



## **Comments submitted by European Union**

### **Agenda Item 14**

## **European Union comments on the Model Certificates**

### *Mixed competence European Union vote*

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) note that the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission has adopted the Generic Model Official Certificate developed by the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Certification and Inspection Systems (CCFICS). This model certificate is annexed to the Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates<sup>1</sup> revised in 2007.

CCFICS when developing its model certificate took inspiration in the two certificates which were already developed by Codex Committees, namely CCFFP and the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products (CCMMP).

Now that a generic certificate exists and is supposed to cover all types of products, the EUMS are of the opinion that the Generic Model Certificate should be revised to include specifics related to fish and fishery products allowing then the revocation of the Model Certificate for Fish and Fishery Products.

The EUMS therefore propose the following amendments and comments:

**1)** In order to retain the mention in the certificate of the scientific name of the species in the particular case of fish and fishery products, the EUMS suggest to amend Note 15 of the Annex of document CAC/GL 38-2001 related to the field “Name of the product” in the generic certificate to request the indication, for fish and fishery products, of the common name and the scientific name of the species”, as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> CAC/GL 38-2001

CAC/GL 38-2001 – Annex - Explanatory notes on the generic model for an official certificate – Specific:

(...)

15. Identification of food product(s): give the descriptive information specific to the product or products to be certified.

Where appropriate: nature of the food (or description of the commodity), commodity code (HS code), species **(both common name(s) and scientific name(s) for fish and fishery product(s))**, intended purpose, producer/manufacturer, approval number of establishments (slaughterhouse, production plant, store (cold store or not)), region or compartment of origin, name of the product, lot identifier, type of packaging, number of packages, net weight per type of product.

## 2) Attestations:

The EUMS are of the opinion that there would be some merit in retaining the wording of the specific attestations for fish and fishery products.

Note 16 of the generic certificate could therefore be amended accordingly:

**16. Attestations:** information indicating compliance with the relevant regulation(s) of the importing or exporting countries in accordance with the recommendations, as appropriate, of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Attestations should be the minimum required for the products certified to ensure food safety and fair practices in the food trade. Attestations should be applicable to the food products certified.

Non-applicable attestations should be excluded or deleted.

There may be other attestations covering different issues (cf. paragraph 7 of document CAC/GL 38-2001).

**In the case of sanitary certification of fish and fishery products, the following attestations should be used:**

**1) The products described above originate from (an) approved establishment(s) that has been approved by, or otherwise determined to be in good regulatory standing with the competent authority in the exporting country and**

**2) have been handled, prepared or processed, identified, stored and transported under a competent HACCP and sanitary programme consistently implemented and in accordance with the requirements laid down in Codex Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (CAC/RCP 52-2003).**

## 3) Country of origin:

The EUMS are totally satisfied with the definition of country of origin which is currently in the notes of the generic certificate:

Country of origin: name of the country in which the products were produced, manufactured or packaged.