including technical meetings and meetings of experts, as well as conferences and seminars whose composition is set by Codex. Ukraine also requested that this message be transmitted to the Commission and Directors-General of WHO and FAO and that the matter be brought to the attention of Members and respective global decision-making bodies.
26. One delegation, in this context, emphasized the importance of adhering to the mandate of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, and not intertwine politics into its activities to the detriment of food safety issues and sustainable development.
27. Members confirmed that the emerging issues identified in the 2019 survey remained valid and work to address them needed to continue in 2022-2023. The progress so far was acknowledged and several examples of initiatives to address the emerging issues were highlighted. These included the work of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS) including the recently adopted guidance on paperless use of electronic certificates, the ongoing work on prevention and control of food fraud, and the potential new work on the use of remote audit and verification in regulatory frameworks in response to the challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic. The FAO/WHO side event on food fraud in the margins of CCEURO32 was welcomed and highlighted as an important event to continue discussion and exchange on food fraud. Members also noted the recently completed work of the Ad Hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR) and the need to now focus on implementation of these Codex texts and the ongoing work of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL) on labelling exemptions during emergency situations.
28. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on food safety risk management by national authorities, food businesses and consumers and on the overall food supply was noted. Members stressed that changing food production and consumption patterns affected food safety risks and several lessons were learned from managing food safety during the pandemic, including the need for resilient food control systems.
29. Members identified other emerging issues affecting food safety and quality in the region. These included potential food safety risks associated with changing consumer behaviours and dietary patterns, ingredient substitution, need for flexible labelling and labelling exemptions during emergency situations, and the

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<sup>5</sup> CX/EURO 22/32/4

<sup>6</sup> ERC/22/REP

overall security situation in the region. Microbiological hazards, pesticide residues, and mycotoxins in food were highlighted as continued risks to food safety and potential trade rejections.

30. The role of the FAO/WHO online platform on food control systems in facilitating the sharing of information and good practices between Codex Members was acknowledged. The European Union's Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) was highlighted as another important platform for cooperation and sharing information on food safety risks and it was suggested that further information could be disseminated through the CCEURO page on the Codex website.

### **Conclusion**

31. CCEURO32:
- i. Acknowledged that the emerging food safety and quality issues identified by CCEURO31 were still relevant and noted the ongoing work in the region to address them;
  - ii. Identified additional issues affecting food safety and quality, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, emergency situations, changing consumer behaviours, ingredient substitution and labelling flexibility;
  - iii. Agreed that CCEURO should continue to identify and share information on emerging issues affecting food safety and quality through appropriate means; and
  - iv. Noted that the FAO/WHO online platform on food control systems served as a beneficial initiative to provide country updates on changes in national food control systems.

### **UPDATES ON FAO AND WHO WORK OF REGIONAL INTEREST (Item 5)<sup>7</sup>**

32. The Representatives of FAO and WHO highlighted ongoing work to develop regional and country capacities on food control, food safety and food quality. This included the new FAO and WHO food safety strategies, which would be presented for endorsement to the respective governing bodies of FAO and WHO in 2022. The strategies would guide Member states and FAO and WHO in their efforts to strengthen national food control systems and contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
33. Updates were provided on the ongoing FAO surveys to understand antimicrobial use in livestock in fourteen countries in the region, the forthcoming WHO regional guidance to food safety authorities on prevention and control of AMR in the food chain, and FAO guidance on prudent use of antimicrobial agents in dairy, poultry, and swine production. Furthermore, ongoing FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund (CTF) funded projects in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, North Macedonia, and Turkmenistan, and an upcoming regional FAO guide on improving food safety in small and medium enterprises were highlighted. Members were informed of the newly established Regional One Health Coordination Mechanism, which was a joint initiative by FAO, WHO, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). The mechanism provided strategic leadership and served as a starting point for identifying common priorities, coordinating efforts, planning joint activities, and monitoring progress to address health threats originating in the human-animal-environment interface.
34. Members were advised that a joint FAO/WHO event would be held to celebrate World Food Safety Day in June 2022. They were also informed about the work conducted prior to the UNFSS in 2021, the ongoing UNFSS follow-up, and the implementation of national pathways, including the upcoming informal Regional Consultation of the Food System Countdown Initiative Indicator Framework (an initiative of FAO, the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, GAIN and Johns Hopkins University).
35. Further examples of activities supported by FAO and WHO in specific countries in the region were presented as follows:
- Ms. Bubuzhan Arykbaeva, Head of Division of State Sanitary Surveillance, Ministry of Health, Kyrgyzstan highlighted activities aimed at (i) promoting food safety practices and awareness raising for national stakeholders, including food producers, and (ii) increasing capacities of food control officials, including on Codex work.

