

# CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD

## 15<sup>th</sup> Session

### Agenda Item 5:

Maximum levels for cadmium in cocoa powder  
(100% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis)  
(CX/CF 22/15/5 and CL 2022/14-CF)

#### **European Union Competence** **European Union Vote**

The European Union (EU) welcomes the work on the development of maximum levels (MLs) for cadmium in chocolates and cocoa-derived products by the electronic Working Group chaired by Ecuador and co-chaired by Ghana.

Because in the EU for many consumers the tolerable weekly intake (TWI) is exceeded and because cocoa products are an important contributor to the exposure, the EU considers it important to establish a strict MLs for these products, in order to ensure a high level of human health protection for all consumer groups and especially for the more vulnerable young consumers.

Therefore, the EU would like to express its reservation as regards the proposed MLs of 2.0-3.0 mg/kg for cocoa powder (100% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis) as sold for final consumption. The EU is of the opinion that a stricter ML of 0.60 mg/kg is needed, to ensure a sufficient protection of all European consumers, in particular children. As an alternative, as cocoa powder is a commodity, which is of less significance for international trade, the EU could agree not to set a Codex ML for cocoa powder.

The EU is of the opinion that the ALARA principle should be applied on data, which were obtained from crops on which good practices were applied. Therefore, the EU wishes to highlight the importance of finalising as soon as possible the draft Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans, currently under discussion, in order to enable its implementation without any further delay. The focus needs to be on the implementation of good practices, which will lead to the reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans and their products and will help achieve levels that ensure a high level of human health protection, in particular of children, a vulnerable group of the population.