Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (23rd Session)

Mexico City, Mexico, 1-5 May 2017

European Union comments on

Agenda Item 5:

Discussion paper on food integrity and food authenticity

(CX/FICS 17/23/5)

Mixed Competence
European Union Vote

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) would like to thank Iran, Canada and the Netherlands for preparing a comprehensive analysis of issues surrounding food integrity and authenticity. These issues are of increasing global importance and it is therefore timely to consider if Codex should do more to tackle them.

As a starting point, the EUMS support the approach proposed in paragraph 28 of the discussion paper, in particular the full analysis of CCFICS texts to see if there are gaps that should be addressed with further guidance. It could also be useful to consult other committees although input from their side may be limited at this stage when it is not yet clear how CCFICS is going to address food fraud.

As indicated in the discussion paper, in principle most CCFICS texts already cover controls and prevention of food fraud and adulteration as their scope extends to the dual mandate of Codex, i.e. protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in food trade. However, and subject to further analysis of the existing texts, it may appear that there is a need for further guidance specifically addressing food fraud. Such guidance could contain recommendations on specific features of control systems that are necessary to effectively protect against food fraud, such as:

- A risk based analysis / approach to food fraud – i.e. consideration of which foods or types of products/practices are most at risk from fraud;
- Effective collection of intelligence;
- Good links between central and local level authorities to identify fraud;
- Networks with contact points across different countries to assist with cross border cases of fraud and spread knowledge/ experience; and
- Identification of suitable methods of analysis that are applicable to checking product's authenticity.