

**European Union comments for the**  
**CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD**  
**13<sup>th</sup> Session**

**Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 29 April – 3 May 2019**

**Agenda Item 2**

**Comments on the matters referred to the Committee by the Codex**  
**Alimentarius Commission and/ or its subsidiary bodies**  
**(CX/CF 19/13/2)**

*Mixed Competence*  
*European Union Vote*

**Guidelines for the management of (micro) biological foodborne crises/outbreaks:**

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) welcome the development of guidelines for the management of (micro)biological foodborne crises/outbreaks undertaken by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH).

The EUMS consider that it might be appropriate for CCCF to consider the development of such guidelines also for contamination incidents with chemical substances (possibly in co-operation with CCPR, CCFA and CCRVDF).

However, the proposed draft guidance for the management of (micro) biological foodborne crises/outbreaks (CX/FH 18/50/8) is in certain aspects very specific to (micro)biological contamination and not necessarily relevant/applicable for contamination incidents involving chemical substances. Therefore, it does not seem to be appropriate to integrate food contamination incidents in the guidance for the management of (micro)biological foodborne incidents.

It is therefore proposed to reconsider the matter when the guidance for the management of (micro)biological foodborne crises/outbreaks is at a more advanced stage. At that moment, it can then be considered, based on the experiences gained with the development of this guidance by CCFH, if it is appropriate to develop a similar guidance for the management of food contamination with chemical substances.

**Proposed draft MLs for total aflatoxins (AFT) in ready-to-eat (RTE) peanuts and associated sampling plans:**

The EU takes note that the 75<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Committee recommended at that CCCF accelerate the process to finalize the ML and sampling plan for total aflatoxins (AFT) in ready-to-eat (RTE) peanuts.

The EU recalls that during the discussions at the 12<sup>th</sup> session of CCCF it was evident that the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Peanuts

(CXC 55-2004) was not implemented to the full extent in countries producing peanuts. For this reason the JECFA Secretariat highlighted the need that producing countries would make clear efforts to implement the Code of Practice.

However, the EU is not aware of any new element since CCCF12, which would enable the Committee to establish MLs on a sound basis to protect public health earlier than concluded last year. Therefore, the EU is of the opinion that it is not appropriate to accelerate the process only to address trade concerns.

### **Sampling plans for MLs for methylmercury in fish:**

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) would like to comment on the proposals made by CCMAS 39 on the sampling plan for MLs for methylmercury in fish.

CCMAS proposes to align the method performance requirements for mercury with those of the Procedural Manual (Guidelines for establishing numeric values for the criteria). The EUMS would not oppose to replace these method performance requirements by a reference to the Procedural Manual and the EUMS would not oppose to table 7, as amended by CCMAS 39.

Even though in the EU the measurement uncertainty is taken into account for taking decisions on the compliance of products, the EUMS would not oppose removing the paragraph on measurement uncertainty from the sampling plan.

The EUMS would like to comment that for the proposed sampling plan in the definition of 'lot', the following should be added: 'In the case of fish, also the size of fish shall be comparable. Fish are considered to be of comparable size and weight where the difference in size and weight does not exceed about 50 %.'