

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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REP20/EURO

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

43rd Session

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REPORT OF THE 31st SESSION OF THE FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE

Almaty, Kazakhstan

30 September – 4 October 2019

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SUMMARY AND STATUS OF WORK

Responsible Party	Purpose	Text/Topic	Para.
CAC43	Appointment	CCEURO31 unanimously agreed to recommend CAC43 to reappoint Kazakhstan for a second term as Coordinator for Europe.	112
FAO/WHO, Codex Secretariat, Members	Information/Action	<u>Keynote address</u> CCEURO31 agreed on the importance of food fraud as a food safety and quality issue in the region, highlighted the need for enhanced action and increased cooperation across sectors and countries, and acknowledged that Codex can play an important role.	14
FAO/WHO, Codex Secretariat, Members	Information/Action	<u>Food safety and quality situation in the countries of the region: Current and emerging issues in the region</u> CCEURO31 agreed to inform CAC and its subsidiary bodies on the usefulness of the survey and the issues identified within the region, namely 1) food fraud, 2) antimicrobial resistance, 3) contaminants and food additives, and also 4) climate change; and encouraged Members to actively participate in the work of the TFAMR.	20
		<u>The Future of Food Safety: Outcome of the first FAO/WHO/AU International Food Safety Conference and the International Forum on Food Safety and Trade - What next?</u> CCEURO31 committed to urge relevant authorities to support the efforts to have food safety included in the agenda of the WHA in May 2020 and recommended that sustainable funding be ensured for scientific advice from the core budgets of the parent organizations to support development of Codex standards.	28
		<u>Food safety and quality situation in the countries of the region: Use of the online platform for information sharing on food safety control systems; status of information and future plans/prospects</u> CCEURO31 requested Member countries to keep information on the platform up-to-date, and to actively use the information available on the platform.	37
FAO/WHO, Codex Secretariat	Information/Action	<u>Use of Codex Standards in the region</u> CCEURO31 identified commodity standards, guidelines of CCFICS and standards of committees that have been adjourned <i>sine die</i> , as appropriate, as areas to be considered for future surveys; stressed the importance of having widespread agreement on and critical assessment of new work before progressing it, so that the outcome is more likely to be used by Codex Members;	48
Codex Secretariat, CCFA	Action	<u>Matters arising from the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other Codex Committees</u> CCEURO31 confirmed that the use of food additives was technologically not justified in foods conforming to the <i>Standard for Fresh Fungus "Chanterelle"</i> (European Regional Standard) (CXS 40R-1981) and agreed to request CCFA to take this information into account when aligning food additive provisions between the GSFA and CXS 40R-1981.	57
Regional Coordinator, Members, CCEXEC/CAC	Information/Action	<u>Codex work relevant to the region</u> CCEURO31 re-iterated its position on the Proposed Draft MRLs for Zilpaterol Hydrochloride and urged their representatives in the FAO and WHO governing bodies to request sustainable, sufficient and predictable funding for scientific advice to Codex work.	74

Responsible Party	Purpose	Text/Topic	Para.
Regional Coordinator, Members, Codex Secretariat, FAO/WHO	Information/ Action	<u>Implementation of Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019</u> CCEURO31 noted the achievements made under the Strategic Plan 2014-2019 and the importance of using the lessons learned from their monitoring and implementation as they embark on the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025.	85
Members, Regional Coordinator, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat, FAO/WHO	Information/ Action	<u>Strategic Plan 2020-2025: Roadmap to Implementation</u> CCEURO31 expressed commitment to support the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and agreed that CCEURO would focus on the implementation of activities aimed towards achieving Goal 1 (current and emerging issues) with a particular focus on food fraud and Goal 2 (standards based on science and risk analysis) over the next 2 years.	100
Coordinator, Members, Codex Secretariat	Action	CCEURO31 agreed to adopt the <u>Regional Codex Communications Work plan 2020-2025</u> .	104, App. III
Codex Secretariat CAC	Action	<u>Language policy in CCEURO</u> CCEURO31 agreed to add Russian as an official language for CCEURO noting that if this proposal is agreed by CAC, the Secretariat will propose how to accommodate the additional costs sustainably.	110
Members, Regional Coordinator, Codex Secretariat, FAO/WHO	Action	<u>Activities for the period 2020-2021 to be undertaken in the CCEURO region to support the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025:</u> Collect more specific information on country's current, emerging and critical issues using and refining existing mechanisms (1.1.1); Create a repository of available information on food fraud, including contact details and explanatory guidelines on submission of information (1.1.2); Use current prioritization information available from Codex committees (1.2.1); To select from FAO and WHO scientific expert bodies' calls for data a topic for a pilot of a co-ordinated approach by the European region (2.2.1); To contribute to the drafting of a World Health Assembly resolution in 2020 on food safety, as proposed in the letter from Member States of the EU and others to DG WHO ¹ (2.3.1); To communicate within countries and to Geneva based missions to ensure adoption of a World Health Assembly resolution in 2020 on food safety (2.3.2).	App.II

¹ CX/EURO 19/31CRD04

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance
AU	African Union
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
CCFA	Codex Committee on Food Labelling
CCFICS	Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems
CCGP	Codex Committee on General Principles
CCNASWP	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific
CCP	Codex Contact Point
CCPFV	Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables
CRD	Conference Room Document
CCRVDF	Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food
CTF	Codex Trust Fund
EWG	Electronic Working Group
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GSFA	General Standard for Food Additives
INFOSAN	International Network of Food Safety Authorities
JECFA	Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives
MRL	Maximum Residue Limit
RCCs	Regional Coordinating Committees or FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees
TFAMR	<i>Ad hoc</i> Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance
WFSD	World Food Safety Day
WG	Working Group
WHA	World Health Assembly
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

INTRODUCTION

1. The FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committee for Europe (CCEURO) convened its 31st Session in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from 30 September to 4 October 2019 at the kind invitation of the Government of Kazakhstan. Dr. Nailya Karsybekova, Regional Coordinator of CCEURO, chaired the Session, which was attended by 30 Member countries and one Member Organization from the European region, two Member countries from outside the Region, two Observer organizations, and Representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) as well as the Codex Secretariat. A complete list of participants is contained in Appendix I.

