

**European Union comments for the
CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD
10th Session**

Rotterdam, the Netherlands, 4 – 8 April 2016

Agenda Item 5

**Proposed draft maximum levels for inorganic arsenic in husked rice
(CX/CF 16/10/5)**

*European Union Competence
European Union Vote*

The European Union (EU) welcomes and appreciates the work on the maximum level for inorganic arsenic in husked rice by the electronic Working Group chaired by Japan and co-chaired by China.

As regards a maximum level of 0,35 mg/kg for husked rice, the European Union considers it does not result in an important reduction of intake of inorganic arsenic. In addition, such a maximum level would be conflicting with the maximum level for polished rice previously agreed at 0,2 mg/kg. In fact, in case a maximum level of 0,35 mg/kg for husked rice would be retained for inorganic arsenic, this would mean that 24 % of the polished rice derived from compliant husked rice would be non-compliant. The European Union considers that this would have a significant negative effect on international trade.

As there is no objection against a maximum level with two significant figures, the European Union remains convinced that a maximum level of 0,25 mg/kg for husked rice should be set , as it reduces dietary exposure by almost 10 % and is compatible with the maximum level of 0,2 mg/kg for polished rice.

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