



2 November 2017

(17-5963)

Page: 1/2

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

## INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CODEX)

#### *Addendum*

The following communication, received on 2 November 2017, is being circulated at the request of the Codex secretariat.

---

This addendum provides additional information on Codex work on pesticide residues.

#### **1 GLYPHOSATE**

1.1. On the issue of existing Codex MRLs for glyphosate, they remain unchanged based on the outcome of the toxicological assessment of glyphosate carried out by the JMPR Special Session in May 2016. The JMPR re-evaluated all available toxicology data and concluded that glyphosate was unlikely to pose carcinogenic risk to humans from dietary exposure; that there were no dietary exposure concerns and no impact on existing Codex MRLs. The JMPR (i) reconfirmed there was no need to change the Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI), consequently the current ADI remains; and (ii) reconfirmed its decision that there is no need to establish an Acute Reference Dose (ARfD) for this compound.

#### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS ON MRLS FOR PESTICIDES FOR THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**

2.1. As to the text of the resolution proposed on page 4 of document G/SPS/W/292/Rev.2, the one pertaining to Codex, namely "*We endorse the consensus reached in the SPS Committee on voluntary actions by Members to increase the capacity and efficiency of Codex in setting international standards on pesticide maximum residue levels (MRLs) ...*" we welcome the support of WTO Members to Codex work on the establishment of MRLs for pesticides in food and feed. We understand this recommendation also embraces the instrumental work of the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR), the expert advisory body to the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR). Although JMPR is not a subsidiary body of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, it is instrumental in providing the scientific basis for the establishment of science-based Codex MRLs for pesticides.

2.2. CCPR has done a great deal of work on improving its procedures and mechanisms for the establishment of MRLs in a more effective and efficient way. We continue to do so with the revision of key texts to increase availability of MRLs for e.g. minor crops (revision of the Classification of Food and Feed) and to facilitate compliance with Codex MRLs (development of performance criteria as opposed to identification of single analytical methods as Codex reference methods for the determination of pesticide residues).

2.3. Although there is always room to improve capacity and efficiency, the main bottle-neck remains the provision of scientific advice by JMPR. Increasing the capacity of JMPR to assess the safety of new and/or existing pesticides is crucial to increase the availability of Codex MRLs for international trade. Whether this should be more clearly spelt out in the proposal for the Ministerial Conference remains the decision of WTO Members.

2.4. The FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) is currently engaged in discussing ways to increase funding for the provision of scientific advice by non-state actors. This is an FAO initiative where WHO is actively participating in view of the joint nature of the expert scientific advisory bodies. The Codex Secretariat can provide a summary of this activity for the next meeting of the SPS Committee.

2.5. The other main constrain is the uptake of Codex MRLs by WTO Members into their national or regional regulations. As long as questions are raised in relation to alignment with Codex MRLs, this will impact on the capacity of FAO and WHO to increase the provision for scientific advice vis-à-vis other priority areas of the parent organizations for allocation of funds (besides any internal policies on fundraising or budgetary constraints). This will ultimately impact on any further effort to increase the capacity and efficiency of CCPR. In this regard we also welcome the recommendations to WTO Members in the proposal for the Ministerial Conference.

---