

Brussels, 24 March 2020
(OR. en)

5409/20

LIMITE

AGRI 27
CODEX 3

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Codex Alimentarius Working Party (Codex General Strategy) on 18 December 2019

I. PARTICIPATION IN CODEX MEETINGS

1. The Working Party took note of the information provided by the representative of the General Secretariat of the Council (GSC), who recalled that one of the recommendations included in the 2012 Council Conclusions on the Codex Alimentarius¹ was to strengthen the EU's impact on Codex work by improving, *inter alia*, the participation of Member States' experts (along with Commission experts) in Codex meetings. The GSC representative also noted that, as demonstrated by the graph set out in WK 14197/2019, the participation rate over the past few years had been fairly stable, with a slight downward trend for Codex meetings taking place outside Europe.
2. The Commission representative underlined the critical importance of strong Member State participation in Codex meetings, particularly with a view to allowing the EU and its Member States together to be effective in promoting and defending their positions both in plenary discussions and in outreach to other Codex members, and where necessary to agree *sur place* on any required adjustments to the positions established in Brussels. He also encouraged delegations to ensure that their political masters were fully aware of the need for strong Member State presence on the ground to enable the EU and its Member States to bring their full combined weight to Codex meetings.

¹ 14981/12.

3. A number of delegations supported the Commission's call for adequate Member State representation in the various Codex Committee meetings and also underlined the importance of ensuring that Member States send the right experts and that those experts are fully aware of both Codex working methods and practices and cross-cutting Codex issues.

II. ASSESSMENT OF CODEX DISCUSSIONS IN 2019 AND OUTLOOK FOR 2020

4. The Working Party discussed, on the basis of the information and comments put forward by the Commission representative and a number of delegations, the most important outcomes of Codex discussions in 2019 and the main strategic issues on the Codex agenda for 2020. A summary of that discussion is set out below.

42nd session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC42)

Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025²

5. A major achievement in 2019 was the adoption by CAC42 of the new Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025, which sets out five overarching goals and common objectives for all Codex members, complemented by a detailed work plan allowing every Codex region to focus on activities that are best suited to its specific potential and priorities³ (both the Strategic Plan and the work plan will be kept up to date through biennial reviews). The Strategic Plan also sets out how Codex standards can assist members in working towards the achievement of those SDGs that are directly related to food safety and fair food-trade practices⁴.
6. The Working Party agreed that the explicit references to climate change and consumer concerns as 'drivers for change' in the Strategic Plan were critically important for the EU. More generally, delegations acknowledged the importance for the EU to set clear political priorities and objectives for Codex discussions in the coming years, and highlighted in this regard antimicrobial resistance (AMR), preventing food fraud, adequately addressing climate change and reducing food waste as critical horizontal topics.

² See: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca5645en/CA5645EN.pdf>.

³ The draft work plan, which should take account of the input received from the various regional coordinating committees, will be presented to CAC43 for adoption in July 2020.

⁴ SDGs 2 ('ending hunger'), 3 ('good health and well-being'), 12 ('sustainable consumption and production') and 17 ('global partnerships').

Sustainable funding for scientific advice in support of Codex

7. Another important achievement in 2019 was the successful outcome of the EU's efforts to encourage the Codex parent organisations (FAO and WHO) to commit to providing sustainable funding from their core budgets for scientific advice in support of Codex.⁵ As regards FAO, in July 2019 the FAO Conference endorsed an increase in ring-fenced funds to support its scientific advice programme in the next two years. As regards WHO, preparatory discussions initiated by the EU resulted in an agreement across the WHO membership on a draft WHA⁶ Resolution (see point 21 below), which highlights the need to 'ensure sustainable, predictable and sufficient resources from WHO for the provision of timely scientific advice on food safety to the Codex Alimentarius Commission'.

Statements of Principle on the role of science in the Codex decision-making process and the extent to which other factors are taken into account (hereafter 'Statements of Principle')

8. In July 2019 CAC42, as a follow-up to its discussions on the Statements of Principle⁷, agreed to establish a CCEXEC sub-committee tasked with developing practical guidance for the application of the Statements of Principle⁸. In order to accommodate the EU's concerns about ensuring inclusiveness and transparency of discussions on this important issue, CAC42 agreed that all Codex members could provide input to the sub-committee (including through circular letters⁹) and that the issue could also be discussed in the margins of meetings of the FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committees¹⁰ and the CCGP¹¹.

