

27 April 2023

**CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING**  
**(Forty-seventh Session)**  
**Gatineau, Québec, Canada**  
**15 – 19 May 2023**

**European Union Comments on**

**Agenda Item 9:**

**Labelling of Prepackaged Foods**  
**in Joint Presentation and Multipack Formats**  
**(CX/FL 23/47/9)**

***Mixed Competence***  
***European Union Vote***

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) would like to thank Colombia for the preparation of the *Discussion paper on the labelling of prepackaged foods (in joint presentation and multi-packaged formats)* (CX/FL 23/47/9) together with the corresponding project document.

The EUMS note that Columbia defines:

- A multipack format as a “secondary container that includes units of the same or different products, where each unit is individually labelled”,
- A joint presentation as “containing units of different products where they are labelled jointly and the intention of its trade/sale is to present the consumer with a **single label** that lists the foods that compose it, which are complementary to each other or mixed for consumption”.

As already indicated at the previous session of the Committee, the EUMS do not consider it appropriate to create a specific Codex text (standard or guideline) for foods offered in joint presentations and multipack formats. Indeed, the *Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985) (GSLPF) provides labelling requirements that apply to all prepackaged foods to be offered as such to the consumer or for catering purposes, **whether offered in individual packages or in joint presentations or multipack formats.** In other words, the scope of the GSLPF includes already prepackaged foods in joint presentation and multipack formats.

The EUMS would like to highlight in particular the following parts of the GSLPF that relate to the application of the standard to foods offered in joint presentations or multipack formats:

“2. DEFINITION OF TERMS

[...]

*“Container” means any packaging of food for delivery as a single item, whether by completely or partially enclosing the food and includes wrappers. A container may enclose several units or types of packages when such is offered to the consumer.*

[...]

*“Prepackaged” means packaged or made up in advance in a container, ready for offer to the consumer, or for catering purposes.”*

## **“8. PRESENTATION OF MANDATORY INFORMATION**

### **8.1 General**

[...]

*8.1.2 Statements required to appear on the label by virtue of this standard or any other Codex standards shall be clear, prominent, indelible and readily legible by the consumer under normal conditions of purchase and use.*

*8.1.3 Where the container is covered by a wrapper, the wrapper shall carry the necessary information or the label on the container shall be readily legible through the outer wrapper or not obscured by it.”*

Considering the above and the other topics under discussion in the Committee, the EUMS are of the opinion that this work does not constitute a priority.