

**European Union Comments**  
**CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES**  
**Forty-Eight Session**  
**Xi'an, China, 14-18 March 2016**  
**AGENDA ITEM 3(b)**

**PROPOSED DRAFT SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE IDENTITY AND PURITY OF FOOD  
ADDITIVES ARISING FROM THE 80<sup>TH</sup> JECFA MEETING  
(CX/FA 16/48/4)**

*Mixed Competence  
European Union Vote*

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) would like to submit the following comments:

**Recommendation to review the specifications designated as “Full” for the food additives - Part a of Annex 1**

The EUMS notice that most of the proposed specifications contain references to secondary food additives, namely Annatto extracts (solvent-extracted bixin) (INS 160b(i)) and (solvent-extracted norbixin) (INS 160b(ii)), Calcium silicate (INS 552) and Magnesium stearate (INS 470(iii)).

At the 45<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCFA the delegation of the European Union expressed its reservation on the references to food additives used in food additives in specifications. In the delegation's view food additive specifications should be related to the substances themselves and not to the preparations/formulations. The EUMS maintain its reservation on this matter.

In relation to the proposed specifications for Polyvinyl alcohol (PVA)-polyethylene glycol (PEG) graft co-polymer (N) (INS 1209) the EUMS would like to kindly ask JECFA why and how the maximum levels for the impurities ethylene glycol and diethylene glycol are proposed to be set at 400mg/kg (singly or in combination). The EUMS would like to inform that PVA-PEG graft co-polymer has been authorised in the EU and based on analytical data on the levels of ethylene glycol and diethylene glycol provided by the applicant it was demonstrated that those impurities are present at levels of not more than 50 mg/kg of the final product.

**Recommendation to consider revoking the specifications for aluminium silicate (INS 559) and calcium aluminium silicate (INS 556) - part b of Annex 1**

The EUMS support the revocation of the specifications for aluminium silicate (INS 559) and calcium aluminium silicate (INS 556). The EUMS ask for clarification on the follow-up as regards the adopted provisions for those additives in the GSFA.

The EUMS would like to inform that these substances were withdrawn from the EU list of food additives which can be used in food.