

**European Union comments for the**  
**CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD**  
**12th Session**

**Utrecht, The Netherlands, 12-16 March 2018**

**Agenda Item 13**

**Discussion paper on maximum level(s) for hydrocyanic acid and mycotoxin contamination in cassava and cassava-based products**

**(CX/CF 18/12/13)**

*European Union Competence*

*European Union Vote*

The European Union (EU) welcomes and appreciates the work done by the electronic working group chaired by Nigeria to elaborate the discussion paper on maximum level(s) for hydrocyanic acid and mycotoxin contamination in cassava and cassava-based products.

The EU agrees with the recommendation provided in §4 (f) that the electronic working group should be given an additional year to complete the discussion paper in view of CCCF13 in order to be able to advise on the need and feasibility to establish a maximum level (ML) for hydrocyanic acid (HCN) in all fermented cassava products and to address the issue of harmonizing the expression of HCN levels, i.e. free or total HCN and to allow CCCF to determine if mycotoxin contamination in fermented cassava products would be a health concern (§ 14 and 15 of REP 17/CF).

The EU notes that the reference to "3" in § 4(d) should be "c", to "(1-4)" in § 4(e) should be "(a-d)" and to "5" in §4(f) should be "e".

The EU further notes that the information provided in §15 (a) indicating that "*there are currently no provisions in the GSCTFF for HCN MLs in cassava and its products*", is inaccurate as an ML for total hydrocyanic acid in cassava flour has been established in the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (GSCTFF, CXS 193-1995).