

19/09/2019

## FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe

30/09/2019 - 04/10/2019 – Almaty, Kazakhstan

### European Union comments on

#### Agenda Item 9:

#### Use of Russian language in CCEURO (CX/EURO 19/31/12)

*Member States competence*  
*Member States Vote*

The Member States of the European Union (MSEU) thank the Secretariat for the document on the language policy in CCEURO (CX/EURO 19/31/12). We fully support adding Russian as a CCEURO working language. Russian is widely spoken in the CCEURO region (which has the largest Regional Coordinating Committee in Codex) and is also an official language of the CAC.

We believe that having Russian as a working language is fully in line with the recommendation concerning the revitalisation of the Regional Coordinating Committees.

The MSEU believe that it is essential to ensure that the best conditions are in place for the active participation of all countries in the region. It is worth recalling that many of Codex's newest members come from this part of the world. We would also like to commend the efforts made to date to include Russian as a working language of the region. This has allowed for greater transparency, inclusiveness and involvement in discussions to date.

We understand that there are resource implications for the inclusion of Russian as a working language in CCEURO. However, we feel that the cost of such an arrangement is comparatively low, bearing in mind the diversity and size of the CCEURO region.

In order to facilitate the participation of all members of the region in the work of Codex, the MSEU support recommendations 7.2.2. and 7.3. We believe that this will give us the best possible platform to achieve the objectives and goals of the recently adopted Strategic Plan 2020-2025.