

8 November 2021

**CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**  
**(Forty-fourth Session)**  
**Virtual, 8-13, 15, 17, 18 November 2021**

**European Union Comments on**

**Agenda Item 8.1:**

**New Food Sources and Production Systems:  
Need for Codex Attention and Guidance?**

*Mixed Competence  
Member States Vote*

The EU and its Member States (EUMS) welcome the preparation by FAO and WHO of the paper CX/CAC 21/44/15 Add.1 entitled “New food sources and production systems: need for Codex attention and guidance?”. Such a reflection paper contributes to the Codex Strategic plan 2020-2025 and in particular its objective 1.1 “Identify needs and emerging issues”.

The EUMS recognise that the prominent topics identified within the “new foods and production systems” (NFPS) exhibit a high degree of variation in terms of innovation, maturity and types of challenges raised.

The EUMS would like to highlight that other emerging issues such as the use of nanomaterials are not identified in the document. A holistic approach would thus require to also identify these issues.

The EUMS note that the current strategic plan is expecting the different Codex subsidiary bodies to identify and propose new work on emerging issues. These subsidiary bodies have specific mandates and are thus not best placed to identify and to propose work on cross-cutting issues.

There are a number of ongoing initiatives taken by FAO, WHO Codex members to identify and address the emerging issues associated with new food. We thus support a holistic evaluation of these developments that should enable to identify possible gaps and needs for Codex action.

The EUMS noted that several options were considered by the CCEXEC to investigate potential mechanisms to address cross-cutting, overarching and emerging issues in Codex.

The EUMS therefore propose the establishment of a working group under the CAC that would be tasked to:

- 1) collect information from members and observers on ongoing developments of “new foods and production systems” as well as on regulatory initiatives to address these developments,

- 2) identify issues that could be addressed by Codex and
- 3) prioritise these issues in accordance with the criteria for the establishment of work priorities including the availability of scientific information and considerations on the positive impact of these innovations on the sustainability of food systems.

The establishment of a WG under the CAC would enable the direct involvement of the whole membership as well as observers who have extensive knowledge on ongoing innovation. This inclusive process on the first objective of the strategic plan would be in line with the core values of Codex.

Considering the specific nature of this WG, it is suggested that it would receive the support of the Codex Secretariat, FAO and WHO.