

19/09/2019

# FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE

**31<sup>st</sup> Session - Almaty, Kazakhstan**

**30 September – 4 October 2019**

## **Agenda Item 6:**

### **Codex Work relevant to the Region**

#### **✚ Strategic Plan 2020-2025: Work Plan**

*Member States Competence.  
Member States Vote.*

The Member States of the European Union (MSEU) welcome the timely adoption of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025. It provides a solid basis to further Codex work in the forthcoming five-year period. To ensure that the plan will deliver, efforts must now be concentrated in creating an effective work plan for implementation. The MSEU are very pleased to see that the Regional Coordinating Committees have been granted a crucial role in the development of the work plan.

#### **✚ Statements of Principles concerning the role of science**

*Member States Competence.  
Member States Vote.*

The MSEU welcome the acknowledgement of CAC42 that there is a need to ensure a fully transparent process with ample opportunities for all Codex members to provide input for the work of the CCEXEC sub-committee on the application of the Statements of Principle concerning the Role of Science.

The MSEU appreciate that in order to reinforce transparency and the possibility for all members to give input to this work

- informal discussions on this issue will be held in the margins of appropriate Codex meetings: FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committees and the CCGP;
- Circular Letters requesting comments from all members in advance of both CCEXEC78 and CCEXEC79 will be issued in order to guarantee inclusiveness and transparency.

## **Proposed Draft MRLs for Zilpaterol Hydrochloride (Cattle, Kidney, Liver, Muscle)**

*European Union Competence.*

*European Union Vote.*

With regard to the draft MRLs for Zilpaterol the EU considers that the outcome of the discussion on this important issue at the last CCEURO session in 2016 (CCEURO30) remains fully relevant. We therefore suggest that the following conclusions, as set out in the CCEURO30 report, be re-iterated in the report of this CCEURO session:

*“2.6. At the 30th session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe Members discussed the issue of Codex adopting standards for growth promoters with a focus on Zilpaterol hydrochloride. In its conclusion on the item of “work relevant to the region” CCEURO30:*

*□ noted the unanimous views of CCEURO members against the use of growth promoters and the establishment of Codex Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for such substances expressed during the discussion;*

*□ reaffirmed the need for Codex, including the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), to focus their scarce resources on subjects of global importance, rather than investing much effort into those that would affect negatively Codex processes; ..”*

In addition, the EU welcomes the ongoing work on the 'Statements of Principle' by the CCEXEC subcommittee. We expect the subcommittee to develop practical guidance, taking into account the conclusions of the document on the 'history and implications of the fourth paragraph of the Statements of Principle' prepared by the Codex Secretariat (CX/EXEC 19/77/10). The EU considers such guidance to be essential for finding a way forward regarding growth promoters in CCRVDF.

## **Sustainable Funding of Codex Scientific Advice**

*Member States Competence.*

*Member States Vote.*

In the extensive discussions at CAC42 on the sustainable funding for scientific advice for Codex work it was emphasised that in particular WHO should step up its efforts to ensure sufficient and sustainable funding for the joint FAO/WHO scientific advice programme from its core budget.

The MSEU believe that the WHO, as parent organisation of the Codex Alimentarius, should renew its focus on food safety. Therefore, the MSEU support a broad discussion on the importance of food safety and the international food standard setting bodies to promote global health within the next 146<sup>th</sup> WHO Executive Committee and the 74<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly (WHA), with the objective of developing a resolution on food safety. This resolution, which would build upon the previous 2000 and 2010 WHA food safety resolutions, would include a reference to the importance of guaranteeing sustainable funding for scientific advice.

Interested WHO members are currently working to develop such a resolution and to include the topic on the agenda of the next WHA. The MSEU encourage CCEURO members to support actively this initiative in the WHO governing bodies.

**✚ Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR)**

*Member States Competence.*

*Member States Vote.*

The ongoing work on AMR is a key priority for CCEURO and for Codex globally. Therefore, CCEURO should urge TFAMR to ensure timely and successful completion of the work on the two Codex texts on AMR/

✚ *Proposed Draft Revision of the Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance*

✚ *Proposed Draft Guidelines on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance.*

At the same time, CCEURO members should foster the implementation of AMR national action plans and commit to participate actively to the work of the TFAMR to facilitate its work and promote its objectives.

**✚ Ongoing standard setting work of relevance to the Region – Table 1**

*Member States Competence.*

*Member States Vote.*

The MSEU would highlight that CCGP's work on Committees working by correspondence is also a topic of interest for the region and could be included in table 1 of CX/EURO 31/19/8.