

04/03/2020

**Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection  
and Certification Systems (25<sup>th</sup> Session)**

**European Union comments on**

**Codex Circular Letter CL 2020/26/OCS/FICS**

**Request for Comments on the Draft Principles and Guidelines for the  
assessment and use of voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA)  
programmes (Updated Text)**

**(CX/FICS 20/25/4)**

***Mixed Competence  
European Union Vote***

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) would like to thank the United Kingdom, Canada and Mexico for leading the electronic working group on voluntary third-party assurance (vTPA) programmes. The EUMS appreciate the comprehensive and transparent manner in which the comments of the EWG members were considered.

The EUMS support the draft principles and guidelines as presented in Appendix 1 of CX/FICS 20/25/4 without further comments. They will provide useful guidance for competent authorities for the assessment of vTPA programmes when competent authorities choose to establish an arrangement with a vTPA programme owner to use the data generated by the vTPA programme to support official controls.