

European Union comments for the
CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD
10th Session

Rotterdam, the Netherlands, 4 – 8 April 2016

Agenda Item 2

Matters referred to the Committee by the Codex Alimentarius Commission
and/or its subsidiary bodies
(CX/CF 16/10/2)

Mixed Competence
European Union Vote

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) wish to comment on the request from the Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) to CCCF to consider whether existing maximum levels of contaminants for leafy vegetables could apply to spices and culinary herbs or whether specific levels should be drafted.

The EUMS wish to refer to the explanatory notes on the maximum and guideline levels for contaminants and toxins in foods provided for in the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (GSCTFF) (CODEX STAN 193-1995).

As regards the commodities or products to which a certain maximum level refers to the following is mentioned in the explanatory notes:

"For the commodities or products not contained in Codex commodity standards the definition of the commodity or product is provided in the Classification of Food and Feed (CAC/MISC 4), unless otherwise specified.

In case a ML or GL applies to a product group (e.g. legume vegetables), the ML or GL applies to all individual products belonging to the group as defined in CAC/MISC 4".

In the Codex Classification of Food and Animal Feeds (CAC/MISC 4), the group "013 Leafy vegetables" belongs to the aggregate group "02 Vegetables" while there is a separate aggregate group "05 Herbs and Spices" with two groups "027 Herbs" and "028 Spices".

Therefore, it is clear that maximum or guideline levels established in the GSCTFF for leafy vegetables cannot (automatically) apply to spices and culinary herbs.

It could be suggested that CCSCH provides information to CCCF for which contaminants it might be appropriate to establish maximum levels for spices and culinary herbs for further consideration by CCCF.