European Community comments on
Codex Circular Letter CL 2008/40-CAC

Subject: Proposals for the Scope and Terms of Reference of Future Work on Animal Feeding and Suitable Mechanisms for Codex to Carry out this Work (to be considered at the 32nd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission)

1. Background

This document is the European Community response to Codex Circular Letter CL 2008/40-CAC of December 2008 requesting comments on the proposals for the Scope and Terms of Reference of Future Work on Animal Feeding and for Suitable Mechanisms for Codex to carry out this Work. The deadline for comments is 15 March 2009.

The European Community would like to thank Codex and the electronic Working Group, in particular its host and co-chair countries, for their substantial efforts in undertaking this work which has resulted in some extremely valuable outputs.

2. Terms of Reference

The European Community considers that the work described in points number 4, 5 and 6, in the paper of the electronic Working Group is particularly worthy of endorsement and future action within Codex, namely:

- (4) the development of guidelines for governments on how to apply the existing Codex risk assessment methodologies to the various types of hazards in feed;

- (5) the development of a prioritized list of hazards in feeds for governments use; and

- (6) the development of criteria for the global identification and notification of emergency situations affecting the feed sector, taking into account systems existing already in food and, therefore, encompassing more clearly all food safety risks in the food chain.
The European Community considers that the work described in points 1, 2 and 3 in the paper of the electronic Working Group also merits future action within Codex, particularly in order to identify gaps relating to food safety issues coming from feed, namely:

- (1) examine existing Codex texts concerning risk analysis principles;

- (2) examine the existing Codex texts on exchange of information and rejection on imported food; and

- (3) examine the Codex Code of Practice for Source Directed Measures to reduce Contamination of Food with Chemicals.

3. Suitable Mechanisms

The European Community concurs with the electronic Working Group that the work described in points 4, 5, and 6 should be taken forward by a Codex Task Force. In doing so, experience gained within the predecessor Task Force that developed the Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding (CAC/RCP 54–2004) should be taken into account.

The European Community considers that if it is agreed that a Codex Task Force is an appropriate mechanism for carrying out tasks 4, 5 and 6, it would appear to be wholly consistent, for it also to undertake the analysis in respect of tasks 1, 2 and 3. It could then make efficient use of the available expertise and resources at its disposal in order to prepare reports for consideration by the relevant Codex Committees identified by the electronic Working Group.