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FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe

30/09/2019 - 04/10/2019 - Almaty, Kazakhstan

European Union comments on Agenda Item 3.1.

Food safety and quality situation in the countries of the region:

Current and emerging issues in the region

*Mixed Competence
Member States Vote*

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) thank the FAO and WHO for their paper on “Food safety and quality situation in the countries of the region: Current and emerging issues in the region” (CX/EURO 19/31/3) and for the information gathered from the survey on critical and emerging food safety and quality issues.

Identifying issues that could be of regulatory significance for action at either the regional or global level is useful in driving forward the Codex agenda and in ensuring Codex remains able to provide workable and timely responses to the food safety and quality challenges ahead. It is important to be proactive to guarantee high food safety standards for consumers and to prevent crises. In this respect, the EUMS consider the survey to have been useful at collecting ideas and in helping Codex to prioritise those areas where we feel resources should be channelled.

45 % of the CCEURO membership clearly identified **food fraud, antimicrobial resistance and contaminants /food additives** as main emerging issues in the region when it comes to food safety and quality.

The EUMS encourage Codex to speed up work on the main emerging issues identified by the CCEURO region, in the believe that work on those issues will benefit the entire membership, and commit to participate actively to the work of the Codex subsidiary bodies were those issues are already dealt with.

The EUMS consider that members of the CCEURO region should strongly contribute and support Codex work on the three main emerging issues identified in the region.

In addition, the EUMS would like to draw the attention of the Committee to **Climate change and related issues**, which were identified by **36%** of the region as an emerging issue. Climate change is also recognised as a driver for change in the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025. While it is currently not possible to assess the full impact of climate change on food safety, it is likely that change in climatic conditions and the more frequent occurrence of extreme weather patterns will affect inter alia microbiological and chemical hazards. Codex must therefore be prepared to address food safety issues related to climate change.