

## **CODEX COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS**

### **European Union comments on:**

#### **CODEX CIRCULAR LETTER CL 2017/60-FO**

#### **“REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE STANDARD FOR NAMED VEGETABLE OILS (CODEX STAN 210-1999):**

#### **CHANGE IN THE TEMPERATURE FOR THE ANALYSIS OF REFRACTIVE INDEX AND APPARENT DENSITY OF PALM SUPEROLEIN”**

*Mixed Competence.*

*Member States Vote.*

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) would like to submit the following comments:

In the proposed amendment to the standard for Named Vegetable Oils (Codex Stan 210-1999) Malaysia suggests to change the temperature for the analysis of the refractive index and apparent density of palm superolein from 40°C to 30°C. According to Malaysia, the refractive index falls within the values specified in the Codex Stan 210-1999 (1.463-1.465) only when analysed at the experimental temperature of 30°C and not at 40°C as defined in the standard. Feedback from the European industry shows values from 1.4592 to 1.4595 when measured at 40°C which indeed do not meet the Codex standard (1.463-1.465). When measured at 30°C the value of refractive index was about 1.4633 on average. This confirms the finding of Malaysia that the defined values for the refractive index of superolein in the Codex standard cannot be reached at a temperature of 40°C but only at 30°C.

For practical reasons the EUMS consider that it would be more appropriate to define a new specification at 40°C instead of changing the experimental temperature in the specification for the refractive index of palm superolein from 40°C to 30°C as suggested by Malaysia. This is because the Malaysian proposal would oblige laboratories to use two different temperatures for the analysis of refractive index of palm oil and palm superolein. After measuring the refractive index of palm oil at 40°C the oven would have to be cooled down to 30°C for palm superolein. This is feasible but from a practical point of view it would be more appropriate to adapt the specification for the refractive index of palm superolein to 40°C, the temperature also used for the other products. The same applies for the apparent density.

In summary, the EUMS agree with the findings of Malaysia but would suggest not to change the temperature from 40°C to 30°C for palm superolein but to adapt the specification in the Codex standard.