

**Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)  
1<sup>st</sup> Session**

**Kochi, India, 11-14 February 2014**

**European Union comments on**

**Mechanism for Prioritization of the Work**

**Agenda Item 5, CX/SCH 14/01/5**

**Member States competence  
Member States vote**

The Member States of the European Union (MSEU) would like to thank India for preparing the proposal for a mechanism for prioritisation of the work of CCSCH.

The MSEU do not see a need or justification for developing specific prioritisation criteria for CCSCH as proposed in document CX/SCH 14/01/5 because well-defined criteria for considering and prioritising new work already exists in the Codex Procedural Manual "Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities". Creating parallel specific prioritisation criteria for CCSCH would be confusing and could be counterproductive.

The criteria laid down in the Procedural Manual are used by other commodity committees and it is required for the critical review by CCEXEC. Moreover, project documents for new work have to be drawn up in accordance with the criteria of the Procedural Manual.

The proposed prioritisation criteria are partly overlapping with the criteria laid down in the Procedural Manual. The proposed criteria contains some elements which are not foreseen in the Procedural Manual, e.g. a need for scientific advice, while some of the criteria of the Procedural Manual are not included, e.g. the amenability of the commodity to standardisation.

The proposed scoring system is complicated and scoring the weight of different criteria could be rather arbitrary. Moreover, the document does not provide options for cases where scoring is insufficient. It seems necessary to allow the committee to conclude, where appropriate, that the elaboration of a standard is not pertinent.

For the above reasons, the MSEU are of the view that CCSCH should not develop specific prioritisation criteria of its own but should instead use the prioritisation criteria laid down in the Procedural Manual "Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities".