

European Union comments
CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE
Forty-eighth Session
Los Angeles, California, United States of America,
7-11 November 2016

Agenda Item 3a:

**Progress Report on the Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on
Microbiological Risk Assessment (JMRA) and Related Matters**

*Mixed Competence
Member States Vote*

A.1 Control of STEC:

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) very much appreciate the work done by the Joint FAO/WHO expert group. The EUMS can fully support the approach taken to estimate the global burden of foodborne STEC disease and source attribution, as well as these taken to address the hazard identification and characterization and to analyse current monitoring and assurance programs.

The EUMS would like to suggest the following:

- It would be desirable to roughly rank the global burden by STEC within the global burden of (microbiological) food-borne infections.
- It is important that the hazard identification clearly concludes on the possibility to differentiate pathogenic from non-pathogenic strains based on currently available analytical methods and to provide robust tools to do so. A ranking of pathogenicity might be used if considered more appropriate, e.g. non-pathogenic – low pathogenicity – medium pathogenicity – high pathogenicity.
- The EUMS will be happy to provide more information on monitoring and quality assurance of testing and reporting.

A.2 Water quality

EUMS are very supportive of the work and approach undertaken by FAO and WHO.

The EUMS recognise that, as clearly stressed in this paper, while risk assessment and management of water safety have been addressed extensively, the primary audience for this work has been the water management community. It does not explicitly address the food safety management community although reference to food production and food processing has been made.

A gap that may need to be addressed is the translation of this work into a format which is useful and relevant to food safety managers, taking into consideration some of the specific situations in which water is used along the food chain.

To this extent the EUMS can help the work undertaken by FAO and WHO by providing existing and available information within the EU through:

1. The outcome of research projects (the case of Vegi trade project), http://www.veg-i-trade.org/sci_res/pro_results/index.html
2. The ongoing Guidance document on addressing microbiological risks in fresh fruit and vegetables at primary production through good hygiene that we expect to be available by the end of 2016.
3. The JRC report proposing minimum quality requirements for reuse categories on agricultural irrigation and aquifer recharge covering the relevant aspects (e.g. water quality, application, monitoring) that we expect to become available by the end of 2016. These requirements should ensure a high level of health and environmental protection and thus provide public confidence in reuse practices.

B.3 GHP

THE EUMS very much appreciate the work done by the FAO to provide guidance in particular to small and medium size businesses. The EUMS have recently compiled EU and national guidance documents on the following web platform (please click on "Web Platform on Food Safety Management Systems including HACCP") at:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/biosafety/food_hygiene/guidance/index_en.htm

We would be happy to add the provided links to the FAO documents on this platform.