

European Union comments for the
CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD
14th Session

The Netherlands, TBD

Request for comments on work on maximum levels for cadmium in certain categories of chocolates and cocoa derived products

(CL 2020/50/OCS-CF)

European Union Competence
European Union Vote

**COMMENTS ON THE CONSIDERATIONS OUTLINED
IN § 9 OF THE DOCUMENT**

The European Union (EU) can accept the retention of the ML of 0.3 mg/kg for chocolates containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis at Step 7 awaiting the outcome of the JECFA evaluation on cadmium. The EU wishes however to remind and to reiterate its current reservation to the adoption of the proposed draft ML of 0.3 mg/kg for cadmium in chocolate containing or declaring <30% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis, as the EU is of the opinion of the need for a stricter ML to ensure sufficient protection of all consumers, in particular children.

The EU can agree to suspending the consideration of MLs for chocolates containing or declaring $\geq 30\%$ to <50% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis and cocoa powder with 100% total cocoa solids on a dry matter basis awaiting the outcome of the JECFA evaluation on cadmium.

The EU wishes furthermore to highlight the importance of finalising as soon as possible the draft Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans, currently under discussion, in order to enable its implementation without any further delay. The implementation of good practices will lead to the reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans and their products and will help achieve levels that ensure a high level of human health protection, in particular of children, a vulnerable group of the population.