⁵ At the initiative of the EU, a significant group of Codex members presented a discussion paper on this issue to CAC42 (see WK 6375/2019).

⁶ World Health Assembly.

⁷ Based on the Codex Secretariat's paper entitled 'History and implications of the fourth paragraph of the Statements of Principle' (CX/EXEC 19/77/10).

⁸ The sub-committee would be chaired by CAC vice-chair Purwiyatno Hariyadi from Indonesia.

⁹ The EU comments in reply to the first Circular Letter on this topic (CL 2019/99/OCS-CCEXEC) are set out in WK 12504/2019 REV1.

¹⁰ The views on this issue as agreed by the coordinating committee for Europe at its 31st meeting in Kazakhstan (CCEURO31) are set out in CX/EURO 19/31/CRD9.

¹¹ Codex Committee on General Principles.

9. The DE delegation shared its views on this issue, indicating that Germany as the CCEXEC member elected on a geographical basis would participate¹² in the meeting of the sub-committee scheduled to take place in the margins of the next CCEXEC session in February 2020 (CCEXEC78)¹³. Given the obvious link between the discussions on the Statements of Principle, on the one hand, and the pending issue of maximum residue levels (MRLs) for zilpaterol hydrochloride in CCRVDF, on the other hand, the challenge for the sub-committee chair would be to ensure that the sub-committee members would see this discussion as an opportunity to improve the functioning of Codex in general and would get actively involved in working out concrete text proposals. ‘Consensus’ and ‘amenability to standardisation’ would be important elements in the discussion.
10. The Working Party agreed that this issue would continue to require the EU’s full attention, especially because of the link with the follow-up discussions on the proposed draft MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride at the upcoming 25th CCRVDF¹⁴ session in May 2020 (see below).

Proposed draft maximum level (ML) for cadmium for chocolates

11. Lengthy discussions on this issue at CAC42 did not result in an agreement. Latin-American countries strongly supported the adoption of the proposed ML, whereas African countries, supported by in particular the EU, Norway and Switzerland, expressed reservations. CAC42 therefore decided that further discussions on this issue would take place at CCCF14¹⁵. The Working Party agreed that close cooperation with the African region on this issue was strategically important in the broader context of the EU’s objective to establish a closer cooperation and partnership with Africa.

¹² With Norway and the European Commission acting as its advisors.

¹³ The outcome of that meeting is available at: http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/sh-proxy/en/?lnk=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FMeetings%252FCX-702-78%252FCRDs%252Fex78_crd3x.pdf. The CCEXEC sub-committee will continue its discussions at CCEXEC79 (Rome, 29 June - 3 July 2020).

¹⁴ Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food.

¹⁵ 14th session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food (Utrecht, 20-24 April 2020).

Provisions on sweeteners and the alternative to ‘Note 161’

12. A major achievement with regard to Codex discussions on food additives was the endorsement by CAC42 of the agreement reached by CCFA51¹⁶ on the revised food additives provisions of the General Standard on Food Additives (GSFA) with regard to the notes aimed at replacing ‘Note 161’ (use of sweeteners). The Working Party agreed that this major success, which puts an end to a long-standing divergence between, in particular, the USA and the EU, demonstrated that positions in Codex could evolve over time and that solutions could be found if there was a genuine willingness to work together.

31st session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Europe (CCEURO31)¹⁷

13. The Commission representative informed delegations that Commission experts had participated in most of the Codex Regional Coordinating Committee meetings that took place in 2019 (CCNE¹⁸, CCAFRICA¹⁹, CCLAC²⁰ and CCASIA²¹). The Working Party acknowledged that participation of both the Commission and Member States²² in those meetings was important to better understand the dynamics of other Codex regions and thus to better engage with their representatives in Codex discussions.

¹⁶ 51st session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives.

¹⁷ 31st session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Europe (Almaty, Kazakhstan - 30 September - 4 October 2019).

¹⁸ Codex Coordinating Committee for the Near East.

¹⁹ Codex Coordinating Committee for Africa.

²⁰ Codex Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean.

²¹ Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia.

²² The FR delegation noted that its agricultural attachés had participated in meetings of several Codex regional coordinating committees.

14. With regard to CCEURO31, the Commission representative expressed satisfaction with both the relatively good participation from Member States' experts and the outcome of discussions on the key issues. He recalled, in particular, that CCEURO31 (at the request of the EU) had reiterated its clear opposition to the use of growth promoters in animals in general and the establishment of Codex MRLs for such substances²³ in particular. He also welcomed the fact that informal discussion had led to agreement on the following two key messages from CCEURO²⁴ on the issue of the Statements of Principle:

- putting together practical guidance on the application of the Statements of Principle is essential for Codex discussions on standards where consensus is difficult to reach;
- such practical guidance is particularly important for finding a way forward for the discussions on growth promoters in the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs (CCRVDF).

²³ In certain parts of the world, zilpaterol hydrochloride is used as a growth promoter.

²⁴ See: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/sh-proxy/en/?lnk=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FMeetings%252FCX-706-31%252FCRDs%252FCRD09.pdf>

CCRVDF25²⁵ - proposed maximum residue levels (MRLs) for zilpaterol hydrochloride

15. The Commission representative recalled that, due to the objection put forward by the EU, at CCRVDF24 in May 2018 the proposed MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride had not been moved forward to step 5 in the Codex step procedure, despite the fact that the validity of the scientific assessment carried out by JECFA²⁶ had not been challenged by any of the Codex members. He suggested that, pending the outcome of the ongoing discussions in the CCEXEC sub-committee tasked with developing practical guidance on the application of the Statements of Principle, the EU should maintain its objection to moving the proposed draft MRLs forward. He nonetheless agreed with those delegations who underlined the need to approach this issue with foresight and to anticipate the possibility that at CCRVDF25 some Codex members might strongly argue in the opposite direction and even request a vote to that effect. In this regard, it was suggested that the key findings of the 2019 Eurobarometer on food safety in the EU²⁷ could be useful for the EU to make its case on this issue at CCRVDF25. In addition, it was recalled that the Russian Federation, which was a strong ally for the EU in opposing the proposed draft MRLs, had announced at CCEURO31 its intention to put forward new scientific data on zilpaterol hydrochloride.

31st session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP31)

16. The Working Party agreed that, after a three-year break, the relaunch of CCGP at its 31st session in Bordeaux had been a success and that the CCGP was now set to play its full role again in the Codex system.
17. With regard to the upcoming 32nd session of the CCGP²⁸, the FR delegation provided the following information:

²⁵ 25th session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food (25-29 May 2020, San Diego, USA).

²⁶ Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives

²⁷ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/Eurobarometer2019_Food-safety-in-the-EU_Full-report.pdf.

²⁸ CCGP32, Bordeaux - 23-27 March 2020.

- the discussions on procedural guidance for committees working by correspondence would be continued on the basis of the report prepared by the electronic working group chaired by New Zealand and co-chaired by Germany, Japan and the US;
- France would present two discussion papers: one on monitoring the use of Codex standards (which would include a roadmap), and another one on monitoring Codex results in the context of the SDGs;
- the Codex Secretariat was expected to organise a side-event in the margins of CCGP31 to allow for informal discussions on the draft recommendations on the Statements of Principle, which CCEXEC78 was expected to prepare (see below);
- France was planning to organise, together with the African region, a side-event on the role of Codex in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement, aimed at highlighting progress in the implementation of the joint action agenda agreed by the 3rd Agriculture Ministerial Conference between the African Union and the EU (June 2019).

7th session of the Codex Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR7²⁹)

