European Community Comments for the

CODEX COMMITTEE ON RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOODS

Washington, D.C., 28 - 31 March 2000

CX/RVDF 00/9 and CX/RVDF 00/10

Agenda item 9a: Methods of Analysis for Veterinary Drugs. Review of Performance-based Criteria for Methods of Analysis and Sampling for Veterinary Drug Residues in Foods.

The European Community suggests that the CCRDVF develop performance criteria for methods to be employed for the control of residues in food. The European Community would not support only a system that would be aimed at the adoption of specific methods on a case by case basis. It is also necessary to distinguish clearly between routine methods and confirmatory methods.

The European Community has drafted a relevant "proposal on performance based criteria for routine methods of analysis for residues of veterinary drugs in food" (attached). The above-mentioned proposal could form the basis for the drafting of CCRVDF Guidelines for Methods of Analysis for Veterinary Drugs by a working group.

An important element of this approach is that laboratories involved in regulatory residue testing programs have implemented quality assurance systems based on international Standards such as EN 45001/ISO Guide 25.

CC RDVF might also consider developing a laboratory network, which may include Regional Reference Laboratories[1].

The European Community would like to take up this initiative and co-ordinate the working group.

[1] The EC has established such as system through Council Directive 96/23/EC of 29 April 1996 on measures to monitor certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products and repealing Directives 85/358/EEC and 86/469/EEC and Decisions 89/187/EEC and 91/664/EEC, published in the Official Journal of the European Community n° L 125 , 23/05/1996 p. 10 – 32, available at the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, L-2985 Luxembourg or INTERNET http://europa.eu.int