

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
39TH SESSION
27 JUNE – 1 JULY 2016

EUROPEAN UNION COMMENTS ON

Agenda Item 11:

**FUTURE WORK OF CODEX ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE
(CX/CAC 16/39/12)**

*Mixed Competence
European Union Vote*

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) welcome document CX/CAC 16/39/12 and the opportunity to submit comments on the recommendations regarding future work of Codex on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). Fighting Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) has long been and still is a high priority for the EUMS.

1. Start new work on the revision of the Code of Practice to minimise and contain AMR (CAC/RCP 61-2005) and on the development of Guidance on integrated surveillance of AMR

The EUMS fully support the revision of the Code of Practice (CAC/RCP 61-2005), which has been in use for a long time and needs to be updated in order to strengthen and broaden some of its provisions.

The EUMS also fully support the development of Guidance on Integrated Surveillance of AMR taking into account the work done by WHO AGISAR and other established multinational integrated surveillance systems.

An adequate and reliable surveillance and monitoring system of the use of antimicrobials and AMR in the food and feed chain is a crucial component of the strategy to combat AMR. It will help to better understand the role of food in spreading AMR and gather essential data for the development of future actions. The OIE data reporting tool on antibiotics used in animals is a helpful component of this system.

2. Establish a dedicated intergovernmental Task Force on AMR

The EUMS fully support the creation of such Task Force as an efficient mechanism for carrying out the work referred to in paragraph 1 above. In view of the experience gained in the monitoring and surveillance of the use of antimicrobials also within the context of the "One Health Approach", the EUMS will be pleased to contribute actively to the work of the Task Force.

3. Request FAO/WHO to provide scientific advice on AMR, in collaboration with OIE

The EUMS consider it important to convene WHO/FAO/OIE multidisciplinary expert meetings to, amongst others, review developments related to AMR in the food chain. In light of the complexity of AMR and considering the "One-Health approach" that needs to be implemented to combat its advance, the EUMS welcome the participation of experts in public health, human health, animal health and welfare, food safety and other fields deemed relevant to complete the task at hand.

4. Request FAO and WHO to develop a capacity development programme to respond to the need identified

Considering the critical need for capacity development to support the implementation of Codex texts and for effective national action plans against AMR, in particular in developing countries, the EUMS welcome this initiative. The EUMS consider that capacity development programmes should be jointly undertaken by FAO, WHO and OIE under the umbrella of their Tripartite agreement. The EUMS will be pleased to provide relevant expertise in this field as required.