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European Community Comments
on Codex Document CX/RDVF 03/10

Agenda Item 11 a) : Review of performance-based criteria for methods of analysis for veterinary drug residues in foods

The European Community supports the CX RDVF's attempts to harmonise performance criteria for methods to be employed for the control of residues and to develop guidance for single laboratory validation. The EC therefore agrees that the "*Guidelines for the Establishment of a Regulatory Programme for Control of Veterinary Drug Residues in Food*" and in particular "*Part II, General Considerations on Analytical Methods for Residue Control*" should be revised to introduce these concepts. However, the EC feels that the concept underlying the draft "*Codes Guidelines on Good Practice in Pesticide Residue Analysis*" should only be considered with caution. This is because this draft largely covers issues that are already covered by ISO-17025 (e.g. laboratory equipment) and is routed on OECD Good Laboratory Practice (GLP). GLP, however, focuses more on the traceability of the results of studies on specific substances than on the trueness of analytical results established in routine laboratories. In this respect particular attention should be given to acceptable recovery rates.

The EC's understanding is that laboratories involved in residue testing programmes for regulatory purposes should be requested to implement quality assurance systems according to international standards such as ISO-17025. This is also a key feature of the single laboratory evaluation procedure.

At its 13th meeting the CC RDVF agreed that further work on the performance of analytical methods would be based on the work in progress in the EU, AOAC and IUPAC (paragraph 100 of ALINORM 01/31). The EC would like to point out that the work in Europe has considerably progressed with the adoption of *Commission Decision 2002/657/EC of 12 August 2002 implementing Council Directive 96/23/EC concerning the performance of analytical methods and the interpretation of results*. A copy of this document which covers all aspects addressed in CX RDVF 03/10 is available on http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sfp/fcr/labanalysis_en.html. It has also been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* L 221, 17/08/2002 P. 0008 – 0036.