

22/09/2016

**30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Coordinating Committee for Europe**

**Astana, Kazakhstan**

**3-7 October 2016**

**European Union comments on**

**Agenda Item 9**

**STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL  
CODEX PROCESS**

*Member States Competence  
Member States Vote*

The Member States of the European Union (MSEU) are pleased to submit the following views on stakeholder participation in the national Codex process.

The MSEU believe that involvement of stakeholders in the process to prepare national positions on Codex standards is in general very useful and important. The establishment of the initial national position and its subsequent review can indeed benefit significantly from the input and views provided by stakeholders, in particular those who will be directly concerned by future Codex standards or those who will be involved in ensuring their implementation. In addition, seeking input from stakeholders at an early stage can avoid problems later and can also contribute significantly to the acceptance of the Codex standards once adopted.

The modalities for stakeholder involvement may vary significantly from one EU Member State to another. This depends on a number of factors, such as the competences, the working methods and the available resources of the national Codex contact points in the Member States. Stakeholder involvement may take the form of a formal and continuous consultation process, e.g. through regular meetings or via permanent dialogue platforms. Stakeholders may also be involved on an ad-hoc basis, e.g. by inviting them to participate in an electronic consultation process or an internet-based survey on a specific issue.

As regards the level of involvement of stakeholders and their concrete input into the national Codex process, this is largely determined by the extent to which they are familiar with the role and functioning of the Codex Alimentarius. In situations where the level of involvement seems insufficient, the national Codex contact points could endeavour to identify specific target groups that can be invited to provide input.

Finally, as regards transparency in the participation of stakeholders (including consumers) in the national Codex process, here again the situation may vary from one EU Member State to another. In general, we consider openness and accountability towards the general public essential requirements for stakeholder involvement at national level.