27/09/2001

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
COMMENTS ON

CX/RVDF 01/11

Agenda Item 11 : Discussion Paper on Residue Issues for the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods

The European Community would like to thank the United States of America for the preparation of this discussion paper.

General Comments

This discussion paper has been prepared by the United States after concerns raised by the delegations from Chile and Costa Rica as to delays in the progress of the work by the Committee in the establishment of maximum residue limits.

First, it has to be acknowledged that the progress of the work of the Committee and that of the scientific expert Committee JECFA is dependent on the submission of sufficient scientific documentation by sponsors for the various substances used in veterinary medicinal products. Secondly, it is the responsibility of all nations to propose substances for evaluation in agreement with sponsors.

The United States propose to create a drafting group in the CCRVDF to address this problem. However, the conclusions of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in July 2001 already have put emphasis on the increased participation of developing countries, the strengthening of the scientific support and improved efficiency in the medium term action plan (ALINORM 01/41 para. 59 and 64).

In view of the planning meeting to be organised by the Chairperson of CAC in November 2001 on this issue, it seems premature to create such a drafting group. The European Community therefore proposes not to support the creation of a drafting group at this stage.