

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

39TH SESSION

Rome, 27 June to 1 July 2016

European Union Comments on

Agenda Item 9:

**Codex Work Management and Functioning of the
Executive Committee (REP 16/GP Appendix II)**

Member States Competence.

Member States Vote.

The Member States of the European Union (MSEU) would like to thank the Codex Secretariat for the report of the 30th session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP30) and the opportunity to comment on the revised draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the review of Codex work management as set down in Appendix II of the report.

We consider the revised ToR forwarded by the CCGP30 to be the basis upon which CAC39 can move forward and resolve any outstanding issues. It is important for Codex that the internal review starts as soon as possible. At the same time, we wish to reiterate our view that there is a real need to review certain governance-related issues of Codex, in particular the Codex decision-making process and the role and representativeness of the Codex Executive Committee.

Our views with regard to the outstanding issues in the ToR (including the sections that could not be examined by the CCGP30 due to time constraints) are set out below.

Section 2 - Review framework

As regards the main purpose of the review outlined under section 2.1, the MSEU consider the review to be complementary to the delivery of the Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019. It follows that the review should stand alone and extend beyond 'Strategic Goal 4' so that it can address wider operational issues of the functioning of Codex work management. In view of this, we support the broader objective under section 2.1, i.e. 'Assess the efficiency and effectiveness of Codex work management practices in light of the implementation of the current Strategic Plan, with particular focus on SG4'.

For the same reason, we support the inclusion of all the bullets under section 2.2 with regard to the scope of the review. In this regard, we wish to underline that 'responsiveness to emerging issues' and 'cross-collaboration between Codex committees' are matters of an eminently operational nature and that there is an urgent need to clarify how Codex should best deal with these.

Section 3 - Review methodology

We are confident that the Codex Secretariat, with the assistance of evaluation experts from the parent organisations, will ensure that all the materials used are appropriate to conduct a high-quality, value for money review. We therefore see no need for formal endorsement of the materials by Codex members, all the more so because this would be both costly and time-consuming. Consequently, we do not support the bracketed words 'and validate' in the third sentence under section 3.1 (at least not without a concrete deadline for any such validation).

Section 4 - Organisation

Finally, as regards the timetable under section 4.3, in order to feed in the findings of the review to the development of the next strategic plan (2020 – 2025) the review needs to be finalised by 2018.