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<sup>7</sup> CX/EURO 22/32/5

- Ms. Paluka Valbona, Advisor to the Minister, Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development, Albania, described how support to the Ministry had led to policy advice to strengthen food safety for smallholders and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and a draft action plan on sustainable use of plant protection products for 2022-2032.
- Dragana Dimitrijevic, Epidemiologist, Institute of Public Health, Serbia illustrated how a joint protocol for investigation and response to zoonotic diseases using the One Health approach was developed by an inter-ministerial working group with technical support from WHO and OIE.
- Maya Ashirova, Codex Contact Point, Turkmenistan updated on the progress made in strengthening the national Codex programme with the support of the CTF project.

### Discussion

36. Members complimented FAO and WHO for all their important work, welcomed the development of the FAO and WHO global food safety strategies, and appreciated the close collaboration between both Organizations. Members agreed that use of Codex texts would support implementation of both strategies, and requested FAO and WHO to continue to support development of the relevant capacities on application of Codex texts at national level e.g., the recently adopted Codex texts on foodborne AMR.
37. Members appreciated the examples of capacity development provided by Kyrgyzstan, Albania, Serbia and Turkmenistan and noted that Uzbekistan had recently completed an assessment on the status of the national Codex programme. Eligible countries were encouraged to apply to the CTF.
38. Members stressed again the need for ongoing support to the Joint FAO/WHO programme for scientific advice. Recognizing the important role of FAO and WHO, Members also reaffirmed priorities including the promotion and application of the One Health approach and preventing the threat posed by AMR, welcomed the Regional quadripartite One Health Coordination Mechanism, and requested future updates on regional activities of the mechanism.
39. Follow up to the commitments, and progress made at the UNFSS was highlighted as a priority for the region as well as the need for Codex to consider options to contribute to the development of sustainable food systems.
40. Members also highlighted their complimentary activities such as the European Commission's Better Training for Safer Foods (BTSF) initiative and the significant financial support to CTF from donors in the European region.
41. Recent FAO and WHO publications on topical issues were welcomed including on food fraud, food safety foresight and food safety considerations under limited food availability situations. Members underlined that, even when there were restricted food supplies, assuring food safety was important.

### Conclusions

42. CCEURO32:
  - i. Noted with appreciation the FAO and WHO's programmes of work to develop capacities on food control systems in the European region, and enhance food safety and quality;
  - ii. Encouraged Codex Members in the European region to continue working with FAO and WHO on the implementation of regional and country programmes and initiatives;
  - iii. Noted the information provided on bilateral capacity development at country and regional level to strengthen food safety; and
  - iv. Noted the upcoming new food safety strategies developed by FAO and WHO and encouraged Codex Members in the European region to collaborate, partner and invest in their implementation.

### CODEX WORK RELEVANT TO THE REGION (Agenda Item 6)<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> CX/EURO 22/32/6

43. The Regional Coordinator introduced the agenda item and presented the key issues related to Codex work that were of relevance to the European region. Members concurred with the issues identified and made the following additional comments and observations.

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

44. There was general appreciation for the ongoing work in CCEXEC on the operationalization of the SoP. Members highlighted the key role that this work may play in unlocking progress on other areas of work in Codex, in particular the establishment of Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for growth promoting substances, and the need to complete the work on the SoP as soon as possible. Members underlined in particular the importance of clarifying Statement no. 4.
45. Members also expressed the desire to undertake the work on the operationalization of the SoP in the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP) as the committee that is in charge of procedural matters, and underlined that this would ensure open participation.

