

**CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES  
(32<sup>nd</sup> Session)**

**European Union Comments on**

**CL 2019/115/OCS-GP:**

**Request for Comments on the Procedural Guidance for Committees  
Working by Correspondence**

*Member States Competence  
Member States Vote*

The Member States of the European Union (MSEU) would like to commend New Zealand and co-chairs Germany, Japan and the United States for their excellent work in leading the electronic working group on procedural guidance for committees working by correspondence. The MSEU appreciate the comprehensive and transparent way in which the chairs considered the comments of EWG members.

The MSEU fully support the conclusions and recommendations in sections 13 and 14 of the document. There is clearly a need for procedural guidance to address specific features of the work of CWBC. Such guidance could be added under a new title “Guidelines on CWBC” in Section III of the Procedural Manual.

As regards the proposals made in the document, the MSEU consider that these should be considered and elaborated further during the next stage when the actual procedural guidance for CWBC is developed.

However, at this stage MSEU would like to suggest some further reflection on the issue of voting in the context of CWBC. Sections 11.8 and 11.9 of the document seem to contrast with the options open to Chairpersons as described in section 7.5 when it becomes clear that no progress is possible. The MSEU are of the opinion that in such situations, physical meetings should be convened and that the procedures for physical meetings to reach consensus and consider voting would apply.

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