

**European Union comments**  
**CODEX COMMITTEE ON FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS**  
**Codex Circular Letter CL 2021/67/OCS-FFP**

**Request for comments on the laboratories to perform the sensory evaluation and species to be compared with the *Sardinella lemuru* (Bali Sardinella)**

*European Union Competence*  
*European Union Vote*

The European Union (EU) has the following comments in response to CL 2021/67/OCS-FFP:

- In relation with the suggested laboratories, it is essential that similar protocols are used in line with section 3.3 of the *Procedure for the Inclusion of Additional Species in Codex Standards for Fish and Fishery Products* in the Procedural Manual. The laboratories should also apply accredited sensorial techniques. The EU requests adding Portuguese Institute for the Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA) to the list of laboratories proposed to perform the sensory evaluation in section 3 of CX/FFP 21/35/4 Add.1 Rev.1.
- Special attention must be paid to standardise the samples. It is important to homogenize to the maximum the original raw materials that must be in the same condition and of the same quality (time from catch, cold preservation, packaging quality etc.). Also the heat treatment and the covering medium to be used, which must be neutral (avoiding sauces or olive oil), must be standardised. Other variability sources that can possibly hide sensory differences must be avoided as well.
- In relation with the species to be compared with the candidate species for sensory evaluation, *Sardina pilchardus* or European Pilchard should be included in the three species most representative of the market.
- The EU agrees with the proposed terms of reference for the EWG as proposed in Annex 1 of CX/FFP 21/35/4.
- Furthermore, in order to assure the sustainability of the *S. lemuru* stocks, which could be affected by its inclusion in the suggested list, it would be important to know how the Philippines applies its Management Plan, and the results that are being obtained. It would also be desirable to have a scientific evaluation on how the stocks will be affected by the foreseen higher fishing pressure related to its inclusion in the list.