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European Union Comments

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

Thirty-third Session

Bergen, Norway, 17 – 21 February 2014

AGENDA ITEM 3

**Draft Performance Criteria for Reference and Confirmatory Methods
for Marine Biotoxins (Section I-8.6 Determination of Biotoxins) in the
Standard for Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs**

European Union Competence.

European Union Vote.

The European Union (EU) would like to thank Norway for their comments and recommendations to the 33rd Session of the CCFFP on the draft performance criteria for reference and confirmatory methods for marine biotoxins in the standard for raw and live bivalve molluscs included in document CX/FFP 14/33/5.

In general, the EU supports the Norwegian proposal since most critical points have been carefully evaluated and comments and opinions from different sources have also been taken into consideration and included in their comments. The EU appreciates the inclusion of data derived from the work of the EURLMB through the EU NRLs Network, in particular data from PT schemes for PSTs, as well as Method Performance criteria for LPTs and Domoic Acid from the EURLMB Standard Operating Procedures.

The EU considers that the Norwegian proposal is a good starting point for discussions at the CCFFP 33. However, there are some issues that might need further discussion particularly the ones related to TEF. The EU is of the opinion that there is an urgent need for harmonization of TEFs and in this respect the EU supports the Norwegian views that updated TEFs are required and oral toxicity should be taken into consideration. Given that new data will be available soon the EU considers that these data should be considered as soon as they are available. The inclusion of oral toxicity values is in the EU's opinion the most appropriate approach and therefore these data need to be included as soon as they are available.

For Lipophilic Toxins the EU supports the criteria proposed by Norway following the results of the Interlaboratory validation study of the EU-Harmonised Standard Operating Procedure for determination of Lipophilic Marine biotoxins in molluscs by LC-MS/MS.