OPENING OF THE SESSION²

2. The Chairperson welcomed the delegates and opened the meeting.
3. Ms Aktayeva Iyazat, Vice-minister of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan, delivered the inaugural address welcoming delegates and stressing that active participation in the 31st Session of CCEURO would make a significant contribution to solving various issues in the field of food safety, which in turn would strengthen the health of people, the public and of nations.
4. Mr Dauren Oshakbayev, Senior Programme Officer, FAO liaison and partnership office in Kazakhstan, and Mr. Peter Sousa Hoejskov, Technical Officer for Food Safety and Zoonotic Diseases, WHO Regional Office for Europe, welcomed the attendees on behalf of FAO and WHO, respectively.
5. The meeting was also addressed by Mr. Utegulov Arman Karimovich, Chairperson of the Committee for Veterinary Control and Surveillance of the Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Kazakhstan; Ms. Lyudmila Byurabekova, Chairperson of the Committee for Control over Quality and Safety of Goods and Services of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Mr Guilherme Antonio da Costa Jr. Chairperson of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) (through a pre-recorded video) and Mr Steve Wearne, CAC Vice-Chairperson.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda Item 1)³

6. CCEURO31 adopted the Provisional Agenda as contained in CX/EURO 19/31/1 as the Agenda for the Session.
7. CCEURO31 further agreed to establish an in-session Working Group (WG), open to all Members and observers, chaired by the United Kingdom and working in English, French, Spanish and Russian, to consider agenda item 7.2, taking into account written comments received and any other relevant information (e.g. Agenda Items 6 and 8) and to prepare a report with recommendations for consideration by the plenary.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS - FOOD FRAUD – ADDRESSING RISKS, PREVENTION AND COUNTERACTION (Agenda Item 2)⁴

8. The Representative of FAO, speaking on behalf of FAO and WHO, introduced this item, recalling the ongoing process of revitalization of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees (RCCs) and the inclusion of a 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 Professor Paul Brereton, Director of Strategic Alliances, Queen's University, Belfast, United Kingdom on the topic: "Food fraud – addressing risks, prevention and counteraction". Professor Brereton gave an overview of some of the key issues for policy, enforcement, consumers and business stakeholders concerned with food fraud. The current state of the art and strategies were presented centred on the need to develop a more proactive, preventative approach. New technologies are being developed, which will provide more cost effective verification procedures as well as big data solutions that can help identify high risk areas for stakeholders to address. The following points were highlighted:
 - (i) Food fraud is a global trans-national problem that impacts on the local agri-food economy, consumer health and consumer trust;
 - (ii) A common set of terms, definitions and standards are needed;
 - (iii) Industry requires a level playing field where fraud is rigorously prosecuted together with clear standards and pragmatic methods and tools for prevention and prediction;
 - (iv) Food control authorities need robust, validated methods;

² CRD2 (Opening Speeches)

³ CX/EURO 19/31/1

⁴ CX/EURO 19/31/2; CRD03 (Keynote presentation by Paul Brereton); CRD05 (comments by the European Union); CRD06 (comments by the United Kingdom: Information on a virtual network on food authenticity analysis); CRD07 (comments by Norway)

- (v) New data-sharing and forecasting methods will help stakeholders target resources;
- (vi) Stakeholders need to exchange intelligence information and best practices. Expertise and information is available, much of it open source;
- (vii) Multi-actor, inter-disciplinary, trans-national approaches are needed to keep up with fraudsters and protect the integrity of the food supply.

Discussion

10. Following the keynote address, the following points and comments were made:
- (i) Official control authorities affirmed the importance of addressing food fraud, and shared information on the range of initiatives, and networks currently active in the region;
 - (ii) The most common products identified in the discussion which are subject to falsification in the region are alcoholic drinks, juices, meat, olive oil, milk and dairy products, butter and honey;
 - (iii) Food fraud is recognized as a trans-national issue, which can have food safety implications, harm consumer trust and limit economic development;
 - (iv) Food fraud needs to be addressed as an integral part of existing official food control systems, however Members noted there may be specific dimensions to be considered when addressing food fraud, including the need for trust and confidence among authorities, business and traders;
 - (v) Countries acknowledged that while legal requirements are often in place, implementation and enforcement continued to be a challenge;
 - (vi) Addressing food fraud requires robust enforcement and the importance of penalties proportional to the gains from the fraud was highlighted – in order to protect businesses (honest industry) and consumers, thus enabling businesses to operate on equal terms and conditions;
 - (vii) Addressing food fraud is not only a crisis management issue, but requires proactive and preventive approaches, including information and data exchange among relevant stakeholders, sectors and countries;
 - (viii) The importance of robust laboratory detection methods was acknowledged, and the need for more knowledge and capacity building in laboratory techniques;
 - (ix) The importance of generating intelligence on the issue by sharing available information and data through designated communication channels across government agencies and with industry sectors (within country and across countries) was highlighted⁵;
 - (x) There is a need to introduce new ways of working in addressing food fraud issues, including the introduction of improved assessment of risks (for example threat assessment), building awareness, detection and implementation of appropriate interventions;
 - (xi) Various useful resources exist, including the UK virtual food authenticity network⁶.
11. The Committee acknowledged that Codex can play an important role in addressing food fraud, in particular to strengthen collaboration between countries, and support new work on developing definitions and common terminology, and encouraged the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Certification and Inspection Systems (CCFICS) to complete its work, and noted the possibility for Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP) to consider the outcome of this work.
12. The Representative of FAO thanking the Committee for the very informative discussion which is relevant to the capacity development work of FAO and WHO, advised the Committee that FAO is convening a food fraud internal meeting from 4 to 7 November, 2019 (Rome) with the goal to discuss key elements that could contribute to a definition of food fraud and to identify the elements, institutions and mechanisms that a country should put in place to effectively address food fraud.
13. The Representative of WHO encouraged Member countries of the CCEURO region to make use of existing networks and mechanisms for sharing information about food fraud across countries, which may include the International Network of Food Safety Authorities (INFOSAN).

⁵ For example the EU Food Fraud Network open to EU Member States and other European countries: SANTE-FOOD-FRAUD@ec.europa.eu

⁶ <http://www.foodauthenticity.uk/>

Conclusion

14. CCEURO31 welcomed the inclusion of a keynote address as a standing agenda item, and:
- (i) agreed on the importance of food fraud as a food safety and quality issue in the region;
 - (ii) highlighted the need for enhanced action and increased cooperation across sectors and countries to address food fraud;
 - (iii) recognised that while food fraud is not a new topic, due to the changing context and evolving food supply chains, it does require new ways of working to address this complex issue;
 - (iv) acknowledged that Codex can play an important role and facilitate global discussions to support country efforts to address food fraud.

FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY SITUATION IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION: CURRENT AND EMERGING ISSUES (Agenda Item 3.1)⁷

15. The Representative of WHO, speaking on behalf of FAO and WHO, informed the Committee that this agenda item was a way to facilitate a targeted discussion on emerging food safety issues and priorities in the region. Its purpose was to draw the attention of CCEURO to emerging issues of concern as well as the general food safety and quality situation in the region. The Representative confirmed that the information provided supported FAO and WHO's efforts to enhance food safety and implement the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025, with specific linkage to Goal 1 (Address current and emerging issues).
16. The Representative presented the current and emerging issues identified by the survey, and highlighted those which were most frequently identified by Member countries, namely food fraud, Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), and contaminants and food additives.

Discussion

17. Members expressed general support for conducting such a survey on emerging issues.
18. Members acknowledged that also climate change was an emerging issue frequently identified by Member countries of the region, and in this respect attention was drawn to the keynote speech on "Managing food safety in an era of accelerated climate change" given at CCNASWP15 which content is of global relevance and worth sharing with the entire Codex membership.
19. In light of AMR being identified as one of the most important emerging issues, Members were encouraged to actively participate in the work of the *ad hoc* Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR) that will hold its next meeting from 9 to 13 December 2019 in the Republic of Korea.

Conclusion

20. CCEURO31:
- (i) Noted that the outcome of the survey was relevant to guide strategic and operational planning at global, regional and national levels, including in the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025;
 - (ii) Agreed to inform CAC and its subsidiary bodies on the usefulness of the survey and the issues identified within the region, namely 1) food fraud, 2) antimicrobial resistance, 3) contaminants and food additives, and also 4) climate change;
 - (iii) Noted the necessity to encourage exchange of information and good practices to address common emerging issues among Members from the region;
 - (iv) Noted the necessity to encourage cooperation between Members, public organizations and scientific research organizations to address emerging issues;
 - (v) Encouraged Members to actively participate in the work of the TFAMR.

THE FUTURE OF FOOD SAFETY: OUTCOME OF THE FAO/WHO/AU INTERNATIONAL FOOD SAFETY CONFERENCE AND THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON FOOD SAFETY AND TRADE – WHAT NEXT? (Agenda Item 3.2)⁸

21. The Representative of FAO, speaking on behalf of FAO and WHO, introduced this item by calling the Committee's attention to the Chairperson's summary and the Joint Statement by FAO/WHO/WTO that were issued following the First FAO/WHO/AU 'First International Food Safety Conference' held in Addis Ababa,

⁷ CX/EURO 19/31/3; CRD05 (comments by EU), [CX/NASWP 19/15/CRD1](#)

⁸ CX/EURO 19/31/4: CRD04 (Letter to the Director General of the World Health Organization); CRD05 (comments by EU)

Ethiopia and the 'International Forum on Food Safety and Trade' held in Geneva, Switzerland. The events, which were held under the overall theme "The future of food safety – Transforming knowledge into action for people, economies and the environment", aimed to; 1) Identify key actions and strategies to address current and future challenges to food safety globally, and 2) Strengthen commitment at the highest political level to scale up food safety in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

22. The presence of high-level officials from many countries as well as African Union (AU), FAO, WHO and the World Trade Organization (WTO) demonstrated that food safety was seen as an important priority without which SDGs could not be achieved. The events highlighted the continued relevance of the Codex Alimentarius as the international reference for food safety standards and the importance of harmonization of national food safety requirements with Codex standards and encouraged Members to continue engaging in Codex work to keep these standards relevant and up-to-date.
23. The Representative stressed that FAO and WHO are committed to building on the momentum created by the two international food safety events and supporting Members to raise the food safety profile and commitment for food safety through, for example, developing a global framework for action on food safety. It was important to have food safety on the agenda of WHO and FAO governing bodies both at global and regional level and obtain the commitment of Members to this effect. The Representative informed the Committee that the European Union and a number of Codex Members from other regions had submitted a letter to the Director General of WHO (CRD 4) urging for a renewed focus on food safety within the governing body of WHO and requesting the inclusion of an agenda item on food safety at the WHO Executive Board at its 146th session (February 2020) and the 74th World Health Assembly (WHA) (May 2020).

Discussion

24. Members acknowledged the key messages contained in the Chairperson's Summary of The First FAO/WHO/AU International Food Safety Conference and the Joint Statement by FAO/WHO/WTO related to the International Forum on Food Safety and Trade, which were important references for further work in raising the profile of food safety and ensuring political commitment and sustained investments in strengthening food control systems.
25. One Member highlighted the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and the importance of multi-sectoral approaches to enhance food safety. The Member also informed the Committee about the ongoing work on the establishment in the region of the FAO Reference Centre on AMR and emphasized the need for capacity development in food safety and AMR.
26. Members and Observers emphasised the importance of having food safety included in the agenda of the World Health Assembly (WHA) in May 2020 as the basis for a WHA Resolution on food safety. Members stressed the urgency for health authorities in their countries and their Permanent Missions in Geneva, to support this initiative. Members from other ministries than health were encouraged to work with their health counterparts to support the process.
27. Members emphasized the importance of ensuring sustainable funding for scientific advice from the core budgets of the parent organizations to support the development of Codex standards.

Conclusion

28. CCEURO31:
 - (i) Took note of the Chairperson's Summary of the First FAO/WHO/AU International Food Safety Conference and the Joint Statement by FAO/WHO/WTO related to the International Forum on Food Safety and Trade and committed to make these documents available to high level policy makers within their governments;
 - (ii) Committed to urge relevant authorities to support the efforts to have food safety included in the agenda of the WHA in May 2020 so that this could materialize as a WHO resolution on food safety;
 - (iii) Reaffirmed the need for raising the profile of food safety and the need to sustain investments for food safety so that the necessary resources are made available to support food safety through different approaches including:
 - a) All Members and observers use the occasion of the annual World Food Safety Day (WFSD) on 7th June to highlight the importance of food safety;
 - b) Request FAO and WHO to continue their activities to maintain a high profile for food safety through follow-up initiatives to the 2019 global food safety events, such as developing a Global Framework for Action on Food Safety;

- c) Request Donors and development partners to support the efforts of low income countries by investing in initiatives to support the strengthening the critical food safety infrastructure, services and capacity.
- (iv) Recommended that sustainable funding be ensured for scientific advice from the core budgets of the parent organizations to support development of Codex standards.

FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY SITUATION IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION: USE OF THE ONLINE PLATFORM FOR INFORMATION SHARING ON FOOD SAFETY CONTROL SYSTEM; STATUS OF INFORMATION AND FUTURE PLANS/PROSPECTS (Agenda Item 3.3)⁹

29. The Representative of FAO, speaking on behalf of FAO and WHO, introduced the agenda item stating that the online platform on food safety control systems was an initiative under the strategy for revitalizing the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees. The Committee was reminded that the primary purpose of the online platform is to facilitate the exchange of information among Codex Members on the current status of national food control systems, providing updates when appropriate. This information had previously been collected through a Circular Letter.
30. The Representative explained that the set of questions included in the platform had been chosen based on the premise that countries would see value in sharing and using the information. Another use of the information shared through the platform would be to inform FAO and WHO capacity development programmes. It was clear that the utility of the platform depended on the use made by Codex Members, and the information uploaded to the platform. The online platform was designed to allow flexibility, and could be accessed at any time (through the Codex website). The vision for the platform development was to add more questions on aspects of official food control systems where Codex Members saw value in exchanging information.
31. Due to the limited response rate and the incompleteness of some submissions, specific questions were asked of CCEURO to understand the relevance of the platform to Members, the challenges faced, and the possible support that could be provided to alleviate these difficulties.

Discussion

32. Members said they found the online platform useful, but recognised that not all countries used it. Members further requested information on the level of awareness of the platform and how it was being used. Some Members had experienced difficulties in accessing the platform and publishing information.
33. Members made practical suggestions to increase the overall utility of the online platform, including:
- (i) the possibility to upload links to national authorities' webpages and information sites would be practical and time saving (as information is often readily available on a range of websites);
 - (ii) email addresses and not only names of authorities should be included in the information provided;
 - (iii) investigate if links to multi-country information and websites could be included;
 - (iv) adding a question for countries to include information on the competent authority responsible for food fraud;
 - (v) including the date when information was last updated, for the country profile;
 - (vi) making the location of the online platform on the Codex website more visible and easy to identify and access.
34. The Regional Coordinator encouraged Members that had not yet provided information to do so as the platform would encourage information exchange.
35. In response to points raised during the discussion, the Representative of FAO thanked the Committee for their practical suggestions on how to improve the online platform, and confirmed that the information included in each country's profile was available publicly once the Codex Contact Point (CCP) had submitted the information in "published" form. Regarding the utility of the online platform, the Representative agreed on the need to undertake a clear communication drive to advise Codex Members of the existence and purpose of the platform, to improve visibility and access, thus enabling and encouraging more entries, and greater use.
36. The Codex Secretariat informed the Committee that a practical demonstration of the online platform would be included in the Side Event on Codex online tools taking place on the margins of CCEURO31.

⁹ CX/EURO 19/31/5

Conclusion

37. CCEURO31:
- (i) Noted the comments provided during the discussion in particular on the value of information exchange, the role of the online platform for information exchange, and the areas for improvement;
 - (ii) Thanked and requested FAO and WHO, with the Codex Secretariat, to continue the maintenance and improvement of the platform to serve Members' interests;
 - (iii) Stressed the importance of steps to raise awareness and access to the online platform, and to understand the use being made of the online platform;
 - (iv) Requested Member countries to keep information on the platform up-to-date, and to actively use the information available on the platform.

USE OF CODEX STANDARDS IN THE REGION (Agenda Item 4)¹⁰

38. The Codex Secretariat introduced the item and noted that the online survey focused on the use of the following Codex standards: Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for veterinary drugs in foods and two Codex texts on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). The aim of the survey was: to provide a better understanding of the extent of use and relevance of Codex Standards for the region; to offer an insight into the difficulties related to the use of Codex standards and to receive general feedback from Members on the future implementation of the survey.
39. The Codex Secretariat highlighted the high response rate to the survey (86%) as compared to the 2016 survey (69%), and drew the attention of CCEURO31 to its outcome, inviting the Committee to share comments on the analysis, the feasibility of completing such surveys on a regular basis as well as any information on other ongoing efforts to assess the level of use of Codex standards.

Discussion

40. Members noted the results of the survey and that a discussion paper by France relating to monitoring the use of Codex standards was under preparation and would be presented at the 32nd session of CCGP. The following views were expressed:

The outcome of the 2019 survey

41. Members appreciated seeing wide use of the surveyed Codex standards on AMR in the region and underlined their determination to rapidly progress work in this area, including through broad participation in the TFAMR.
42. The lack of awareness of Codex standards among some Members in the region revealed by the survey, was considered an issue that could be addressed through awareness raising and training initiatives such as Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF). In that context, the European Commission offered to organize a BTSF funded awareness raising event in the autumn of 2020 should there be wider interest from Members experiencing difficulties in that area.
43. The Representative of FAO underlined that FAO/WHO capacity building activities, including both programmatic and through the Codex Trust Fund (CTF) also offered opportunities to increase awareness of Codex standards and build capacity and knowledge on how to make use of the standards.

The continuation of the survey

44. Members supported the continuation of the survey on a biennial basis noting that the survey results were also linked to Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan for the period 2020-2025 (impact through use and recognition).

The contents of the next survey

45. Members identified the following Codex texts to be considered in the next survey:
- (i) Commodity standards in general;
 - (ii) Guidelines developed by CCFICS;
 - (iii) Standards of Codex committees that have been adjourned *sine die*, as appropriate.

Future measurement of the use of Codex standards

46. Members saw a need to complement the survey with a monitoring mechanism that would provide insights into the overall application of Codex standards at the global level. One step for setting up such a mechanism was seen in the discussions to be held at CCGP32¹¹. In addition, Members stressed that an essential prerequisite

¹⁰ CX/EURO 19/31/6; CRD5 (comments by EU)

¹¹ REP19/GP, paragraph 81

for wide use of Codex standards was broad consensus by Codex Members before establishing new work and an effective critical review process.

47. Members suggested inviting WTO to present an analysis on instances in which Codex standards were referenced in international trade disputes as this could provide further understanding of the gaps in the use of Codex standards.

Conclusion

48. CCEURO31:
- (i) Noted the outcome of the survey and supported future surveys on a biennial basis.
 - (ii) Identified commodity standards, guidelines of CCFICS and standards of committees that have been adjourned *sine die*, as appropriate, areas to be considered for future surveys.
 - (iii) Stressed the importance of having widespread agreement on and critical assessment of new work before progressing it, so that the outcome was more likely to be used by Codex Members.
 - (iv) Noted that comments made at CCEURO31 would be taken into account by the Codex Secretariat when continuing work on this matter.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES (Agenda Item 5)¹²

49. CCEURO31 took note of the matters provided in document CX/EURO 19/31/7 and agreed to consider the matters referred for action under the relevant agenda items.

