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FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE

31st Session - Almaty, Kazakhstan

30 September – 4 October 2019

Agenda Item 3.2.:

The future of food safety: Outcome of the first FAO/WHO/AU International Food Safety Conference and the International Forum on Food Safety and Trade - What next?

*Mixed Competence.
European Union Vote.*

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) would like to thank FAO and WHO for organising the food safety conference in Addis Ababa, and the International Forum on Food Safety and Trade in Geneva. These events provide a great impetus to boost the profile of food safety at national and global level.

The EUMS especially welcome the statement related to the role of food safety and international trade of food products in achieving the SDGs, as underlined in the document CX/EURO 19/31/4 annexes. It is the view of the EUMS that Codex's role is crucial in national, regional, and worldwide efforts to progress the 2030 Agenda. The EUMS further note that CCGP 31 (March 2019) agreed that a discussion paper will be tabled on this question at its next session, to explore possible mechanisms for gathering and harmonising data to monitor the SDGs relevant for Codex.

The EUMS would propose various actions to contribute to food safety:

- Codex members should commit to actively engage in the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025;
- Codex members should use different tools to promote the profile of food safety at national level, including the annual World Food Safety Day of 7 June;
- Codex members should highlight the importance of food safety in the governing bodies of the parent organizations.

One such effort is the inclusion of food safety on the agenda of the next World Health Assembly in May 2020 in order to renew focus on food safety within the governing bodies of the WHO. This should materialize as a WHO resolution on food safety with specific areas of focus.

CCAFRICA recently supported the efforts for such resolution as part of the follow-up actions of the two events in Addis and Geneva. CCEURO should also express its support for this initiative.

Concerning action areas of food safety for the next decade, one important area would be the role of food safety systems in the promotion of sustainable food production. This is linked to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 2 – ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture.