Codex Alimentarius Commission (28th Session)  
Rome, 4-9 July 2005  

European Community Comments on how best to progress Work on Antimicrobial Resistance  
(Agenda item 13, ALINORM 05/28/9D)  

Mixed competence  
European Community vote

As already stated in its reply to Circular Letter 2004/32-EXEC, the European Community strongly supports activities aimed at preventing antimicrobial resistance in a balanced way in all concerned areas: human medicine, veterinary medicine related in particular to animal and food productions, and plant protection. The European Community is convinced that the International Community would gain from the development at international level of a harmonised and cooperative approach on antimicrobial resistance in order to implement and/or further develop appropriate and coordinated recommendations in all relevant sectors mentioned above, including in particular human medicine.

The European Community therefore supports the views expressed by the Executive Committee in its 55th Session where it underlined that work on antimicrobial resistance should be undertaken in a holistic manner, should take into account the work already undertaken at national and international level and should be done in close collaboration with the OIE, FAO and WHO.

At the 27th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, it was noted that the financial and legal implications of the creation of a Codex task force raised the concern of several delegations. Although it supported (and still supports) the creation of this new body, the European Community is therefore of the view that pending consensus on the modalities of the establishment of a new body and to ensure timely initiation of work, it might be more realistic to engage work through a suitable body within Codex with a broad mandate allowing it to draw on the expertise of all relevant Codex Committees and Taskforces (CCRVDF, CCFH, CCPR and TFAF) supported by OIE, FAO and WHO expertise.