

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

41st Session

Rome, 2-6 July 2018

Agenda Item 12:

European Union Comments on

REGULAR REVIEW OF CODEX WORK MANAGEMENT: REPORT 2017- 2018 (Prepared by the Codex Secretariat)

Member States Competence

Member States Vote

The Member States of the European Union (MSEU) would like to thank the Codex Secretariat for the excellent work done in reviewing the relations between Codex and other relevant international organisations.

The MSEU attach high importance to a close cooperation and coordination between the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and other relevant international organisations.

We consider that the conclusions and recommendations included in the Codex Secretariat's report are timely and useful as different views on the cooperation and coordination between Codex and other international standard-setting organisations have recently been expressed in several Codex Committees (e.g. CCFFV – UNECE standards, CCMAS – ISO standards) and work on certain Codex standards has been delayed or discontinued due to duplication or conflict with standards developed by other organisations.

Regarding the recommendations to the Codex Secretariat, the MSEU generally support the actions proposed, while having in mind the limited resources of the Codex Secretariat. We would also like to stress the need for guidance from the parent organisations regarding the use of the OECD led “partnership for effective international rule-making”.

The MSEU would like to underline that, according to the Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Codex is tasked with promoting the coordination of food standards work undertaken by other international governmental and non governmental organisations¹. The preparation of Codex standards should therefore be carried out in liaison with such international organisations, by taking into account their work also with a view to avoid unnecessary duplications.

In addition, making reference to the work of other international organisations during the development of Codex standards with due regard for the provisions of the Procedural Manual, is useful and constructive. Such reference should be maintained in the adopted standards, preferably in the body of a standard rather than in a footnote.

¹see Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Article 1 b)

Concerning the first three recommendations to CCEXEC75, the MSEU are of the opinion that CAC should decide whether new procedures and consequently amendments to the Codex Procedural Manual are necessary to improve the collaboration with other standard-setting bodies

The MSEU note the need for clarity on the work carried out by other standard-setting bodies in relation to Codex standards. We believe that the membership rules of the relevant international organisations should be amongst the criteria to be taken into account in this regard.

Considering the complexity and importance of the issue, the MSEU propose that further discussion should take place in full respect of the Codex values of collaboration, inclusiveness, consensus and transparency. We consider therefore that the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP) is the appropriate body for addressing this issue.

CCGP could focus on establishing principles for making reference to standards / methods of other international organisations, as well as on exploring new and innovative ideas such as the establishment of a structured dialogue between Codex and other standard-setting organisations (in particular their secretariats). The discussion should however not go into internal working procedures of other international standard-setting organisations.