

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

21st Session

Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico, 7–11 October 2019

European Union Comments on

Agenda Item 3:

**DRAFT STANDARD FOR KIWIFRUIT
(CX/FFV 19/21/4)**

*European Union Competence
European Union Vote*

The European Union (EU) would like to thank New Zealand, Iran and Mexico for the work done in trying to reconcile Members views on the draft standard for kiwifruit and in particular on the tolerance for decay in Extra Class.

The EU appreciates the compromise spirit that led the eWG chairs to make a new proposal of reducing the tolerance for decay in “extra” class to 0.5%. This represents a progress that should be underscored, as the initial proposal was higher (1%). Furthermore, the condition that this tolerance only applies at stages after export control points contributes towards ensuring that consumers’ expectations on the quality of the product are met.

However, the EU is still concerned that the proposed tolerance of 0.5 % for decay in Extra Class is not supported by any data. On the contrary, the experience gained over 30 years with the implementation of the UNECE standard for kiwifruit demonstrates that there is no need to depart from the zero tolerance for decay in Extra Class, including when transported long distances.

The EU further notes that the acceptance of Codex commodity standards depends on whether they reflect existing trade practices. The closer the commercial reality is reflected, the more Codex standards are accepted and applied in trade. Thus, no matter how generous a Codex standard would be with respect to decay in Extra Class, trade would ignore this and no governmental inspection body could enforce the acceptance of such tolerance.