

**Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification
Systems (23rd Session)**

Mexico City, Mexico, 1-5 May 2017

European Union comments on

Agenda Item 9:

**Discussion paper on Consideration of Emerging Issues and Future
Directions for the Work of the Codex Committee on Food Import and
Export Inspection and Certification Systems**

(CX/FICS 17/23/9)

*Mixed Competence
Member States Vote*

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) would like to thank Australia for preparing a very useful paper on future CCFICS work.

Overall, the EUMS support the proposed approach for considering new work for CCFICS as it provides a structured framework for the identification of prioritising of new work.

The EUMS have the following specific comments on Appendices A and B:

Appendix A

The following three "Emerging Global Issues" in the Table could be merged to a single issue:

- New food production, processing, transport and distribution technologies;
- Given the rapidly changing technologies and processes supporting food production, globalisation, and the emergence of other risks - there is an ever increasing need to ensure consumers are protected from unsafe foods.
- Evolving global food production systems

The title of the new merged issue could read:

- New and evolving food production, processing, transport and distribution systems and technologies

The issue of private standards has been thoroughly discussed in the past at CCGP, regional coordinating committees and at CAC, for the last time at the 34th session of CAC in 2011. No requests were made in those discussions for CCFICS to tackle the issue. It is therefore not appropriate to include it in the Table under issues that CCFICS should consider.

Appendix B

Concerning the criteria given in the table in paragraph 6, the rating for the "Impact on fair trade practices" refers to global, regional or no trade impact. If the trade impact is only regional or there is no trade impact then there is no justification to develop a Codex text. It would more appropriate to have a similar rating for the "Impact on fair trade practices" as for the other criteria, i.e. high, medium or low.

Concerning paragraph 8, the Committee should use the prioritisation criteria with the scoring when it is considering new work proposals in order to put them in the order of priority. However, there is no need to propose new work proposals to CAC in the order of priority.

Further guidance on appeal mechanism

The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement provides for appeals in its Article 4. There is probably no need for further guidance from Codex.