18. The Commission representative expressed his appreciation for the active role Member States' experts had played in TFAMR7 plenary discussions and also thanked the Presidency for the excellent coordination work in the margins of the session (the Working Party echoed these acknowledgements). In sharing his assessment of the meeting, he noted that discussions on the proposed revision of the existing *Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance* (hereafter 'Code of Practice') had been challenging, in that the EU and its Member States (despite their well-prepared positions, which were generally supported by Norway and Switzerland, Russia and Kazakhstan) were often faced with diverging views from a large group of other Codex members (including the US, Australia, New Zealand and Latin-American countries), in particular on the issue of the use of antimicrobials for growth promotion (set out in 'Principle 5' of the Code of Practice). TFRAM7 had nevertheless succeeded in reaching agreement on an overall compromise text, which would now be presented to CAC43 for adoption at step 5. The Commission representative also noted that there had been almost no time left for discussions on the proposed draft of the *Guidelines on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance* (TFAMR7 had only agreed to re-establish an electronic working group to continue work on this issue at step 2/3 with a view to further discussion at the next TFAMR session in 2020).
19. The FR delegation underlined the major public health threat caused by AMR and said that it would welcome a scientific opinion from EFSA³⁰. Regarding the outcome of the TFAMR7 discussions on the proposed revision of the existing Code of Practice, this delegation requested that a legal analysis be made of the compromise text agreed by TFAMR7, in particular to assess what the possible implications would be in case of a WTO dispute settlement procedure if the EU were to accept the proposed revision. The NL delegation underlined that real progress in the TFAMR was only possible if appropriate action at political level was taken.
20. The Working Party agreed that the outcome of TFAMR7 should be carefully analysed and that follow-up discussion at CAC43 should be prepared in a timely, well-considered and strategic manner, in particular as regards the TFAMR7 proposal to move the proposed revision of the Code of Conduct to step 5 in the Codex step procedure.

²⁹ Korea, 9-13 December 2019.

³⁰ European Food Safety Authority.

WHA Resolution on food safety: status of preparatory discussions

21. The Commission representative brought the Working Party up to date on the status of the preparatory discussions on the Resolution on food safety which the WHA is expected to adopt at its 73rd session (Geneva, 20-28 May 2020). He explained that, building on the momentum created by the two recent international conferences on food safety³¹, the EU had taken the lead in developing a proposal for a WHA Resolution on strengthening the WHO's work on food safety. The draft of the Resolution³² had been agreed by Geneva-based representatives of the EU and its Member States and further developed in close cooperation with Geneva-based representatives from the US, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Japan, and Mexico. At a later stage, representatives from Japan and Australia had confirmed they were ready to co-sponsor the Resolution and the African countries had also expressed their support to the initiative. The main objectives of the draft Resolution, which included adequate references to EU priorities (in particular, consumer confidence, combating AMR, preventing food fraud and addressing climate change), were to:

- call upon the WHO to allocate adequate resources to food safety;
- support the adoption and implementation of food safety policies by all WHO members;
- highlight the importance of the international Codex standards and express support for their development, including through financial support for scientific advice in support of Codex.

³¹ FAO/WHO/AU International Food Safety Conference (12-13 February 2019 - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) and the FAO/WHO/WTO/AU International Forum on Food Safety and Trade (23-24 April 2019 - Geneva, Switzerland).

³² Distributed with reference WK 2354/20.

III. CODEx ELECTRONIC WORKING GROUPS

22. At its previous strategic meeting in December 2018, the Working Party had a detailed discussion on possibilities to enhance the EU's impact and effectiveness in Codex electronic Working Groups (e-WGs). Based on the options for improvement identified by the Working Party in 2018, the Presidency tabled a discussion paper³³ setting out a set of concrete proposals for improvement, in particular by determining 'priority e-WGs' and by establishing an informal coordination mechanism for such priority e-WGs.
23. The Commission representative, while underlining the need to avoid any additional burdens, generally welcomed the proposals set out in the discussion paper. He stressed the importance of adequate participation of both European Commission and Member States' experts in Codex e-WGs, so as to ensure that the EU's combined weight was duly taken into account by e-WG chairs when reporting to physical Codex committee meetings. He also encouraged Member States to register for e-WGs even if they were not considered to be 'priority e-WGs'. Lastly, he confirmed that the Commission experts were ready to share draft positions with Member States' experts, so as to allow Member States experts to take inspiration from the EU comments when preparing their own contributions for e-WGs. The Commission experts on their part were ready, to the extent possible, to take account of comments and suggestions received from Member States experts. To that effect, he encouraged delegations to ensure that their experts also shared their draft comments with both the Commission experts and the experts from other Member States.
24. Delegations generally expressed agreement with the proposals for improvement and acknowledged that it was useful to receive the draft comments prepared by the Commission experts at an early stage. They also noted that further discussion was needed on the use of the Codex online commenting system (OCS), particularly since more and more Codex circular letters were published through the OCS. Finally, the following two more general suggestions were made:
- the creation of a specific function in the Delegates Portal to enable more efficient information exchange and interaction between Commission and Member States experts;
 - the establishment of some kind of monitoring system for the next one or two years, in order to get a better view on the de facto contribution and participation of Commission and Member States' experts in e-WGs.

