

**European Union comments for the  
CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD  
10th Session**

**Rotterdam, the Netherlands, 4 – 8 April 2016**

**Agenda Item 14**

**Discussion paper on maximum levels for methylmercury in fish  
(CX/CF 16/10/15)**

*European Union Competence  
European Union Vote*

The European Union (EU) welcomes and appreciates the work on the discussion paper prepared on maximum levels for methylmercury in fish by the electronic Working Group under the lead of Japan and co-chaired by New-Zealand.

The EU remains in favour of the development of maximum levels for methylmercury in fish. Such maximum levels should not only cover fish species which can accumulate high methylmercury concentrations, but all fish species that are important for international trade. Although top predator fish species often show very high levels of methylmercury, accumulation of methylmercury is not exclusively restricted to predatory fish. Maximum levels for fish should be reasonable and reflect reality

Therefore, the EU considers that the project document should not be limited to tuna but instead offer the possibility to cover all fish species. As regards the proposed time-line for completion, the EU considers that draft maximum levels for methylmercury in fish should be prepared by an electronic working group for consideration at the 11<sup>th</sup> session of the CCCF with a view to its finalization in 2018 or following years.