12 February 2016

CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING
(37th Session)

Budapest, Hungary, 22 - 26 February 2016

European Union Comments on

Agenda item 9

Procedures for determining uncertainty of measurement results

Mixed Competence
Member States Vote

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) would like to thank Germany and New Zealand for chairing the electronic working group tasked with the development of procedures for determining uncertainty of measurement results including sub-sampling, sample processing and analysis.

The procedures to be developed by the eWG are intended to complement the *Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty* (GL 54-2004), which already contain Explanatory Notes and further useful references, which are provided for information purpose only. The *Guidelines on Estimation of Uncertainty of Results* (GL 59-2006) already explain that next to the analytical part (extraction, clean-up, analysis) physical sample preparation can contribute to a significant amount to the uncertainty of measurement.

The EUMS welcome that guidance is made available on how to estimate uncertainty contributions of certain steps of a measurement process, notably sample processing and sub-sampling.

The text could profit from providing concrete examples to illustrate how the described concepts could be applied to relevant commodities. In addition, more details on how to practically estimate the various uncertainty components, for example those mentioned in paragraph 23 or 23, would be helpful (perhaps as an annex).

The terminology used for explaining the possible approaches for estimating uncertainty components (reproducibility precision) for in-house developed methods should be aligned with the definitions given in the International vocabulary of metrology — Basic and general concepts and associated terms (VIM). The advantages of using the TOST procedure for checking whether new and old calibration standards produce equivalent results may need further clarification.

The EUMS would welcome that the eWG continues its work and further refines the text. The Committee should also consider how the document can then be incorporated into the relevant Codex text.