

European Union Comments
CODEX COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS
25th Session
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 27 February- 03 March 2017

Agenda Item 5:

**Proposed Draft Revision to the Standard for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils
(CODEX STAN 33-1981): Revision of the Limit for Campesterol (CX/FO 17/25/5)**

*European Union Competence.
European Union Vote.*

The European Union (EU) thanks the leader and co-leaders of this electronic Working Group (eWG) for the progress on this subject since the last report.

The EU would like to reiterate that it is essential to enhance the protection of the quality and authenticity of olive oils to the profit of both the sector and consumers. The role of standards and their methods of analysis are crucial for this purpose.

Therefore the decision tree which will be established, should demonstrate its effectiveness:

- in detecting olive oil fraud
- in reducing the number of deviant samples of authentic virgin olive oils.

The EU is pleased that the members of the eWG agreed on most points for the proposed footnote to the campesterol limit in CODEX STAN 33-1981, and in particular that the limit of 0,05 mg/kg for stigmastadienes has been taken into account for all options.

Regarding the campesterol concentration when it naturally deviates from the current limit of 4.0%, the EU is of the view that a maximum concentration of 4.5% should be retained and that the footnote concerning the campesterol concentration in Section 3 of the Standard for Olive Oils and Olive Pomace Oils CODEX STAN 33-1981 should read:

(*) When an authentic oil naturally has a campesterol level >4.0% and ≤4.5%, it is considered virgin or extra virgin olive oil if the stigmastadienes level is ≤1.4% and the Δ^7 -stigmastadienes level is ≤0.3% and stigmastadienes level is ≤0.05 mg/kg. The other parameters shall meet the limits set out in the standard.

Moreover, the EU would like to stress again that beyond the campesterol decision tree it would also be necessary to review all the other parameters and methods of CODEX-STAN 33 – 1981 in order to enhance the harmonization of international standards and in particular with the IOC standard. Among others, the limits for stigmastadienes, waxes and myristic and other fatty acids are very important authenticity criteria. Within such review process the provisions finally agreed for campesterol could be subject to further reflection if it proves to be pertinent.