12 February 2016

CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING
(37th Session)

Budapest, Hungary, 22 - 26 February 2016

European Union Comments on

Agenda item 6:

Discussion paper on criteria for endorsement of biological methods used to detect chemicals of concern

Mixed Competence
Member States Vote

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) would like to thank Chile and France for chairing the electronic working group tasked with the development of criteria for endorsement of biological methods used to detect chemicals of concern and appreciates the work done so far.

The eWG recognised that most methods endorsed to quantify vitamins have now been replaced by chromatographic methods and therefore the question is if the biological methods will be kept endorsed in the coming years by the CCMAS.

The same would apply to other biological methods for which the same question would apply.

The eWG foresees a high probability that most of the methods would not be kept as endorsed by the CCMAS and therefore questions whether there is a real need to establish criteria for endorsement of biological methods. The EUMS are of the opinion that the bioassays used for the determination of vitamins are still useful and applied in many laboratories and do not see the immediate need for eliminating them from STAN-234; however, given the existence of methods based on physico-chemical principles, re-typing them, for example as Type III instead of Type II, is appropriate.

The eWG also highlighted the need to continue working on two issues of the original assignment (CCMAS36):

- Identify to which classes of methods the criteria approach applies, and
- recommend criteria to endorse each class of biological methods defined.

These are critical issues which for the moment remain unresolved.

The EUMS believe that the recommendations of the eWG to the CCMAS regarding the re-evaluation of the list of biological methods, in particular those involving animals, and with a view to the typing of the remaining methods for the determination of vitamins are reasonable; the EUMS support these recommendations. The EUMS would encourage the re-establishment of the eWG to continue its work, in particular on the two remaining issues.