

16 March 2016

CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES (30th Session)

Paris, France, 11 - 15 April 2016

European Union comments on

Agenda item 4

Consistency of Risk Analysis Texts across the Relevant Committees

*Mixed Competence
European Union Vote*

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) thank the Codex Secretariat for the comprehensive analysis of the consistency of the different texts on risk analysis principles developed by Codex Committees.

The EUMS concur with the Codex Secretariat conclusion that there is no immediate need for a revision of the Codex risk analysis section of the Procedural Manual. Indeed, the different texts are broadly consistent with the overarching "Working principles for risk analysis for application in the framework of the Codex Alimentarius". Their revision merely to align their structure to the working principles would utilise the already limited resources of the specific Committees.

The EUMS generally support the Codex Secretariat short term recommendations, in particular the one concerning the reference to JEMNU as the primary source of scientific advice for CCNFSDU. The EUMS acknowledge the need to formally recognise the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Nutrition (JEMNU) in order to align CCNFSDU with the current practice in other Codex Committees.

Concerning the medium term recommendations, the EUMS do not see a crucial need to undertake a substantial review of the Codex risk analysis section of the Procedural Manual, nor the working principles for risk analysis for application in the framework of the Codex Alimentarius.

In particular as regards an overhaul of the working principles for risk analysis for application in the framework of the Codex Alimentarius, the EUMS recall that in 2014, following a decision of CAC 35, CCGP 28 had "agreed to consider the consistency of the risk analysis texts across the relevant committees at its next session in the light of

a document, prepared by the Secretariat, which would compare and analyse the texts of the different committees" (CCGP 28 report- paragraph 18).

A revision of the working principles would go beyond the expected exercise. It would need to be supported by a clear justification that does not appear to have emerged yet and would require a formal approval of the CAC, on the basis of terms of reference established by CCGP.

Should this be considered necessary in the future, the EUMS are open to envisage this as work under the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025.