Conclusions and recommendations CRL:NRL workshop:
Bilthoven, 22-24 October 2008

• Stability: several reports (Ir and NL) were made about the instability of thyrostats in urine. There is a need for practical guidelines how to prevent significant losses during storage. Part of such studies were presented already by the CRL. The results, inclusive guidelines for preservation, shall be included in the Stability Database.

• Studies presented by Italy show the presence of low concentrations of Prednisolone in sample of urine. Studies into the possible in vivo correlation between endogenous glucocorticosteroids and prednisolone are relevant.

• Currently, very few NRLs are working on analytical methods for Somatotropin (Growth Hormone). The cooperative efforts by the CRL and the NRL of France are encouraged in this respect.

• The trend towards the development of non-targeted methods is recognized as an important scientific innovation for the new years. Especially for banned compounds (with in principal unlimited lists of compounds) an untargeted approach is the most promising.

• The database with analytical methods as currently available through the CRL-website does contain a limited number of methods for the matrix liver. However, workshop participants do not consider this a disadvantage and express only an interest for testing poultry liver for banned substances.

• The proficiency test “Medroxyprogesterone in kidney fat” showed excellent results. It can be considered as the PT with the best results since the beginning of the program.

• The progress made with the development of several documents relating to the validation of screening methods was discussed. Comments made on previous draft documents were considered. It is concluded that there remains a need for such a document. It should, however, be straightforward and pragmatic in its approach. UK and NL suggestions were considered interesting.

• There is a need for identification criteria based in ToF-MS techniques as an extension of the criteria included in Commissions Decision 2002/657