

**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME  
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE  
Thirty-First Session**

**Almaty, Kazakhstan, 30 September –4 October 2019**

**CODEX WORK RELEVANT TO THE REGION**

*(Prepared by the Coordinator for Europe)*

## 1. PURPOSE

1.1. The purpose of this document is to consider Codex work relevant to CCEURO with the aim of identifying the current region-specific problems related to Codex work and ways to solve the problems identified.

## 2. WORK ITEMS OF RELEVANCE TO THE REGION

### *Strategic Plan 2020-2025: Work Plan*

2.1. At the 42nd session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 was adopted. It encourages all Members to participate in the development of the work plan for implementation through the upcoming discussions at the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees (RCCs). This matter will be discussed under **agenda item 7.2** and further details are contained in CX/EURO 19/31/10.

2.2. Members of the CCEURO region will need to coordinate their efforts in preparing a realistic work plan outlining how to implement the Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

### *Statements of Principles concerning the role of science*

2.3. CAC42 endorsed establishing a sub-committee of the CCEXEC on the application of the Statements of Principle concerning the Role of Science. CAC42 stressed that it was desirable to reinforce transparency and the possibility for all members to give input to this work by:

- making the online exchanges possible and documents distributed by the sub-committee via the forum for Electronic Working Groups (EWGs) accessible to all members;
- holding informal discussions on the issue in the margins of appropriate meetings, e.g. RCCs and the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP);
- issuing Circular Letters to request comments from all members in advance of both CCEXEC78 and CCEXEC79<sup>1</sup>.

2.4. CAC duly acknowledged the need to ensure a fully transparent process with many opportunities for all Codex members to provide input.

2.5. Members of the CCEURO region will need to coordinate their contributions to the discussion and the development of recommendations on the application of the Statements of Principle concerning the Role of Science.

### *Proposed Draft MRLs for Zilpaterol Hydrochloride (Cattle Fat, Kidney, Liver, Muscle)*

2.6. At the 30th session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe (CCEURO30) Members discussed the issue of Codex adopting standards for growth promoters with a focus on Zilpaterol hydrochloride. In its conclusion on the item of “work relevant to the region” CCEURO30:

- noted the unanimous views of CCEURO members against the use of growth promoters and the establishment of Codex Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for such substances expressed during the discussion;

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<sup>1</sup> REP19/CAC paras. 9ff.

- reaffirmed the need for Codex, including the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), to focus their scarce resources on subjects of global importance, rather than investing much effort into those that would affect negatively Codex processes; and
- recalled that the issue of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) was at the top of the Codex agenda, and that continuing to prioritize work on growth promoters could distract attention and valuable resources away from the pressing need to combat AMR<sup>2</sup>.

2.7. At the 24th Session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs (CCRVDF24), the Committee was unable to reach consensus and therefore did not advance the proposed draft MRL for zilpaterol in the Step procedure and the draft MRL for zilpaterol was retained at Step 4<sup>3</sup>.

2.8. Members from the CCEURO region are invited to debate the way forward on the “Proposed Draft MRLs for Zilpaterol Hydrochloride” (at Step 4 of the Codex procedure) at CCRVDF25 while taking into consideration the ongoing work on the “Statements of Principles concerning the role of science”.

#### Sustainable Funding of Codex Scientific Advice

2.9. Thirty-nine members of the CCEURO region and the European Union co-signed, with Members of the other Codex regions, a Discussion Paper that was discussed at CAC42. This paper highlighted the recurrent concerns on the sustainable funding of Codex scientific advice and the need for action by WHO and FAO.

2.10. In its conclusions on the matter CAC42:

- supported the recommendations to FAO and WHO included in the discussion paper for the development of a new strategy for sustainable funding from regular budgets for scientific advice in support of Codex activities; and
- encouraged Codex members to urge their representatives in the FAO and WHO governing bodies to highlight the importance of providing sufficient and sustainable funding for scientific advice to Codex<sup>4</sup>.