³³ WK 14185/19.

25. In concluding the discussion, the Presidency noted that the Working Party was generally in agreement with the proposals set out in the discussion paper and suggested that those would be implemented over the coming year and assessed in due course.

IV. INTERACTION AND COOPERATION WITH OTHER CODEX MEMBERS

26. The Working Party took note of the information provided by the Commission representative on the Commission's outreach and cooperation activities with other Codex members and regional groups, including through participation in the biennial sessions of most of the Codex Regional Coordinating Committees (see point 13 above), through regular contacts and videoconferences with the USA and with the EU's key Codex partners Norway, Switzerland and Kazakhstan, as well as through its 'Better Training for Safe Food' (BTSF) programme. He also noted that, at the last CCEURO session, a number of non-EU CCEURO members expressed a keen interest in learning from EU Member States. While noting in this regard the Commission's readiness to organise a BTSF seminar for interested CCEURO members in the autumn of 2020, he recalled the suggestion he had made to the Working Party at its previous meeting in December 2018 to set up Codex 'twinning partnerships' between Codex contact points of EU Member States and Codex contact points of neighbouring countries.³⁴ He encouraged delegations to seriously consider setting up such twinning activities.
27. A number of delegations shared information on outreach and cooperation activities they had undertaken in the past year, including: the SE delegation (cooperation project, with Norway, to help put in place a contact point in North Macedonia, as well as the five-year cooperation project 'healthy animals, safe food' with African countries); the DE delegation (annual 'Summer Academy' organised by the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment, and 'International Training for Safer Food' organised by the German Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety); the FR delegation (Codex training for Moroccan officials in the framework of the European Commission's TAIEX³⁵ programme and voluntary contribution to FAO's scientific advice programme, including for the organisation of workshops on AMR); and the NL delegation (Codex training seminar for Belarus, held jointly with Kazakhstan, in Minsk).

³⁴ See 5075/19, point 16).

³⁵ Technical Assistance and Information Exchange.

28. In concluding this agenda item, the Presidency noted that there was scope to further enhance outreach and coordination activities with the EU's partners in Codex and underlined in this regard the particular importance of ensuring that Codex activities are adequately integrated in ongoing discussions with third countries on development cooperation activities and projects.

V. FUTURE ELECTIONS

Election of the next chair and vice-chairs of the Codex Commission at CAC43

29. The Working Party noted the information provided by the UK delegation, which stated that, further to the informal announcement made at CCEURO31, the UK intended to formally put forward current vice-chair Steve Wearne as candidate for the position of chair of the Codex Commission. The general expectation was that Lebanon would also put forward the candidacy of current vice-chair Mariam Eid. Regarding the three vacant vice-chair positions, either New Zealand or Australia was expected to put forward a candidate (for the North America and South West Pacific region) while Kenya was expected to announce the candidature of Kimutai Maritim for the African region.

Election of the next coordinator of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Europe (CCEURO)

30. The Working Party noted that Kazakhstan's mandate as CCEURO coordinator would end in 2022 and that CCEURO would have to nominate a new CCEURO coordinator at its next session, scheduled for the autumn of 2021.
31. The Commission representative, in accordance with his view expressed in previous discussions on this issue, underlined the strategic importance of ensuring that the next CCEURO coordinator be an EU Member State. He also indicated that the Commission would be ready to provide, if necessary, assistance to any EU Member State willing to take on the role of CCEURO coordinator.

32. The NL and PL delegations, sharing their experience as former CCEURO coordinators, underlined the need for any EU Member State interested in taking over from Kazakhstan to start internal preparations at national level in a timely fashion. These delegations responded positively to the Presidency's suggestion that they would prepare a joint information note to assist possible candidates in assessing, in particular, organisational, budgetary and human resources aspects of the CCEURO coordinator role.³⁶
33. In concluding this agenda item, the Presidency reiterated that it would be very good if one of the EU Member States could succeed Kazakhstan as the CCEURO coordinator and encouraged delegations to seriously consider putting forward their candidature.

