European Community Comments for the Codex Alimentarius Commission, 24th Session, 2-7 July 2001, Geneva, Switzerland - Agenda Item 10 a) Consideration of Codex standards and related texts - draft standards and related texts at Step 8 or equivalent. Codex General Standard for Food Additives: Draft Additions to Table 1 (Alinorm 01/12, Appendix III)

In general, the European Community has no objections for adopting the draft standards at Step 8. However, the European Community would like to make the following specific comments:

EDTAs (385, 386)

EDTAs are proposed for several uses in the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA). Among the proposed uses is a category 14.2 Alcoholic beverages that includes wine.

In its 23rd session, Codex Alimentarius Commission decided to remove provisions for the use of certain food additives in wines. This was in view of the previous agreement of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (CCFAC) to collaborate with Office international de la vigne et du vin (OIV).

The European Community thinks that the technological justification for the use of food additives in wine should be in line with the OIV norms. Additives not needed for wine making should be removed from the GSFA. This is the case for EDTA. Therefore, the European Community would propose the deletion of EDTA in category 14.2.

PIMARICIN (235) (NATAMYCIN)

Pimaricin is proposed for use in certain cheese and meat products. JECFA is scheduled to re-evaluate pimaricin in its 57th meeting in the beginning of June 2001. However, the member countries will not have time to consider the outcome of JECFA re-evaluation before the meeting of CAC that will take place in the beginning of July 2001. The new evaluation of pimaricin should be taken into account when establishing use levels for pimaricin in the General Standard for Food Additives.

Therefore, the European Community would propose that pimaricin is not adopted at step 8 at this stage, but is returned to step 6. The matter should be further discussed in CCFAC and in relevant Codex Commodity Committees.