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INFORMATION

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Working Party on International Food and Agricultural Questions (Codex - CCFA)
Subject:	CCFA56 - eWG: Development of a guideline for the conduct of food safety assessment of cell culture media components used in the production of cell-based foods - 1st consultation - EU comments

Delegations will find in annex the comments of the European Union on the *Development of a guideline for the conduct of food safety assessment of cell culture media components used in the production of cell-based foods* in the first consultation round in the eWG as submitted to the Codex Secretariat via the OCS by the Commission services.

DISCUSSION PAPER FOR NEW WORK ON DEVELOPMENT OF A GUIDELINE FOR FOOD SAFETY ASSESSMENT OF CELL CULTURE MEDIA COMPONENTS IN CELL-BASED FOOD PRODUCTION

By: Singapore, China, Republic of Korea and Saudi Arabia

EU reply to the first consultation of the EWG

Please note that the comments of the EU as a member of this electronic working group do not prejudice the coordinated position officially and finally taken by the EU when requested by the Codex Secretariat.

The European Union (EU) welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on the proposal of new work on development of a guideline for food safety assessment of cell culture media components in cell-based food production.

As a general comment, the EU would like to highlight that risk assessment activities for New Food Sources and Production Systems (NFPS) should be performed in the context of a relevant Risk Analysis framework.

The EU notes that the first element of the Terms of reference of the WG is the following: “to revise the draft project document on the development of a guideline for the conduct of food safety assessment of cell culture media components used in production of cell-based food for consideration on the agenda of CCFA56.”

The comments to this first consultation are thus dedicated to key aspects of the proposal.

The EU would respectfully request the proponents of this proposal to provide more information on the following elements:

- “Cell-based food products are currently at various stages of development across the world.” (paragraph 3) and “The industry’s anticipated growth “(paragraph 11). The EU would welcome information on the current trade of these products at national or international level and prospects of the placing on the market of cell-based products in different regions and trade of these products.
- Para 11. “With the potential to contribute to a global sustainable food system”. The EU would welcome concrete information (i.e. data, studies, other evidence) on the actual potential of cell-based food to contribute to the three pillars of sustainability: environmental, economic and social.

The EU notes that the objective of the proposal is to provide a framework for categorising different cell culture media components in cell-based food production, utilising a 5-tier approach. The EU would respectfully request scientific evidence and practical experience that would support a shift away from a case-by-case approach.

The EU cannot share any experience on the assessment of cell-based food since the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) did not yet complete an assessment of applications for the placing on the market of this type of products.