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European Community Comments for the

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

26th session, FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy, 30 June – 7 July 2003

DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION FOR ADOPTION

1) CCFAC – Draft Maximum limits for Patulin in Apple Juice and Apple Juice Ingredient in Other Beverages – Step 8 – ALINORM 03/12 Appendix X, para(s) 118

2) CCFAC - Draft Code of Practice on the Prevention of Patulin Contamination in Apple Juice and Apple Juice Ingredients in Other Beverages – Step 8 – ALINORM 03/12A , Appendix IX, para(s) 123

The European Community supports the draft maximum level of 50 µg/kg for patulin in apple juice and apple juice ingredients in other Beverages but stresses that it was agreed at the 34th session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 11-15 March 2002 that a possible reduction of the maximum level of 50 µg/kg to 25 µg/kg shall be considered in a four years time taking into account the improvements in prevention of patulin contamination in apple juice and apple juice ingredients as a consequence of the implementation of the Code of Practice (ALINORM 03/12, Report of the 34th session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants, para 119).

The European Community is therefore of the opinion that the Standard on maximum level for patulin in Apple juice and Apple Juice ingredients in other beverages should reflect this agreement and should read:

“Patulin: 50 µg/kg in apple juice and apple juice ingredients in other beverages*

* A possible reduction of this maximum level to 25 µg/kg shall be considered at the session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in 2007.”

The European Community stresses the need for continuing efforts to reduce the presence of patulin in apple juice and apple juice ingredients as much as possible. Consequently, the European Community fully supports the adoption of the Code of Practice for the Reduction of Patulin Contamination in Apple Juice and Apple Juice ingredients in other beverages and stresses the need for a speedy implementation of the Code.