

7 May 2019

**CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING  
(Forty-fifth Session)  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada 13 – 17 May 2019**

**European Union Comments on**

**Agenda item 10:**

**Discussion Paper on the Labelling of Alcoholic Beverages (CX/FL 19/45/10)**

*Mixed Competence  
European Union Vote*

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) would like to make the following comments to the discussion paper on the labelling of alcoholic beverages.

The existing *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CODEX STAN 1-1985) and the *Guidelines on Nutrition labelling* (CAC/GL 2-1985) apply to all prepackaged foods, including alcoholic beverages. Alcoholic beverages fall under the definition of 'food' and are therefore subject to the same requirements as other foods under these two Codex documents.

The only gap that has been identified is the requirement for the indication of the alcohol content of alcoholic beverages which is not addressed in these Codex texts and is considered as important information for the consumers to make an informed choice.

As regards the modalities to provide the information on alcoholic beverages, including the list of ingredients and nutrition information, the EUMS consider that they are sufficient and clear in the existing Codex documents. The same modalities indeed apply to alcoholic beverages as to other foods, as no exemptions are foreseen for alcoholic beverages in these Codex documents.

The EUMS therefore support pursuing work on the labelling of alcohol content on alcoholic beverages.