Regular Review of Codex Work Management: Electronic Working Groups (EWGs)

50. The Committee noted the importance of examining barriers to active participation in EWGs and identifying possible solutions, and agreed to consider this matter under Agenda Item 7.1.

Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025

51. The Committee noted that development of a work plan for implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 would be considered under Agenda Items 7.2 and 8.

Codex: Budgetary and financial matters

52. The Committee noted that the use of the Russian language in CCEURO would be considered under Agenda Item 9.

Coordinator for Europe

53. The Committee noted that nomination of Regional Coordinator would be considered under Agenda Item 10.

Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV)

54. The Committee noted that Members were encouraged to participate in the work of CCPFV and agreed that this matter would be considered under Agenda Item 6.

Alignment of food additive provisions in commodity standards, including one standard of CCEURO

55. The Committee recognized its responsibility for the *Standard for Fresh Fungus "Chanterelle"* (European Regional Standard), CXS 40R-1981. This standard does not contain food additive provisions. According to Annex C of the *General Standard for Food Additives* (GSFA) (CXS 192-1995) there is a cross reference of the CXS 40R-1981 R to the food category 04.2.1.1 of the GSFA. Food category 04.2.1 is listed in the Annex to Table Three of the GSFA. Thus the use of food additives listed in Table Three in foods belonging to the food category 04.2.1 (including its subcategories) is governed by the provisions in Tables One and Two. CCEURO confirmed that the use of food additives is technologically not justified in foods conforming to the CXS 40R-1981. Thus all current food additive provisions in food category 04.2.1.1 of the GSFA should be amended by adding the new note XS40R "Excluding products conforming to the Standard for Fresh Fungus "Chanterelle" (European Regional Standard) (CXS 40R-1981). CCEURO31 agreed to requests CCFA to take the above into account when aligning food additive provisions in the GSFA and CXS 40R-1981.

CCFICS24

56. The Committee noted the work ongoing in CCFICS on food fraud and that further work may subsequently be referred to CCGP.

¹² CX/EURO 19/31/7; CRD05 (comments by EU)

Conclusion

57. CCEURO31:

- (i) Took note of the information provided.
- (ii) Agreed to discuss the matters for action under the relevant items on the agenda.
- (iii) Confirmed that the use of food additives was technologically not justified in foods conforming to the *Standard for Fresh Fungus "Chanterelle"* (European Regional Standard) (CXS 40R-1981) and agreed to request CCFA to take this information into account when aligning food additive provisions in the GSFA and CXS 40R-1981.

CODEX WORK RELEVANT TO THE REGION (Agenda Item 6)¹³

58. The Regional Coordinator introduced the agenda item presented the key issues related to Codex work that are of relevance to the region.

59. Members supported the observations and recommendations of the Regional Coordinator and noted the following:

Strategic Plan 2020-2025: Work plan

60. The Committee acknowledged the importance of the RCCs and Member countries contributing to the development of the work plan for implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and noted that this topic of high relevance to the region would be further discussed under Agenda Item 7.2.

Statements of Principle concerning the Role of Science

61. CCEURO31 welcomed the conclusion of CAC42¹⁴ that there was a need to ensure a fully transparent process with ample opportunity for all Codex Members to provide input to the work of the CCEXEC sub-committee on application of the *Statements of Principle Concerning the Role of Science*.

62. CCEURO31 noted that in the conclusions of CX/EXEC 19/77/10¹⁵ there were five suggestions as to how work may proceed when consensus was difficult to achieve, 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-amenable to standardisation, and Reservations/statements of principle.

63. To facilitate the discussion, the Codex Secretariat introduced document CX/EXEC 19/77/10 regarding the history and implications of the fourth paragraph on the *Statements of Principle*, and also presented the relevant conclusions by CCEXEC77¹⁶ and CAC42¹³, as well as the Terms of Reference of the CCEXEC sub-committee as contained in Appendix IV of REP19/EXEC2¹⁵.

64. CCEURO31 agreed to hold an informal discussion on the *Statements of Principle concerning the Role of Science* as envisaged by CAC42 as a means of reinforcing transparency in the work of the relevant CCEXEC sub-committee. The objective was to address the recommendation in CX/EURO 19/31/8 that Members in the region should coordinate their efforts in contributing to the work of the CCEXEC sub-committee.

65. A summary of the informal discussion held in the margins of CCEURO31 on the operationalization of the *Statements of Principle concerning the Role of Science* is contained in CRD09¹³. This document will be shared with CCEXEC78 and the sub-committee.

Proposed Draft MRLs for Zilpaterol Hydrochloride (Cattle fat, kidney, liver, muscle)

66. CCEURO31 noted that this topic was linked to the discussion on the *Statements of Principles concerning the role of science*. The Committee re-affirmed and re-iterated its position as contained in the report of CCEURO30¹⁷, which

“noted the unanimous views of CCEURO members against the use of growth promoters and the establishment of Codex Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for such substances; and reaffirmed the need for Codex, including the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), to focus their scarce resources on subjects of global importance, rather than investing much effort into those that would affect negatively Codex processes.”

¹³ CX/EURO 19/31/8; CRD05 (comments by EU); [CRD09](#) (Summary of the informal discussion held in the margins of CCEURO31 on the operationalization of the *Statements of Principle concerning the Role of Science*)

¹⁴ [REP19/CAC](#), paragraphs 11-12

¹⁵ [CX/EXEC 19/77/10](#), section 6

¹⁶ [REP19/EXEC2](#), paragraph 87 and Appendix IV

¹⁷ [REP17/EURO](#), paragraph 53

67. CCEURO31 noted that scientific information from the Russian Federation on zilpaterol hydrochloride in food products of animal origin relevant to the proposed MRL for zilpaterol hydrochloride (cattle fat, kidney, liver, muscle), would be submitted by the Russian Federation for consideration by CCRVDF25.
68. CCEURO31 welcomed the ongoing work on the *Statements of Principle concerning the Role of Science* by the CCEXEC sub-committee and emphasized that it expected the sub-committee to develop practical guidance, taking into account the conclusions of the document on the *'History and implications of the fourth paragraph of the Statements of Principle'* prepared by the Codex Secretariat for CCEXEC¹⁴. The Committee considered such guidance to be essential for finding a way forward regarding growth promoters in the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF).

