



Introduction GHI workshop on antibiotic residues and food safety

(Held in conjunction with the GOAL 2009)

Tuesday 27th of October 2009, Sheraton Hotel, Seattle (1400 6th Avenue) 09.00-16.00 (Diamond room).

Consumer health is considered as one of the most important issues on the agenda of world politics. In order to ensure safety of food consumption the toxicological profile of food needs to be assessed in all of its aspects. The United Nations have written after the EARTH SUMMIT of 1992 the first formulations of the principle of precaution, which has been accepted in later EC treaties as a valid means of protecting public health against issues, for which scientific evidence is not available. Especially where the toxicology of residues of chemicals is concerned, the advancing detection technology has confronted scientists with the impossible challenge of ensuring food safety at residue levels in several toxicological areas (e.g. carcinogenetics, genotoxicity). The principle of precaution as a legal tool chooses the option to assign food as non-compliant to ensure protection of the world consumer and excludes the option of a toxicological risk assessment. The challenge of the GHI is to create a legal environment, where the proportionality of risk is applied at residue levels of chemicals in food, for which no sufficient scientific data are available. A good starting point is the issue of residues of veterinary antibiotics in food products, which have caused massive destruction of food since the year of 2001.

To this extent GHI has initiated a working group on antibiotic residues in food products in November 2007, which will hold its first workshop in October in Seattle. With a limited group of interested people (maximum 25) we want to discuss the issues and define the challenges in harmonization of this subject. Please, send an e-mail to jkwakman@mooijer.nl if you are interested in participating this workshop.

Yours truly,

Dr. J. Kwakman

AGENDA

Chairman: Dr. J. Kwakman

1. Opening Meeting
2. Existing legislation
3. Definition issues
4. Break (12-14 h)
5. Harmonization proposals
6. Action plan