

**CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND  
SAMPLING  
(39th Session)**

**Budapest, Hungary, 7 – 11 May 2018**

**European Union Comments on**

**Agenda item 5**

**DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE CRITERIA FOR  
ENDORSEMENT OF BIOLOGICAL METHODS USED TO  
DETECT CHEMICALS OF CONCERN**

***Mixed Competence  
Member State Vote***

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) would like to thank Chile and Mexico for the work done and for leading the eWG.

CCMAS 38 agreed to continue the work on criteria for the endorsement of biological methods and to establish an eWG chaired by Chile and Mexico with the following ToR:

- to use the General Criteria for the Selection of Methods of Analysis laid down in the Procedural Manual and other related Procedural Manual referenced documents for the validation of methods of analysis to assess methods in which potency of a substance is measured by the response of living organisms or living systems,
- to determine which criteria would not apply and propose some other criteria that might be necessary for biological methods which are currently endorsed by Codex.

The Committee further agreed that the work should be discontinued if the eWG does not produce a concrete result for consideration by CCMAS39.

The Discussion Paper CX/MAS 18/39/5 produced by the eWG invites the Committee to consider:

- A procedure to save or protect or track the scientific information to make decisions regarding new methods listed in CXS 234;
- Regarding biological methods, to discuss a way to proceed, using the current criteria on a case-by-case basis; or to develop specific criteria for biological methods.

The first recommendation, although not being part of the ToR, is worthwhile to consider by the WG revising CXS 234.

The second recommendation reflects the discussions held at CCMAS37 and CCMAS38. At the latter meeting several delegations were of the opinion that the *General Criteria for Selection of Methods of Analysis* in the Procedural Manual were applicable also to biological methods and therefore additional criteria were not necessary; and if numerical criteria were needed, these could be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The proposed considerations put forward by the eWG do not substantially progress the state-of-play. Therefore, the EUMS suggest to discontinue the work on the development of criteria for endorsement of biological methods used to detect chemical of concern.