

European Union Comments
CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

Fifty-first Session

Jinan, China, 25-29 March 2019

AGENDA ITEM 2

**MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
AND OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

(CX/FA 19/51/2)

Mixed Competence
European Union Vote

The European Union (EU) and its Member States would like to submit the following comments:

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 41ST SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS
COMMISSION (CAC41) – B. MATTERS FOR ACTION**

Considering the request of CAC41 to CCFA to clarify the operational procedure for the addition/removal of individual food additives under the same group heading and taking into account that the procedure followed for the inclusion of Rebaudioside A from multiple gene donors expressed in *Yarrowia lipolytica* (INS 960 b(1)) was not totally clear, the EU and its Member States submit the following considerations to CCFA. These considerations do not apply to the alignment between GSFA and commodity standards provisions.

Procedure for the addition/removal of individual food additives under the same group heading.

1. The procedures for consideration of the entry and review of food additive provisions in the GSFA are described in the procedural manual (p. 62-70 of the 26th edition).
2. The addition/removal of individual food additive provisions to/from the GSFA shall be subject to the procedure described on p. 70 of the Procedural Manual. This consideration applies irrespective of whether a food additive is or is not included under a group heading. As indicated in para. 1 on p. 67 of the Procedural Manual, « *Food additives that share a numerical group ADI will be considered as a group without further restrictions on the use of individual additives in that group. However, in some cases, restrictions on the use of individual additives in that group could be appropriate (e.g. because of public health concerns).* » (emphasis added). CCFA, as risk manager, has thus, based on the JECFA opinion, to confirm that an additive under consideration belongs to a group and to consider whether restrictions on the use of additives could be appropriate.
3. It is acknowledged that alignment is subject to a specific procedure since it deals with adopted provisions.

Transparency of decisions by the CCFA

CCFA adopts a large number of provisions at each of its meetings. In addition, some of these decisions are related to discussions under different points on the agenda.

The EU and its Member States submit the following proposals to ensure that decisions taken by the CCFA are made in a transparent manner and that these decisions are properly reflected in the report of the meetings:

1. Decisions on modifications of the GSFA related to discussions under different points on the agenda should be limited to issues which are actually on the agenda and are properly discussed, in principle following the steps procedure.
2. All proposals for changes of the GSFA should go for adoption by the CAC and should be reflected in the Appendixes of the reports of CCFA meetings.

MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES

A. Matters for information

24th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFIC24)

Food integrity, food authenticity and food fraud

The EU and its Member States appreciate that CCFICS informs other Codex committees on its work on food integrity, food authenticity and food fraud. The EU and its Member States agree that as noted in para. 7, such work might go beyond the mandate of CCFICS. This matter is relevant for CCFA and can be considered within the discussion on agenda item 5e, as the paper CX/FA 18/50/10 linked, inter alia, adulteration of foods with food additive uses (see CX/FA 18/50/10, paras. 7, 18-19). Thus the EU and its Member States support coordination of work between CCFICS and CCFA on this matter in order to take into account a possible misuse of additives related to food integrity, authenticity and fraud.

B. Matters for action

The 4th Session of Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH4)

Proposed draft standard for dried or dehydrated ginger

CCSCH requested CCFA to clarify how to address processing aids under the Section 4 “Food additives”. The EU and its Member States observe that CCSCH refers to the use of calcium oxide and sulphur dioxide as bleaching agents (REP19/SCH, para. 36). It has to be noted that both substances are recognised as food additives (calcium oxide, INS 529 and sulfur dioxide, INS 220) and “bleaching agent” is a functional class of food additives defined by Codex (CAC 36-1989). Therefore, the EU and its Member States are of the view that, prior to considering this request, the appropriate status of the mentioned use (food additive or processing aid) has to be clarified.