

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

Agenda Item 11

CAC/39 CRD/27

Original Language Only

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

39th Session

FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, 27 June – 1 July 2016

FUTURE WORK OF CODEX ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

(COMMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION)

Background

Combating Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) requires global political commitment and cross-sectoral collaboration under a 'One Health' Approach. As AMR spans disciplines, it cannot be tackled in isolation. This is why the European Union and its Member States (EUMS) call for a holistic and ambitious vision in addressing the uses of antimicrobials across the *entire* food chain.

Taking into account that AMR is transmitted by various routes through the food chain, we believe that Codex Alimentarius has an important role to play with regard to foodborne AMR. It is paramount that the Codex Alimentarius Commission complements the work of its parent organisations and that of other organisations such as the OIE.

The EUMS recall the 2015 WHO Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance¹ and welcome the recent OIE Resolution No.36 on combating antimicrobial resistance through a One Health approach which was adopted at the 84th General Session of the World Assembly of OIE Delegates in May 2016. Both organisations recommend the optimisation of antimicrobial medicine in human and animal health, and make explicit reference to the phasing-out of the use of antibiotics for growth promotion, in the absence of risk analysis.²

To address this issue more coherently, the EUMS would like to suggest an amendment to the *Terms of Reference (ToR) for an ad hoc intergovernmental task force on Antimicrobial Resistance*, as set out in Appendix 2, as follows:

Terms of Reference

- i) To revise **and update, in line with the WHO Global Action Plan**, the Code of Practice to Minimise and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance (CAC/CRP 61-2006) **by broadening its scope** to address all uses on antimicrobials in agriculture products (i.e. animals and crops) **and thus minimise the potential development of foodborne antimicrobial resistance**. The revision should **also address the phasing out of the use of antibiotics for growth promotion. It should strengthen the document and** take into account new developments, including the establishment of Lists of Critically Important Antimicrobials **and the use of alternatives to antimicrobials (e.g. vaccines, good farming practices and herd health planning that prevent infections and therefore reduce the need for antimicrobials)**.

This revision shall consider and the work of FAO, WHO and OIE in this area.

- ii) To develop guidelines on integrated surveillance, **including monitoring** of Antimicrobial Resistance, taking into account the guidance developed by the WHO Advisory Group on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (AGISAR).

¹ http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/193736/1/9789241509763_eng.pdf

² <http://www.oie.int/en/for-the-media/press-releases/detail/article/the-oie-presents-the-basic-principles-of-its-strategy-to-fight-antimicrobial-resistance/>