

Invitation to participate in the CCRVDF EWG – MRLs for groups of fish species

To: all Codex members and observers

The CCRVDF at its 23rd session agreed to establish an EWG hosted by Norway and co-hosted by Japan, working in English only and using the pilot electronic platform¹ for EWGs, to:

Develop a discussion paper on the feasibility of establishing MRLs for groups of fish species for veterinary drugs being considered by JECFA/CCRVDF in the light of:

i. Public health

ii. International trade

The paper should consider what grouping might be appropriate for finfish, crustaceans and molluscs.

The Committee noted that Chile and Senegal kindly offered to provide translations of relevant EWG documents to facilitate the participation of Spanish-and French-speaking countries and that the report of the EWG would be made available at least three months before CCRVDF24.

Norway and Japan invite those members and observer organizations that are interested in participating in the EWG to provide the following information to

ewgfishspec@mattilsynet.no (please use this e-mail address set up for this EWG) with a copy to yuko_endo700@maff.go.jp.

no later than 1. January 2017:

- Participant's name
- Name of country, Member organization or organization that has an observer status in Codex
- Email address
- Relevant information regarding grouping of fish species to facilitate the initial work of the chair and co-chair. (An excel form is enclosed for your convenience.)

To be included as a member of the EWG, applications should be sent through the Codex Contact Point of the member or recognized observer organization.

Working group members will be expected to develop and provide their countries' input to the discussion paper. The draft discussion paper and related questions will be made available according to the time schedule.

As part of a pilot programme the EWG will be run over a bulletin board. With this system we hope to achieve a better flow of information, greater security and increased transparency. The bulletin board will require you to login. You will be provided with the link once participant credentials have been verified.

¹ Using phpBB : a free flat-forum bulletin board software solution

Below is the proposed working schedule:

Action	Date
Registration of Working Group participants	January 1 st 2017
First input from EWG members (related information to be submitted)	January 1 st 2017
First draft submitted to members	February 25 th 2017
Deadline for submission of comments/inputs	April 1 st
Draft and report submitted to members	June 21 st
Deadline for submission of comments/inputs	September 1 st
Submission of the discussion paper to Codex Secretariat for distribution	December 1 st 2017

Sincerely yours,

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