One Health Approach

46. The increasing importance of the One Health approach was highlighted. Referring to the recent experience of Codex work on AMR, there was broad support for the ongoing development and strengthening of a One Health approach within Codex activities.

Proposed draft MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride

47. There was general appreciation for the informal consultations being undertaken by the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission in order to find a solution, and in which Members from the European region were actively engaged. Members highlighted their ongoing fundamental concerns regarding the establishment of MRLs for substances which have the sole purpose of growth promotion and reaffirmed the validity of their position on this issue as outlined in CX/EURO 22/31/CRD9, and endorsed at CCEURO31 (2019). There was also recognition of the need to remain open-minded as efforts to reach a resolution among Codex Members on this issue continued and the importance of discussing all possible options and pathways towards finding this solution at CAC45 was highlighted.

Antimicrobial resistance

48. General appreciation was expressed regarding the recently concluded Codex work on AMR. The importance of ensuring that the next step in terms of building and strengthening national policies and measures to manage the risks posed by foodborne AMR was emphasized.

Webcasting in Codex

49. The value of webcasting as a means of increasing transparency in Codex was highlighted. In particular, it was suggested that CCEXEC meetings be webcasted to facilitate broader engagement of Members in the management of Codex work. The Codex Secretary clarified that webcasting of CCEXEC would have to be considered by the Commission due to the nature and role of CCEXEC as a limited participation body.

**Conclusions**

50. CCEURO32:
- i. Agreed to continue providing inputs to the Regional Coordinator to contribute to the ongoing discussions in CCEXEC on the operationalization of the Statements of Principle concerning the role of science, which is closely related to finding a solution to the issue of MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride, and encouraged a broader discussion within Codex in an inclusive manner, including through CCGP;
  - ii. Agreed to continue promoting a One Health approach in the work of Codex;
  - iii. Encouraged participation in informal consultations with all relevant parties to build consensus on how to address MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride, in advance of CAC45, and reaffirmed the position adopted by CCEURO 31 (as contained in CX/EURO 22/31/CRD9);

- iv. Requested that the next Commission have an open discussion on the entire range of options available to find a solution to the issue of MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride, including the discontinuation of the work;
- v. Encouraged Members to take into consideration the new Codex texts on AMR and further develop national policies against AMR;
- vi. Recommended the Commission apply a more balanced allocation of work between Codex subsidiary bodies, including through CCGP; and
- vii. Requested the Codex Secretariat to further explore the possibility of webcasting Codex meetings, including CCEXEC and bring this to the attention of the Commission.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025 (Agenda Item 7)<sup>9</sup>**

### Regional workplan 2020-2021

51. The Chairperson presented the report of the implementation of the 2020-2021 regional workplan. The activities planned in the European region in 2020-2021 to support the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 had addressed two of its five goals, goals 1 and 2. The Regional Coordinator oversaw the implementation of activities, but a number of challenges arose, primarily in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic had affected the pace of implementation of some regional activities and had led to delays. It had also affected the scheduling of Codex Committees with sessions of all committees, including CCEURO, delayed. However, on the positive side the implementation of the CTF projects in several countries in the region had made a significant contribution to the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025.
52. Members acknowledged the progress made despite the COVID-19 pandemic and commended the work of the Regional Coordinator in advancing activities during the past biennium.

