

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

E

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

Agenda Item 4.5

CAC/44 CRD/41 Rev.2

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Forty-fourth Session

WORK FROM THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOOD (CCRVDF) FOR ADOPTION OR APPROVAL BY THE COMMISSION

Prepared by : Ecuador, Costa Rica, Uruguay

Supported by: Argentina, Australia, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Saint Lucia, Paraguay and Trinidad And Tobago

CONCERN AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the comments of the legal adviser of the WHO and considering that the proposed decisions, in relation to item 4.5 of the agenda "Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CX / CAC 21/44 / 7) para. 5 MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride (cattle fat, kidney, liver, muscle)" has not reached consensus, we understand that, *"One possibility is to postpone the decision until the next meeting of the Commission where this could be re-analyzed at the next meeting of the CAC. The Commission can also ask the Secretariat that all measures be taken so that in the next meeting a decision is taken on this matter for all Member States."*

The signatory countries of this document strongly disagree with the deferment of the resolution of this issue.

The issue at hand is responding to a request for advice from the Chairman of CCRVDF25, *"... to take a decision on the path forward for the MRLs in the Codex step process informed by a recommendation of CCEXEC81 in the framework of the Critical Review. ..."* given that the Chair indicated that the Committee was unable to reach a consensus to either advance the MRLs to Step 5 or 5/8, or keep them at Step 4. And it also affirms that the Chair noted that the CCRVDF had carried out all possible efforts to reach consensus and that the CCRVDF had reiterated its view that there were no public health concerns regarding the proposed MRLs and endorsed the scientific evaluations by JECFA.

To the extent that there have been objections to the advancement of step 5, we understand that the Commission should recommend to the Chairman of the Committee to proceed as follows:

1. Request those countries that are opposed, to provide the justification for their opposition.
2. Evaluate to what extent said foundations are included within the reasons that are considered legitimate according to the Codex Declarations of Principles.
3. In those cases, in which the grounds are legitimate, proceed in accordance with the provisions of the Procedures Manual, for these circumstances.
4. If the arguments do not have legitimate grounds in terms of Codex standards, it should be considered that there is consensus regarding the advancement of the standard and it should be passed for final approval in the next Commission.
5. Act in accordance with the recommendation of the CCEXEC81.