

**CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND  
SAMPLING  
(38<sup>th</sup> Session)**

**Budapest, Hungary, 8 – 12 May 2017**

**European Union Comments on**

**Agenda item 6**

**DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE REVIEW OF CODEX STAN 234-1999**

*Mixed Competence*

*Member State Vote*

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) congratulate the eWG lead by Brazil and Uruguay for the excellent work done which advanced the project started in 2013 to a stage which would allow CCMAS to agree on concrete actions to review and update STAN 234-1999. Workable packages have been compiled in Appendix III for consideration by the Physical Working Group on endorsement of methods of analysis, which will have to consider drawing a road map how to dealing with considerable amount of work.

Regarding the use of the term "Codex general methods" the EUMS are of the opinion that this expression does not convey additional and useful information to the potential users of the standard as the new format of STAN 234 will anyway provide the necessary information on which commodity is included in the scope of the method. However, the requirements of the Procedural Manual, i.e. that methods of a horizontal nature with a wide applicability shall be given preference, should be considered at selection and endorsement stage.

The initiative to harmonise the description of commodities, provisions and principles of methods is certainly useful and special considerations have to be given as to how to match the provisions mentioned in Codex commodity standards with the provisions in STAN 234. Harmonising the provisions terminology in STAN 234 without making the necessary changes to the concerned commodity standards will otherwise create inconsistencies and confusion. STAN 234 will undoubtedly benefit from a harmonisation of the description of the principles of methods; therefore, the EUMS are very supportive of this particular aspect of the initiative.

The proposed layout of the revised STAN 234 would profit from taking better into account the structure already proposed by the Codex Secretariat (viz. CX/MAS 16/37/7-Add.2), e.g. by keeping an explanation of the Codex method typology.