

# **CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

**(32<sup>nd</sup> Session)**

**Virtual meeting, 8 - 17 February 2021**

**European Union Comments on**

**Agenda item 7**

**Discussion Paper on Monitoring the Use of Codex Standards  
CX/GP 21/32/7**

*Mixed Competence  
Member States Vote*

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) would like to thank France for preparing the discussion paper on the monitoring the use of Codex standards. The paper provides an excellent basis to further discuss this important issue.

Past experience has shown that monitoring the use of Codex standard is a complex and potentially laborious task. Nevertheless, such monitoring would be needed for the implementation of goal 3 of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 (increase the impact of Codex through the recognition and use of Codex standards).

We note that the Codex Secretariat has started surveying the use of individual standards that were identified by the Secretariat and Members as being of high relevance (start in 2016, 2nd round in 2019). The term “use” was employed very broadly to include not only the incorporation of Codex standards into national legislation, but also other types of use such as in support of training or extension programmes. Activities targeted at measuring the use of standards should build on this baseline data and continue to apply a broad definition of the term as Codex standards are voluntary normative instruments.

At this stage, it would be useful to learn more from monitoring mechanisms being established by other standard setting organisations, in particular OIE and IPPC, as suggested in Recommendation 5 of the paper (paragraph 6.10.2). The OIE’s pilot project for creating an Observatory on the implementation of OIE standards would be of particular relevance.

Furthermore, as recommended by CCEXEC78, the Codex Secretariat could observe the OECD-led 'partnership for effective international rule-making' as a means of learning from other standard-setting organisations and to inform the implementation of goal 3 of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

Concerning the proposal set out under Recommendation 2 of the document (paragraph 6.7.2) to launch a pilot phase for selected standards, the EUMS would see MRLs for pesticides as an appropriate topic for such a pilot. In this regard, last year's FAO case study on pesticides MRLs in rice is also highly relevant.

The EUMS are very much in favour of taking specific steps towards a monitoring of the use of Codex standards. We are open to all the options mentioned in Recommendation 4 regarding the implementing actor(s) and resources that would need to be allocated. We would be very interested to hear the views of the Codex Secretariat and the parent organizations on this.

The EUMS hope that, eventually, the results of these monitoring activities can provide useful input to the development of a monitoring and evaluation framework for the Codex Strategic Plan which has been initiated by the Codex Secretariat and Chairperson of the CCEXEC Sub Committee for the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-25.

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