



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States

171st Session of the Council of the FAO

(5-9 December 2022)

**Item 10: Report of the 117th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters
(24-26 October 2022)**

Mr. Chair,

1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
2. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, The Republic of North Macedonia, San Marino, Türkiye and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.
3. We would like to thank the Chair and the members of the CCLM for their leadership and commitment and we appreciate the CCLM's findings. We wish to reiterate several points.
4. We welcome the CCLM discussions on the FAO Data Protection Policy and are pleased that the implementation of the Data Protection Policy will stay on the CCLM's agenda. In particular, we take note that the Data Protection Unit (DPU) is being established as an independent office in the Office of the Director-General. We would stress that the DPU should be granted full operational independence in all its activities and call on FAO Management to keep members informed on progress made, including on the appointment of the head of the DPU.
5. With regard to the draft Policy on Intellectual Property Rights, we commend the CCLM's considerations on further aspects to be incorporated into the Policy and we agree with the recommendations made.
6. We also support the conclusion of the CCLM that the proposal to amend the Constitution of the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD) has

respected the procedural requirements set out in the EuFMD Constitution and the Basic Text. Having said that, we endorse the draft Resolution in the Annex to this report.

7. We express our full agreement with the conclusions and recommendation of the CCLM on the implementation of recommendation 7 of the JIU Report on the Review of the State of the Investigation Function: Progress made in the United Nations System Organizations in Strengthening the Investigation Function. We urge management to take immediate steps to implement the recommendation, in particular to submit a draft procedure for further consideration of the governing bodies.
8. Finally, we would like to encourage the work of FAO's Development Law Branch on relevant legislation to ensure effective implementation of SDGs and 2030 Agenda to promote agriculture and food systems sustainability, including the system's transformation.
9. With these comments, we endorse the conclusions and recommendations of the 117th session of the CCLM.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.