

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDES RESIDUES

**(Fifty-fourth Session)
Beijing, China
26 June – 01 July 2023**

European Union comments on

AGENDA ITEM 4 (a)

Matters Arising from FAO and WHO

(CX/PR 23/54/3)

*Mixed Competence
European Union Vote*

The EU supports the activities of FAO and WHO to strengthen the One Health approach. Also the information about databases on individual food consumption and chemical hazards in food and about early warning alerts and responses to food safety emergencies is welcomed.

The EU notes that some documents mentioned by FAO, such as the Guidelines on Developing a Reporting System or Health and Environmental Incidents, were developed by the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management (JMPM). JMPM, similarly to JMPR and JMPS, is an advisory body to FAO and WHO on the lifecycle management of pesticide in agriculture and public health. Its activities rely on expert panels as well as key international partners, notably the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), that has been formally invited to join the JMPM secretariat to reflect the importance of the environmental issues in pesticide management. It also works in relation with the Rotterdam Convention and focuses its activities on highly hazardous pesticides. In this respect, the EU would welcome regular information from the FAO and/or the WHO Secretariat on the activities of the JMPM.

Reduction of pesticides use and integrated pest management, the phasing out of pesticides that are of concern for human health and/or the environment and, on the other hand, the support and facilitation of introducing low risk substances (e.g. microorganisms), as well as the issue of antimicrobial resistance in pesticides management are all very relevant topics. They are strongly related to the ongoing discussions in CCPR, in particular to the periodic review of old pesticides and the management of unsupported compounds. Therefore, the EU considers that the JMPM secretariat, including UNEP, should also be invited to CCPR sessions as a way to enhance information-sharing and foster possible ways of collaboration on cross-cutting issues.

Developments of legislation and guidelines on all these issues is currently in progress in the EU, and recently the EU, in line with the goals of its farm to fork strategy, has adopted a regulation that lowers maximum residue levels for the two neonicotinoid substances clothianidin and thiamethoxam due to environmental concerns of global nature, here the global decline of pollinators. The FAO also calls for actions to address the drivers of pollinator decline for the sake of sustainable global food production¹. The EU considers it necessary to define harmonised measures to address environmental issues of global concern in international fora, because environmental problems that transcend national boundaries cannot be addressed by one country – or region - alone. Therefore, such issues should be considered during the establishment of Codex MRLs and included on the agenda of international cooperation and coordination activities. The EU would welcome further discussions on the possibilities to integrate such reflections also in the work of CCPR.

¹ AO. 2019. The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, J. Bélanger & D. Pilling (eds.). FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Assessments. Rome. 572 pp. <https://www.fao.org/3/CA3129EN/CA3129EN.pdf>