Sustainable Funding of Codex Scientific Advice

69. CCEURO31 emphasized the importance of ensuring sustainable, predictable and sufficient funding of scientific advice (from the core budgets of FAO and WHO) to Codex work, as also discussed under Agenda Item 3.2 and emphasized in the letter to the Director General of WHO (CRD04). Reference was made to the conclusions of CAC42 regarding a discussion paper on this topic which 39 Codex Members from the CCEURO region and the EU had co-signed¹⁸.
70. The Representative of FAO underlined the importance that FAO gives to the scientific advice for Codex standards setting and informed the Committee of the endorsement by the 41st FAO Conference (June 2019) of increased, secured, ring-fenced funds to support scientific advice in 2020-2021.

Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR)

71. CCEURO31 emphasized the importance of the work of TFAMR and urged Members to actively participate in its work.

Ongoing standard setting work of relevance to the region

72. CCEURO31 noted that in addition to the ongoing Codex work listed in Table 1 in document CX/EURO 19/31/8, the work of CCGP, in particular on monitoring the use of Codex standards, was of interest to CCEURO.
73. The Codex Secretariat reminded CCEURO31 that CCPFV, working by correspondence, had several EWGs, some of which could be of interest for Members to participate in.

Conclusion

74. CCEURO31 agreed to:
- (i) coordinate efforts in contributing to the work of the CCEXEC sub-committee on the development of a work plan to implement the Strategic Plan 2020-2025;
 - (ii) contribute to the work of the CCEXEC sub-committee on the *Statements of Principle concerning the Role of Science* and, in particular, to make CRD9 available to this sub-committee and to CCEXEC78;
 - (iii) re-iterate its position on the Proposed Draft MRLs for Zilpaterol Hydrochloride, developed at CCEURO30 (2016);
 - (iv) urge their representatives in the FAO and WHO governing bodies to request sustainable, sufficient and predictable funding for scientific advice to Codex work;
 - (v) engage in the work of TFAMR and urged the Task Force to make progress on work undertaken considering its importance for the region in addressing public health concerns; and
 - (vi) increase information sharing with countries from the region, including relevant data and scientific expert advice for preparing new work proposals and country positions on key work items within Codex.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2014 – 2019 (Agenda Item 7.1)¹⁹

75. The Codex Secretariat introduced the agenda item, noting that the term of the global Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019 was ending and that there were many valuable lessons to be learned from the monitoring and implementation of the plan that needed to be carried forward when implementing the new strategic plan.
76. CCEURO31 was informed that a final report on the implementation of the strategic plan (2014-2019) would be presented to CCEXEC79 and CAC43, for which input was required from the region.

¹⁸ REP19/CAC, paragraph 136

¹⁹ CX/EURO 19/31/9; CRD05 (comments by EU)

77. As a follow up to the regular review of Codex work management on Electronic Working Groups (EWGs), the Codex Secretariat recalled the recommendation of CAC40 to work with coordinators and committees to examine barriers to active participation and identify possible solutions²⁰.

Discussion

78. The Regional Coordinator noted that a new deadline for applications to the CTF was approaching (30 November 2019) and congratulated Turkmenistan for its successful application in 2018/2019. CCEURO noted ongoing projects in North Macedonia and Kyrgyzstan under CTF.
79. Members noted that the EU-funded Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) had been well received and it was noted that further training could be organized should Members express interest.
80. Members congratulated Kazakhstan for having organized seminars and capacity building initiatives in eleven countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan) in the region.
81. The Representative of FAO further informed the Committee of their ongoing support in the region and Codex capacity building activities in Azerbaijan and Belarus, and stressed that it was important to share information on such activities in order to complement each other in efforts to increase participation of Members from CCEURO in Codex work²¹.
82. The Representatives of WHO and FAO underlined that it was imperative for countries to request where and what type of support was needed, linking up as much as possible food safety capacity development needs to FAO/WHO work planning tools at country level, WHO biennial collaborative agreements and FAO Country Programme Frameworks.

Barriers to participation in EWGs

83. The Codex Secretariat informed the Committee that Members from the region that do not attend physical Codex meetings were also not active in EWGs.
84. Discussions highlighted the following impediments to participation in EWGs:
- (i) how the Codex Contact Point (CCP) coordinates EWG work (often with limited human resources), considering the capacity and organization of the national structure and the level of national coordination with relevant experts, and the ability of the CCP to adequately respond to the volume of work associated with the number of active EWGs;
 - (ii) time management and timely participation:
 - a. for the CCP who is also coordinating national experts
 - b. for countries leading EWGs in managing the work
 - c. for participants in EWGs (EWG registration and meeting subsequent deadlines)
 - d. for the Codex Secretariat in ensuring effective and timely communication when publishing invitations
 - (iii) technical issues on how to access and use the EWG platform ensuring that experts are adequately trained even if infrequent users;
 - (iv) language issues such as the need and time required for translation into a national language to facilitate comments; and
 - (v) “other factors” limiting participation including the lack of data and/or comments to contribute to the discussions, and lack of interest or need to participate in a particular EWG.

Conclusion

85. CCEURO31:
- (i) Noted the achievements made under the Strategic Plan 2014-2019 and the importance of using the lessons learned from their monitoring and implementation as they embark on the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025.
 - (ii) Requested Members to provide information about relevant activities to facilitate the preparation of the final report of the Strategic Plan 2014-2019.
 - (iii) Acknowledged the ongoing challenges with participation in EWGs and noted that the Codex

²⁰ REP17/CAC, paragraph 107

²¹ See CX/CAC 19/42/16 for FAO/WHO capacity building activities implemented since CAC41 (July 2018).

Secretariat would assess barriers to participation identified by CCEURO31 and other RCCs, organize a webinar on EWGs, and present practical guidance for EWGs as part of the final report of the Strategic Plan 2014-2019.

- (iv) Encouraged eligible Members to apply for support to enhance their participation in Codex through CTF.
- (v) Noted that some Members of the region expressed their need for capacity building activities.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2020 – 2025: ROAD MAP TO IMPLEMENTATION (Agenda Item 7.2)²²

- 86. The Codex Secretariat introduced the item, recalling that CAC42 had adopted the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and noting the flexibility the new strategic plan afforded in terms of implementation. The Codex Secretariat emphasized the shared ownership and responsibility for implementation of the Strategic Plan among Codex Members and Observers, Codex subsidiary bodies and the Codex Secretariat, host country secretariat and chairpersons. The Codex Secretariat reminded CCEURO that CCEXEC had established a sub-committee to oversee and facilitate the development of the work plan for the implementation of the Strategic Plan and of the request to CCEURO, to provide details on the activities it would undertake to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 over the next two years.
- 87. The Chairperson recalled that CCEURO31 had established an in-session working group (WG), chaired by the United Kingdom, to address this request.