### Regional workplan 2022-2023

53. An in-session WG, chaired by Germany, reviewed the 2022-2023 regional workplan and a revised workplan and recommendations were presented in document CX/EURO 22/32/CRD15 and by the Chairperson of the working group for consideration by the plenary.
54. Members agreed that the 2022-2023 regional plan should give priority to the implementation of goals 3 and 4, which could not be pursued in the previous regional plan. Members further highlighted the need to also address emerging work related to “new food sources”, which relates to goal 1.
55. The promotion of the use of Codex standards encouraged by goal 3 was recognized as key to ensuring that Codex standards were implemented to improve consumer health protection and promote fair practices in food trade.
56. Members recognized the importance of strengthening efforts to achieve goal 4, which aimed to facilitate the participation of all Codex members throughout the standard setting process. With its 52 Members, CCEURO represented the largest RCC. It was essential to ensure the participation of all Members in order to reflect the European region’s diversity and thereby enrich the discussions within Codex. The COVID-19 pandemic had also underlined the importance of maintaining effective communication between Members and the need to adapt ways of communicating and exchanging information to achieve these goals.
57. The Chairperson appealed to Members to consider this workplan as their road map in promoting engagement in Codex. She further highlighted the importance of working together and in particular involving the scientists and other technical experts from low and middle-income Member countries in Codex work to enrich the discussions and work of Codex both within the European region and across the entire Codex family.
58. Members highlighted the importance of communication and recalled that the regional communications work plan for the period 2020-2025 was still valid.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> CX/EURO 22/32/7

<sup>10</sup> REP20/EURO Appendix III – Regional Communications Work plan 2020-2025

**Conclusion**

## 59. CCEURO32:

- i. Took note of the report of the Regional Coordinator on the implementation of the 2020-2021 work plan under the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025;
- ii. Endorsed goals 3 and 4 as the priority goals/objectives on which the European region would focus its contributions to the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 for the biennium 2022-2023; and
- iii. Endorsed the activities to be implemented in the European region to support achievement of the prioritized goals and objectives, as set out in Appendix III.

**NOMINATION OF THE COORDINATOR (Agenda Item 8)<sup>11</sup>**

60. CCEURO32 unanimously agreed to recommend to CAC45 that Germany be appointed as the next Regional Coordinator for Europe.
61. Germany thanked all delegations for their support and the Republic of Kazakhstan for its excellent work. Germany expressed its strong commitment to fulfil the duties of the Regional Coordinator, and to continue efforts related to increasing participation by the Members in the European region..
62. Delegates also expressed their appreciation to the Republic of Kazakhstan for their excellent work as Regional Coordinator.

**OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item 9)**

63. CCEURO32 noted that there was no other business to discuss.

**DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION (Agenda Item 10)**

64. The Committee was informed that the date and place of its 33rd Session would be communicated to Members following the appointment of the new Regional Coordinator by CAC45 and consultation with the Codex Secretariat.

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<sup>11</sup> CX/EURO 22/32/8

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## Appendix II

**Proposed amendment to Section 8.2, labelling of non-retail containers, in the *Regional Standard for Chanterelles (CXS 40R-1981)* to align with the *General Standard for the Labelling of Non-Retail Containers of Foods (CXS 346-2021)***

## **8.1 Consumer packages**

In addition to the requirements of the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CXS 1-1985)*, the following specific provisions apply:

### **8.1.1 Nature of Produce**

If the produce is not visible from the outside, each package shall be labelled as to the common name of the produce.

### **8.1.2 Origin of Produce**

Country of origin and, optionally, district where grown or national, regional or local place name of the species presented.

### **8.1.3.2 Mixtures**

In the case of a mixture of chanterelles of distinctly different species, common names of each species should be indicated. If the country of origin or size of each distinctly different species is different, they should be indicated near the name of the species concerned.

## **8.2 Non-retail containers**

**8.2.1** In addition to the requirements of the *General Standard for the Labelling of Non-Retail Containers of Foods (CXS 346-2021)*, each package must bear the following particulars, in letters grouped on the same side, legibly and indelibly marked, and visible from the outside, or in the documents accompanying the shipment.

~~Name and address of exporter, packer and/or dispatcher. Identification code (optional)<sup>4</sup>.~~

### **8.2.1.1.2 Nature of Produce**

~~Common name of the produce if the contents are not visible from the outside. Botanical name of species (optional).~~

### **8.2.3. Mixtures**

~~In the case of a mixture of chanterelles of distinctly different species, common names of each species should be indicated. If the country of origin or size of each distinctly different species is different, they should be indicated near the name of the species concerned.~~

### **8.2.1.4 Origin of Produce**

~~Country of origin and, optionally, district where grown or national, regional or local place name of the species presented.~~

### **8.2.1.25 Commercial Identification**

- Class;
- Size (if sized), expressed as minimum and maximum diameters of the cap in cm;<sup>5</sup>
- Net weight (optional).

