

**Reply of the European Union (EU) to CL 2019/106/OCS:  
Request for Comments at Step 8 on the Draft Standard for Kiwifruit**

***European Union Competence.***

***European Union Vote.***

The EU can support the adoption of the draft *Standard for Kiwifruit* at step 8 but reiterates its strong reservation for decay tolerance in “extra Class” as follows:

The EU maintains its view 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. The EU recalls that CAC41 confirmed that provisions for decay in “Extra Class” are optional and, depending on the nature of the produce, may not be applicable or necessary. In the case of kiwifruit, the experience gained over 30 years with the implementation of the UNECE Standard FFV-46 for kiwifruit confirms that there is no need to introduce a tolerance for decay in “Extra Class” of kiwifruit, including when transported long distances. Therefore, the EU will continue to apply a zero tolerance for decay in “Extra Class” of kiwifruit as provided in the UNECE standard.