

**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 7:

**Discussion paper on the use of electronic certificates by competent
authorities and migration to paperless certification**

(CX/FICS 17/23/7)

*Mixed Competence
European Union Vote*

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) would like to thank the Netherlands and Australia for leading the work on revising the discussion paper and the project document on electronic certification.

Electronic certificates are likely to be increasingly used for providing assurances in international trade in food. It is therefore timely to develop harmonised Codex guidance on how to apply electronic certification.

The EUMS support the new work as proposed in the project document. The EUMS note that paragraphs 39 and 40 of the *Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and use of Generic Official Certificates* (CAC/GL 38-2001) provide some guidance on the use of electronic certificates. The proposed new guidance should build on those provisions and this could be mentioned in Section 6 of the project document.