

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



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**Agenda Item 4**

**CX/GP 10/26/4-Add.1**

## **JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**

### **CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

**Twenty-sixth Session**

**Paris, France, 12 - 16 April 2010**

### **PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE GUIDELINES FOR CHAIRPERSONS**

**Replies to CL 2009/26-GP**

**(European Union)**

### **European Union**

The Member States of the European Union (MSEU) maintain their view that there is already sufficient guidance available in the Procedural Manual on the concept of consensus, including the latest amendment to the "Guidelines to Chairpersons" concerning the use of a facilitator which was adopted at the 32<sup>nd</sup> CAC. The 32<sup>nd</sup> CAC also endorsed several actions (preparation of chairs' booklet, informal meetings of chairs etc.) which will further facilitate consensus in Codex decision making.

The MSEU are not fully convinced that the paragraph proposed by Malaysia would bring additional clarity on the application of consensus. In fact it could create more questions than answers (what is meant by "justified" and "sustained"?). Nevertheless, the MSEU remain open to discuss the proposal of Malaysia and would be grateful for clarification on how this proposal would contribute to ensuring transparency in consensus building.