

29 July 2022

## **CODEX COMMITTEE ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES**

### **European Union Reply to CL 2022/41/OCS-FFV**

#### ***Request for comments at Step 5/8 on the proposed draft standard for berry fruits***

#### ***Mixed Competence***

#### ***Member States Vote***

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) reiterate their reservation to the provision allowing a tolerance for decay in “Extra” Class.

The EUMS recall that CAC41 confirmed that the provision for decay in “Extra” class is optional; and depending on the nature of the produce, the tolerance may not be applicable or necessary. The EUMS maintain their view that a tolerance for decay in “Extra” Class is not in conformance with the requirements for “Extra” Class, which is a special status granted to products of exceptionally high quality. “Extra” Class produce require more careful production, packing, transportation as well as minimal delays in shipment and dispatch to preserve the high quality of the produce with consequent higher production and shipping costs; and investments in these efforts should be rewarded. The EUMS continue to apply a zero tolerance for decay in “Extra” Class of berry fruits as provided in the UNECE standard.