

EU reply

CL 2023/33/OCS-CAC

Request for comments at step 6 on the draft MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride in cattle liver, kidney and muscle

European Union Competence European Union Vote

The European Union (EU) reiterates its strong opposition to the adoption of the MRLs for zilpaterol by the Commission. As zilpaterol is solely used for the purpose of growth promotion, the EU is opposed to an international standard that endorses its use.

The EU has systematically opposed the development of Codex MRLs for growth promoters. The EU opposition to growth promoters is based on concerns about the health and welfare of animals, consumer preferences, and moral and socio-economic concerns about the sustainability of farming practices that employ growth promoters. *The One Health approach also recognises the interlinkages between these different aspects and the health of consumers.*

Therefore, the use of growth promoters is not allowed in Europe. The EU does neither authorize nor accept import of meat derived from animals that were administered with the substances. The EU policy on such substances is widely supported by European citizens and it is applied in a non-discriminatory manner.

The EU upholds the core Codex values of inclusiveness, collaboration, consensus building and transparency. Unfortunately, consensus has never been reached in Codex on the question of growth promoters due to divergent conceptions and expectations regarding food production systems. This is in sharp contrast with the rest of Codex work since Codex has successfully adopted thousands of standards and other Codex texts by consensus.

The EU recalls its strong commitment to an ambitious Codex Alimentarius fit for the challenges of today and tomorrow, as stated by the Council conclusions adopted by the EU member states in 2022. The EU is dedicated to maintaining its collaboration with all Codex members and observers, and its effective contribution to the Codex Alimentarius in all its dimensions.

In that perspective, the EU remains open to engage in further consensus seeking on this issue in the run-up to and at CAC46.