2.11. Members from the CCEURO region are invited to discuss how to support these conclusions in the FAO and WHO governing bodies.

#### Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR)

2.12. The TFAMR has established two EWGs, namely the EWG on a proposed draft revision of the Code of Practice (COP) to minimize and contain foodborne AMR and the EWG on draft Guidelines on integrated monitoring and surveillance of foodborne AMR.

2.13. Members of the region play an active role in the current ongoing work of the two EWGs. Adoption of the COP and the Guidelines will help countries of the European region to address public health concerns related to AMR. CCEURO should therefore urge TFAMR to make progress on the work undertaken.

#### Ongoing standard setting work of relevance to the region

1.1. **Table 1** provides an overview of other topics of special interest to Members from the region.

**Table 1: Non-exhaustive list of ongoing Codex work of potential interest to CCEURO**

COMMITTEE	TOPICS OF INTERESTS FOR THE CCEURO REGION
CCFICS	Proposed draft guidance on the use of systems equivalence
	Proposed draft guidance on paperless use of electronic certificates
	Proposed draft guidance on regulatory approaches to third party assurance schemes in food safety and fair practices in the food trade
	Discussion paper on food integrity and food authenticity
CCFL	Proposed draft Guidelines on Front-of-Pack Nutrition Labelling
	Internet sales / e-commerce
	Innovation / use of technology in food labelling
	Allergen labelling and guidance on precautionary allergen or advisory labelling
CCPR	Proposed MRLs for pesticides in food and feed

<sup>2</sup> REP17/EURO para. 53

<sup>3</sup> REP18/RVDF para. 52

<sup>4</sup> REP19/CAC para. 136 v and vi.

COMMITTEE	TOPICS OF INTERESTS FOR THE CCEURO REGION
	Class B – primary food commodities of animal origin: common definition of edible animal tissues for the establishment of MRLs of pesticides and veterinary drugs for compounds with dual uses (as pesticides and veterinary drugs) for use by CCPR and CCRVDF
	Discussion paper on the review of the IESTI equations
	National registration of pesticides
CCRVDF	Proposed draft MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride (cattle fat, kidney, liver, muscle) (JECFA81)
CCCF	Proposed draft MLs for lead in selected commodities in the GSCTFF
	Proposed draft MLs for cadmium in chocolate and cocoa-derived products
	Establishment of MLs for total aflatoxins in cereals (wheat, maize, sorghum and rice), flour and cereal-based foods for infants and young children
CCFO	Proposed draft revision to the standard for olive oils and olive pomace oils (CODEX STAN 33-1981)
	Proposed draft revision to the standard for named vegetable oils (CODEX STAN 210-1999): revision of the essential composition of sunflower seed oils
CCFH	Proposed draft revision of the General Principles of Food Hygiene (CXC 1-1969) and its HACCP Annex at Step 4
	Proposed draft guidance for the management of biological foodborne crises/outbreaks at Step 4
CCFFV	Tolerances for decay in extra class
CCFA	Completion of consideration of the draft provisions in the General Standards for Food Additives (GSFA) Alignment of the food additive provisions between the GSFA and commodity standards Use of enzymes as processing aids
CCNFSDU	Revision of the Standard for Follow-up Formula Proposed draft guideline for Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods

## 2. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. CCEURO is invited to consider and review the topics outlined in this paper noting that all Members from the region:

- (i) should coordinate their efforts in contributing to the work of the CCEXEC sub-committee on the development of a work plan to implement the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and the “Statements of Principle concerning the Role of Science”;
- (ii) are invited to contact their representatives at the FAO and WHO governing bodies to request sustainable and predictable funding of Codex scientific advice;
- (iii) should engage in the work of TFAMR and urge the Task Force to make progress on work undertaken considering its importance for the region in addressing public health concerns; and
- (iv) are encouraged to increase their information sharing with countries from the region, including relevant data and scientific expert advice for preparing new work proposals and country positions on key work items within Codex.