

Reply of the European Union and its Member States to

CL 2020/04/OCS –AMR:

Request for Comments on the Proposed Draft Revised Code of Practice to Contain and Minimize Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance (CXC 61-2005) at Step 5

Mixed Competence

European Union Vote

The EU and its Member States (EUMS) would like to recall their reservations on principles 5 and 7 as currently written in the proposed draft *Revision of the Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance* (CXC 61-2005) submitted for adoption at step 5:

Concerning Principle 5, given the threat that antimicrobial resistance represents for global public health, the EUMS strongly believe that new antimicrobial agents should not be granted marketing authorisation for growth promotion and that the use for growth promotion of those antimicrobials that are already authorised should be phased out worldwide, at a bare minimum. There is a growing international consensus also at scientific level that the use of antimicrobials for growth promotion should be phased out since it represents an important causal factor contributing to the emergence of resistance and co- and cross resistance to antimicrobials and, most importantly, to the medically important antimicrobials. The OIE in 2018 endorsed the phasing out of antimicrobial agents for growth promotion giving priority to medically important antimicrobials.

In May 2019, the Secretary General of the UN in his report to the General Assembly embraces the recommendations of the Interagency Coordination Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (IACG). Like OIE, the IACG recommends the phasing out of antimicrobial agents for growth promotion in the framework of implementation of the One Health approach at global level.

Concerning Principle 7, the EUMS do not support the prophylactic use of medically important antimicrobials. To promote the prudent use of all antimicrobials and in view of the risk of resistance and co- and cross resistance to medically important antimicrobials, clear and strong restrictions must apply on the prophylactic use of antimicrobials in animals. This includes a ban on the preventive use of antibiotics in groups of animals, allowing only individual animals to be administered antibiotics prophylactically and only in exceptional cases. All antibiotics should be covered by these restrictions on prophylactic use, including those listed to be of the highest priority among those of the High Critical Importance under the WHO CIA List and those of Veterinary Critical Importance under the OIE List of antimicrobial agents of veterinary importance. The work of Codex should aim at being ambitious in line with the Codex mandate ensuring protection of public health and consistent with FAO, WHO and OIE.