VI. SCIENTIFIC ADVICE IN CODEX WORK

34. Delegations agreed with the Presidency's view that scientific advice is of paramount importance for the functioning of the Codex Alimentarius and that the FAO/WHO scientific bodies (JECFA³⁷, JMPR³⁸, JEMRA³⁹, JEMNU⁴⁰) play a critically important role in Codex's standard-setting work. They also recognised that it was useful to exchange information on the participation of Member States' experts in such bodies and to receive feedback from experts that had served on these bodies.
35. In the ensuing exchange, the DE delegation indicated that five German experts were on the FAO/WHO rosters from which the experts are selected. The Commission representative underlined the importance for the EU as a whole to bring its expertise to these bodies and said that EFSA regularly distributed calls for interest. While acknowledging the additional work load involved for both the experts and the national bodies or institutes where they worked, he noted that currently experts from EU Member States seemed to be underrepresented. He therefore encouraged delegations to take this issue forward at national level and identify eminent scientists within their government structures that could be candidates to sit on the scientific bodies. He also offered to try to obtain statistical data from the FAO/WHO on the number of experts from EU Member States that have been either on the roster or have served on one of the FAO/WHO scientific bodies.

³⁶ Distributed to delegations in WK 2251/2020.

³⁷ Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives.

³⁸ Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticides Residues.

³⁹ Joint FAO/WHO Experts Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment.

⁴⁰ Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Nutrition.

36. In concluding the agenda item, the Presidency underlined the importance of actively spreading information on opportunities to serve on the joint FAO/WHO scientific bodies and invited delegations to adequately report back on this issue to their respective governments, with a view to ensuring adequate participation of Member State experts in these bodies in the future. He also invited the Commission representative to share in due course any statistical data obtained from the FAO/WHO.

VII. CODEX TRUST FUND AND OTHER CODEX FUNDING ISSUES

37. The Working Party noted the information provided by the UK delegation (GBP 500 000 for 30 months) and the DE delegation (EUR 100 000 per year) about their contributions to the Codex Trust Fund. The Commission representative, underlining that the EU and its Member States were by far the biggest funders of the Codex Trust Fund, indicated that the Commission provided EUR 700 000 during the period 2017-2019 and that an additional contribution of EUR 750 000 had been committed for the period 2020-2023.
38. The Presidency noted that the EU and its Member States remained fully committed to the Codex Trust Fund, which was essential to enable all Codex member countries to fully engage in Codex activities. He also encouraged all Member States to continue, within the limits of their budgets, to contribute to the Trust Fund.

VIII. ORGANISATION OF WORK IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2020

39. The HR delegation informed the Working Party about the work programme for its upcoming Presidency term in the first half of 2020, including the provisional dates of the Working Party meetings. The HR delegation also indicated that it had requested the DE delegation to chair the preparatory Working Parties for both the 32nd session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP32)⁴¹ and the 43rd session of the Codex Commission (CAC43).⁴²

⁴¹ Germany would also present the EU positions at CCGP32.

⁴² An overview of the meetings and the chairs can be found in WK 14516/19.

IX. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

World Food Safety Day

40. Following the adoption of the UN General Assembly Resolution on a 'World Food Safety Day' in December 2018, this day was celebrated for the first time on 7 June 2019 under the theme 'Food Safety, everyone's business'.
41. The Working Party noted the comments by the Commission representative, who reminded delegations that the draft WHA Resolution on food safety (see point 21 above) explicitly referred to World Food Safety Day (WFSD) as 'an important reminder of the need for public awareness and vigilance'⁴³. He expressed, in particular, the view that it would be good for the EU to make arrangements for a central event to celebrate 2020 WFSD. The Presidency encouraged delegations to ensure that appropriate attention is paid to WFSD this year and to share in due course information on planned activities.

Advisory Group Meeting on Practical Guidance for Codex Electronic Working Groups

42. The Commission representative informed the Working Party that the Commission would host a Codex advisory group meeting on 30 and 31 January 2020, convened by the Codex Secretariat in Brussels, to discuss practical guidance for Codex electronic Working Groups.

⁴³ See WK 14138/2019, OP1.12.