### **8.2.1.36 Official Inspection Mark (optional)**

**ACTIVITIES TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE EUROPEAN REGION IN 2022-2023 UNDER THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025**

<b>Priority goal</b>	<b>Priority objective</b>	<b>Activities for the period 2022-2023</b>	<b>Rationale for proposed activities</b>	<b>Responsible party and collaborators</b>	<b>Expected output by 2023</b>	<b>Reporting mechanism/</b>
1. Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner	1.2 Prioritize needs and emerging issues	1.2.1. Monitor developments in relation to “new food sources” and contribute to related Codex work	The activity is expected to improve the ability of Codex to develop standards relevant to the needs of Members	<b>Regional coordinator,</b> <b>FAO and WHO,</b> Members, Codex Secretariat	Members provide input to the work related to new food sources	Report at CCEURO33
3. Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards	3.2 Support initiatives to enable the understanding and implementation/ application of Codex standards	3.2.1. Conduct a regional event dedicated to 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CAC and encourage national events  3.2.2 Encourage multi-stakeholder events (food business operators, politicians, civil society, scientists, academic & research) to promote use of Codex standards	The activities are expected to raise the level of awareness of the Codex Alimentarius and increase knowledge about priority standards for the region	<b>Regional Coordinator,</b> Members, Observers, Codex Secretariat, FAO, and WHO	Increased recognition of Codex Alimentarius and priority standards for the region (specifically on AMR)	Codex webpage (main page and regional page)  Report at CCEURO33 and National Action Plans on AMR

Priority goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2022-2023	Rationale for proposed activities	Responsible party and collaborators	Expected output by 2023	Reporting mechanism/
		3.2.3 Promote implementation of the Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance and the Guidelines on Integrated Monitoring and Surveillance of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance				
	3.3. Recognize and promote the impact of Codex standards	<p>3.3.1. Conduct a regional event to support participation in the new Global survey on use and impact of Codex standards</p> <p>3.3.2. Promote the inclusion of food safety as well as the most recent Codex standards in the national actions on the transformation of food systems, including through international bodies</p>	The activities are expected to contribute to gaining better knowledge about the level of use of Codex standards and to obtain high level support and /or recognition of Codex standards	<b>Regional Coordinator,</b> <b>Codex Secretariat,</b> Members, Observers, FAO and WHO	<p>Participation of Members in the global survey on use and impact of Codex standards</p> <p>Mentioning of food safety and Codex standards in the national pathways for sustainable food systems</p>	Report at CCEURO33 on the regional workshop related to participation in the Global survey on use and impact of Codex standards and on inclusion of food safety/Codex standards in national food systems pathways

Priority goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2022-2023	Rationale for proposed activities	Responsible party and collaborators	Expected output by 2023	Reporting mechanism/
4. Facilitate the participation of all Codex Members throughout the standard setting process	4.2 Increase sustainable and active participation of all Codex Members  and  4.3 Reduce barriers to active participation by developing countries.	4.2.1. Continue to support capacity building via trainings, webinars  4.2.2. Develop opportunities for mentorship, and for sharing experience and knowledge among countries of the region  4.2.3. Promote establishment of National Steering Committees in Member countries as required  4.2.4 Promote participation in Electronic Working Groups (EWGs)	The activities are expected to increase Members knowledge and confidence in articulating positions and stimulate greater participation in Codex work	<b>Members, FAO and WHO</b>  Regional Coordinator,  Codex Secretariat	Increased or sustained participation in CAC, CAC subsidiary bodies, WGs and responses to Circular Letters from across the region	Report at CCEURO33 on the number of member countries by economic status participating in the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies as identified in the lists of participants, WG reports and Online Commenting System statistics