

15 June 2018

**CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

**41<sup>st</sup> Session**

**Rome, 2-6 July 2018**

**European Union Comments on**

**CL 2017/90/OCS-FFV:**

**Request for Comments at Step 8 on the draft standard for aubergines**

*Mixed Competence*

*Member States vote*

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) reiterate their reservation to the provisions allowing a tolerance for decay in “Extra” Class for Aubergines.

The EUMS believe that a tolerance for decay in "Extra" class is not in line with the concept of “Extra” Class, which is a special status granted to products of exceptionally high quality. As aubergine in particular is not prone to decay at stages after preparation and packaging a tolerance for decay in "Extra" class is not justified.

Apart from the Standard for Apples<sup>1</sup>, Codex Standards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables do not foresee a tolerance for decay in the “Extra” Class produce.

Equally, the existing International Standard for Aubergines<sup>2</sup> does not foresee a tolerance for decay in “Extra” Class. This standard recognises "Extra" Class as a very high quality status that should be clearly distinguished from Class I and others. When departing from an existing international standard, Codex should justify the rationale behind its choices. A clear rationale has not been provided so far.

The EUMS regret that the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables has decided not to take the reality of trade and existing international standards into account in the elaboration of a standard for aubergines. The EUMS regret furthermore that not enough efforts have been made in trying to find a consensus and that the standard has been advanced to step 8 notwithstanding the high number of reservations.

In the spirit of compromise, the EUMS will not object to the adoption of the standard for aubergines at step 8 but reiterate their strong reservation to the adoption of the standard. Furthermore, the EUMS underline that a general solution is needed for the tolerance for decay in extra class before any new standard is adopted.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/agr/standard/fresh/FFV-Std/English/05Aubergines\\_2016\\_E.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/agr/standard/fresh/FFV-Std/English/05Aubergines_2016_E.pdf)

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/ewg/detail/en/c/1094687/>