Discussion

- 88. The United Kingdom, as Chairperson of the WG, summarized the outcome of the WG discussions as presented in CRD8, noted that the WG had prioritized activities under Goals 1 and 2 for 2020-2021 and had identified a series of activities that were intended to be actionable in this period. The Chairperson of the WG also proposed that the Committee closely review the activities table in order to ensure the proposed activities were aligned with the goals and were practical and achievable within the next two years.
- 89. CCEURO31 expressed appreciation for the work of the WG and reviewed the proposed activities and related information as presented in CRD8.
- 90. The activities proposed in CRD8 under Goal 2 were supported.
- 91. In regard to Goal 1, Members agreed that much work had already been carried out via current mechanisms to identify and prioritize needs in the region and that the new Strategic Plan was therefore an opportunity to collect more specific information and to actually begin to work on priorities in more detail, especially food fraud and climate change.
- 92. On Goal 1 and the objective to continuing identify needs and emerging issues in the region (1.1.1 of Appendix II), the Representative of FAO advised of the readiness of FAO and WHO to undertake the survey on current and emerging issues in the region as discussed within Agenda item 3.1. Countries were encouraged to maximize the use of the information from the surveys, and to share experiences and good practices in addressing identified emerging issues.
- 93. Members re-emphasized that climate change should be addressed under activity 1.1.1.
- 94. An activity was added under Goal 1 to “Create a repository of available information on food fraud” (1.1.2). Different views were expressed as to whether such a repository or ‘library’ should contain historic examples or ‘cases’ of food fraud, to help Members see how issues had been dealt with in other countries, or rather serve as an alert system for matters ongoing or emerging. When considering the rationale for this new activity, Members noted that the agreed upon wording ‘available information’ would allow countries to contribute or use the repository based on their own situations and that this activity could also encourage Members to share best practices and exchange views with one another to build useful contacts and expertise on food fraud throughout CCEURO.
- 95. It was suggested that the repository could be hosted on the CCEURO page of the Codex website as a provisional step until CCEURO32 and that the status of the repository would be reported to relevant CAC subsidiary bodies, in particular CCFICS, within two years. In this context, Members were encouraged to participate in the work of CCFICS on food fraud.
- 96. The Representative of FAO suggested the option to include information in the existing online platform on food control systems.

²² CX/EURO 19/31/10; CRD05 (comments by EU), CRD08 (Report of the In-session Working Group on the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025)

97. Regarding how to initiate the collection of information on food fraud in a repository, the use of a Circular Letter from the Codex Secretariat was proposed as an option.
98. Members recommended organizing a Workshop on Food Fraud detection and management on the margins of the 32nd Session of CCEURO, a proposal which was supported by FAO and WHO.
99. On a general note in regard to implementation of the Strategic Plan, the FAO Representative advised the Committee that the FAO/WHO Food Control System Assessment Tool has recently been published, and encouraged the use of the tool by countries in the region. The tool will help countries analyse their strengths and weaknesses in food control system, and plan how to progress and set priorities for investments in food safety, addressing gaps identified. Use of the tool by Members could facilitate intra-regional dialogue, build a common understanding of national food control systems and support alignment of approaches to invest in food safety.

Conclusion

100. CCEURO31:
- (i) Expressed commitment to support the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025;
 - (ii) Agreed that CCEURO would focus on the implementation of activities aimed towards achieving Goals 1 (current and emerging issues) and 2 (standards based on science and risk analysis) of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 over the next 2 years;
 - (iii) Agreed to submit a list of activities and related information that would be undertaken by the region over the next two years to the CCEXEC sub-committee on strategic planning for inclusion in the overarching work plan of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 (Appendix II);
 - (iv) Agreed to develop a repository of contact points on food fraud and relevant information and links related to food fraud and that this should be placed on the regional page of the Codex website;
 - (v) Suggested that a workshop on food fraud detection and management be held on the margins of CCEURO32;
 - (vi) Encouraged Members to participate in the EWG on food fraud under CCFICS;
 - (vii) Requested the CCEXEC sub-committee on strategic planning consider the general comments provided in this session.

CODEX COMMUNICATIONS WORK PLAN (Agenda Item 8)²³

101. The Codex Secretariat introduced the item, recalling CCEXEC74 (Rome, 2017) support for “the need for Members to contribute [to the] development and implementation” of the current Codex communications work plan and “the potential for greater engagement and communication through tailored collaboration with the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees”²⁴.
102. The Codex Secretariat highlighted the opportunities that both social and traditional media offered for raising awareness of Codex issues whether at the highest political level or when reporting, for example, on technical and capacity building initiatives. The Secretariat expressed appreciation for the considerable contribution made by the Regional Coordinator in promoting the region and reiterated the availability of the communications team in the Codex Secretariat to engage with Members to deliver on the communications work plan (Appendix III, amended to include responsible parties) to ensure that news of the work in the region reached relevant audiences.

Discussion

103. In response to issues raised by Members, the Codex Secretariat clarified that:
- (i) it welcomed technical contributions from countries and would provide additional guidance on the style and structure of content suitable for Codex publications;
 - (ii) the proposal to identify a focal point for communications at the Regional Coordinator level was to facilitate communications in the region with the Codex Secretariat;
 - (iii) material on broader food safety issues would be welcomed both by the Codex Secretariat and FAO/WHO.

²³ CX/EURO 19/31/11, CRD05 (comments by EU)

²⁴ REP18/EXEC1 paragraph 9

Conclusion

104. CCEURO31:

- (i) Acknowledged the importance of communications in Codex as a whole and the need to underpin this through the proposed regional work plan;
- (ii) Agreed to adopt the Regional work plan (Appendix III) and actively participate in its implementation; and
- (iii) Agreed to liaise with the Codex Secretariat to execute the communications work plan noting the role individual countries, FAO/WHO Regional Offices and the Regional Coordinator can play.

LANGUAGE POLICY IN CCEURO (Agenda Item 9)²⁵

105. The Codex Secretariat presented the document CX/EURO 19/31/12 explaining its purpose in summarizing previous discussions on the issue, the policies in other RCCs, and comparisons with other intergovernmental organizations. The Committee was invited to consider the recommendations contained in the document.

