Matters of interest arising from FAO and WHO in addition to the 2016 JMPR activities

(CX/PR 17/49/03)

Mixed Competence
European Union Vote

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) would like to thank FAO and WHO for this document and submit comments as set out below.

Progress in the coordination of the agendas between JECFA and JMPR

Differences in methodology for risk assessment of veterinary medicinal products and pesticides residues can potentially lead to different CXLs for the same substance which may cause problems for the authorities in member countries which are responsible for enforcement. The EU therefore welcomes very much the initiative that FAO and WHO have taken to establish a joint JMPR/JECFA expert group to elaborate a realistic model to assess the dietary exposure to dual use compounds. The discussion on possible harmonisation should focus not only on the methodology for risk assessment (acute and chronic risk assessment), but also other aspects should be covered, such as the review of the matrices for which CXLs are established (e.g. meat/muscle, fat including or excluding skin), the residue definitions or the concept of fat solubility of residues (e.g. setting of CXLs for milk and/or milk fat). We agree that it is desirable that only one single toxicological dossier is submitted. Particular attention should be paid on the specification of the substances assessed (identity/purity/impurity profile), to ensure that toxicological reference values derived for pesticides are applicable to active substances used in veterinary medicinal products and vice versa.

Call for pesticide monitoring plans

The EU is in possession of a very comprehensive database on pesticides monitoring data collected over many years in the EU Member States and is ready to assist by making available these data for the ongoing activities of the FAO/WHO Scientific Advice, in particular the ongoing review of the IESTI equation and the model to assess compounds used as pesticides and veterinary medicinal products. It is noted that before sharing monitoring data, coding issues need to be solved to make the data of the EU monitoring compatible with the GEMS requirements. We are also ready to provide any other type of technical information or expert advice that may be needed to progress with the ongoing activities through the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) or the European Medicines Agency (EMA).