

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of  
the United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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Agenda Item 2

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## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOODS

Twentieth Session

*San Juan, Puerto Rico, 7-11 May 2012*

### MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

**Comments of European Union, Philippines**

#### **EUROPEAN UNION**

In principle, the European Union and its Member States are not against the use of concern forms in the CCRVDF work. However, there appears to be no real need for such forms because of the low number of MRLs that CCRVDF has to deal with at any one time. The situation is different in CCPR which has each time a large number of MRLs on its agenda because of the high number of pesticide/commodity combinations. To speed up the process, CCPR had to introduce the concept of concern forms. In CCRVDF, when countries have problems with proposed MRLs, they have ample opportunities to bring them forward with necessary explanations on a case-by-case basis. There is thus no need to create an additional layer of procedures for the CCRVDF work by introducing the concept of concern forms.

#### **PHILIPPINES**

The Philippines would like to reaffirm its support to the recommendation of CCRVDF to adopt the MRLs of ractopamine in cattle and pig's muscle, liver, kidney and fat for the following justifications:

1. Ractopamine has been widely used by farms of all sizes in the Philippines (commercial and backyard farms) for 12 years now.
2. Philippines is doing its best to work on Codex. Philippines fully recognized and give its full respect to JECFA which is composed of international experts coming from different countries by repeatedly confirming the safety of the proposed MRLs as it appears in its 2004, 2006 and 2010 evaluation of ractopamine, non adoption of the MRLs would undermine the integrity of JECFA which is contrary to risk analysis principles Codex has agreed to follow in the establishment of standards.
3. Food safety issue in relation to ractopamine has been lengthily discussed and have been supported by strong science proven by JECFA. But what is important now is on the issue of food security alleviation of hunger is a basic human right and depriving people of free flow of safe food is an ethical concern for the Philippines. Failure of ractopamine's adoption today might threaten food security/for the industry will be producing lesser meat to eat. We fully recognize the safety of ractopamine. Our people have the right to life and security. They have also the right to health and a fundamental right to claim.

Philippines likewise supports JECFA in recognizing the consumption of lung tissue as a specific issue where specific risk management measures may need to be considered (as stipulated in FAO JECFA Monograph 9, pages 49-50).

Philippines would like to reiterate that members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission have had a thorough discussion regarding ractopamine and now is the time for a final decision.