Discussion

106. CCEURO expressed unanimous support for having Russian becoming an official language of CCEURO funded by the Codex Secretariat budget (recommendation 7.1).
107. Many Member countries expressed support for having four official languages (English, French, Spanish and Russian) in CCEURO, to be funded by the Codex Secretariat budget (recommendation 7.2.2).
108. One Member was of the opinion that the addition of the Russian language should be kept cost-neutral, meaning that another language should be omitted (recommendation 7.2.1), in this case Spanish since this language was an official language in only one Member country in the CCEURO region. With reference to the practice in other RCCs in this matter, the Codex Secretariat, in the Member's view, should spend its budget more effectively related to the needs of the region as a whole.
109. One Member expressed the need to have more Codex standards translated into Russian language allowing more country-level professionals to support Codex related work.

Conclusion

110. CCEURO31 agreed:

- (i) to add Russian as an official language for CCEURO following the changes in the Codex membership in the CCEURO region over the last two decades resulting in many new Members having Russian as official language and as lingua franca; and
- (ii) to work with four languages (English, French, Spanish and Russian) for which translation is all funded by the Codex Secretariat budget noting that if this proposal is agreed by CAC, the Secretariat will propose how to accommodate the additional costs sustainably.

NOMINATION OF THE COORDINATOR (Agenda Item 10)²⁶

111. The Committee recalled that Kazakhstan had been appointed as Coordinator for Europe by the 40th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC40) for its first term.
112. The Committee acknowledged the excellent contribution of Kazakhstan to Codex work in the region and unanimously agreed to recommend CAC43 to reappoint Kazakhstan for a second term as Coordinator for Europe.
113. Kazakhstan thanked Members from CCEURO for their support and accepted the nomination.

OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda item 11)

114. CCEURO noted that there was no other business to discuss.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION (Agenda Item 12)

115. The Committee was informed that its 32nd Session would be held in approximately two years' time and that more detailed arrangements would be communicated to Members following the appointment of the Coordinator by CAC43 and consultation with the Codex Secretariat.

²⁵ CX/EURO 19/31/12; CRD05 (comments by EU)

²⁶ CX/EURO 19/31/13

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APPENDIX II**Activities to be implemented in the CCEURO region in 2020-2021 to support the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025**

PRIORITY GOAL	PRIORITY OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD 2020-2021	RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE OR LEAD PARTY	EXPECTED OUTPUT BY 2021	REPORTING MECHANISM/
1. Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner	1.1 Identify needs and emerging issues	1.1.1 Collect more specific information on country's current, emerging and critical issues using and refining existing mechanisms. 1.1.2 Create a repository of available information on food fraud, including contact details and explanatory guidelines on submission of information.	To understand the needs and emerging issues of each member country To make available to Codex stakeholders information on food fraud examples and on relevant authorities	Regional Coordinator/ FAO/ WHO/ Members/ Codex Secretariat	Compiled list of issues and needs of Member countries A functioning repository available on the Codex website (e.g. regional webpage)	Survey questionnaires Report on repository status (to relevant CAC subsidiary bodies)
	1.2 Prioritize needs and emerging issues	1.2.1 Use current prioritization information available from Codex committees.	Current procedures for evaluating and prioritizing emerging issues could be used (and enhanced by the RC as appropriate) to assess and prioritize needs of the region	Members/ Regional Coordinator	Prioritized needs will be established	Report of the coordinator (e.g. under the Agenda Item on Codex work relevant to the region)
2. Develop standards based on science and Codex risk based principles	2.2 Promote the submission and use of globally representative data in developing and reviewing Codex standards	2.2.1 To select from FAO and WHO scientific expert bodies' calls for data a topic for a pilot of a co-ordinated approach by the European region.	This will maximise the provision and use of data by the region of the selected topic. It will also allow the identification of problems and barriers to data submission that may exist in different countries of the region	Members/ Regional Coordinator/ FAO/ WHO	Shared learning on how to optimise future data submission	Report on the pilot to CCEURO32 with lessons learned

PRIORITY GOAL	PRIORITY OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD 2020-2021	RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE OR LEAD PARTY	EXPECTED OUTPUT BY 2021	REPORTING MECHANISM/
	2.3 Promote sufficient and sustainable funding for expert bodies that deliver scientific advice	<p>2.3.1 To contribute to the drafting of a World Health Assembly resolution in 2020 on food safety, as proposed in the letter from Member States of the EU and others to DG WHO²⁷.</p> <p>2.3.2 To communicate within countries and to Geneva-based missions to ensure adoption of a World Health Assembly resolution in 2020 on food safety.</p>	To incorporate within the World Health Assembly resolution a mechanism to ensure sufficient and sustainable funding for science from WHO	Members	A WHO commitment to sufficient and sustainable funding from its core budget	As part of the WHO report to CAC43 in July 2020

²⁷ CX/EURO 19/31/CRD4

APPENDIX III**Regional Communications Work Plan 2020-2025**

The table shows the proposed objectives, activities, targets and indicators for the CCEURO Regional Communications Work Plan. These elements derive from Strategic Goal 3 in the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 “Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards”, in particular objective 3.1 “Raise the awareness of Codex standards”.

Objective	Activities	Responsible party	Targets	Indicators
1. Establish clear, communication channels	1.1. Consolidate and improve information flow and exchange between countries and Codex Secretariat (CS) 1.2. Establish simple and rapid communications methods (e.g. WhatsApp communications group, or discussion group on Codex EWG forum)	1.1 Countries and CS 1.2 Countries and CS	By CCEURO32 (2021) 75% of Members/Observers surveyed indicate timeliness, accessibility and quality of Codex regional communications “excellent” or “good”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of survey responses rating regional communications “excellent” or “good”
2. Communicate the value of Codex standards in the region	2.1. Provide CS with monthly drafts of web stories capturing food safety, standards work or capacity building initiatives in the region 2.2. Promote regional success stories and initiatives in conjunction with CS and FAO/WHO 2.3. Liaise with Codex Trust Fund beneficiary countries in the region to communicate on every phase of CTF projects	2.1 Countries 2.2 CS, RC, FAO/WHO 2.3 RC, Countries, FAO/WHO	By CAC43 10 news items from countries in the region published By CCEURO32 30 news items from countries in the region By CCEURO32 50% of countries in the region have made a contribution to Codex news on the regional webpage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of CCEURO news stories published Number of countries who have made a published contribution