

# CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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**Agenda Item 3(b)**

**CX/EURO 16/30/4**  
**September 2016**

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE

30<sup>th</sup> Session, 3 - 7 October 2016  
Astana, Kazakhstan

### PRIORITIZATION OF THE NEEDS OF THE REGION AND POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO ADDRESS THEM

(Prepared by FAO and WHO)

#### Introduction and background

1. In order to identify critical and emerging issues in food safety and quality, a survey was conducted in member countries of each Codex region. A questionnaire was sent to the Codex Contact Points of all members of the respective region with the request to indicate what issues in food safety and quality they consider as most critical and/or emerging. Member countries were asked to indicate the 3-5 most critical and emerging issues in food safety/quality, together with an explanation: 1) why that issue was selected (i.e. on what basis - information/data, knowledge or assumption - the choice was made) and 2) the expected and/or actual impacts of the issue (whether the impact would be sector-specific, affect only some sub-populations or countries/regions, whether it would be related to public health or trade etc.).
2. Document CX/EURO 16/30/3 provides a summary and analysis of the a) critical issues and b) emerging issues that Member countries in the European Region have identified through the survey, including a presentation of the frequency with which category of issues was identified. Included are also the definitions of key terms used in the survey. Responses were received from 22 members, including 21 countries and one coordinated response from the European Union (EU). Based on the obtained responses, the identified issues were grouped into different categories.
3. This document, CX/EURO 16/30/4, aims to promote a discussion within CCEURO on how to prioritize between the issues being identified through the survey and presented in CX/EURO 16/30/3, and decide on follow up actions and their time-frame.

#### Prioritization of the needs of the European Region

4. To support the discussions at the CCEURO, Member countries are asked to reflect on the relevance to their countries and the Region of the issues identified and presented in CX/EURO 16/30/3. In doing so, please also consider:
  - a) Any ongoing activity in your country or in the region relevant to the topic.
  - b) Is one or more issue(s) currently being addressed through an ongoing FAO, WHO or other capacity development project, programme or other mechanism?
  - c) Which of the critical and/or emerging issues do the Committee consider most important to address?

#### Possible approaches to address the most important issues identified

5. To support the discussions at the CCEURO, Member countries are asked to consider:
  - a) Is one or more of the issue(s) already being addressed properly within the Codex system?
  - b) Could one or more issue(s) merit any specific follow up action within Codex as a whole or within CCEURO specifically? If so, what kind of relevant information would be needed to support that work? And what kind of actions and/or strategies would be useful to apply for the follow up?
  - c) Could one or more issue(s) be supported through future capacity development support from FAO, WHO or other mechanisms?
  - d) Issues that may not require any immediate action now, but should be monitored over time to see their evolution etc.

**Conclusions**

6. Based upon the above discussion, the Committee is asked to prioritize some of the emerging and/or critical issues for follow-up action within CCEURO and propose suitable approaches for follow up.
7. Discussion of critical and emerging food safety issues will be a standing item in future CCEURO sessions.