

European Union comments
CODEX COMMITTEE ON SPICES AND CULINARY HERBS
Codex Circular Letter CL 2019/94/OCS-CCSCH:
"Proposed draft standard for saffron"
Comments at step 6

Mixed Competence.
Member States Vote.

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

1. Section 2.1 Product definition

The EUMS consider that the definition of pistils, now defined as “stigmas with part of styles” should be complemented with precise quality specifications to avoid marketing of low quality products and/or frauds. In order to limit these effects, the EUMS consider necessary to specify the maximum length of permissible style, which should not be above 20 mm

2. Section 3.2.3 and Table I - Classification

The EUMS consider that the draft standard should provide for the possibility to classify saffron in three classes according to specific physical and chemical parameters, as specified in the attached text.

The EUMS suggest the following wording in section 3.2.3:

“Saffron may be classified in three Classes/Grades according to physical and chemical requirements as specified in ANNEX I and II, respectively:

Class/Grade I - Class/Grade II and Class/Grade III.

When saffron is treated as unclassified/ungraded, the chemical and physical characteristics of Class/Grade III apply as minimum requirements”

The current text of section 3.2.3 in Appendix VII, REP 19/SCH should be deleted.

2 Section 8.3 Country of origin/country of harvest

The EUMS consider that it should be clarified whether both the country of origin and the country of harvest shall be indicated on the label, or whether the indication of either the country of origin or the country of harvest could suffice.

The EUMS support maintaining the indication of the region of production as optional.

3 Table 1, Annex I and Table 2, Annex II

Table1, Annex I and Table 2, Annex II should be replaced by **new tables as suggested in the attached draft standard for saffron.**