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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Trade

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Sixty-eighth session

Geneva, 5-7 November 2012

Item 6(a) of the provisional agenda

Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

Texts for adoption as new/revised UNECE standards/recommendations

UNECE Standard for witloof chicory (FFV-38)

Note by the secretariat

This note represents the request by France not to change the 2010 version of the standard, in particular :

- not to include the « red » commercial type of witloof chicory, and
- maintain the minimum and maximum sizes for different classes.

For the attention of the Economic Commission for Europe

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UNECE Standard FFV- 38 concerning the marketing and commercial quality control of witloof chicory

France's request to maintain the standard

France is the world's largest producer (560 000 tons in 2010) and largest consumer of witloof. Consequently, in the proposed amendment of the UNECE standard FFV-38 concerning witloof, the Producers Association for French witloof was consulted to know what are the current practices in the sector and to get technical elements to help draw up this standard.

Following the work of the Section in May 2012, during which France had already objected to the amendment of the standard as regards the provisions concerning sizing, please find attached two documents that present technical arguments supporting the French position:

- requesting the exclusion of red chicory from the scope of the standard
- requiring to keep the minimum and maximum sizes to ensure the quality of products being traded.

Please find enclosed the related draft standard.

France asks the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards to study these documents in order to maintain the standard FFV-38 as proposed.

Find enclosed :

- arguments for the witloof and red for the sizing
- Standard with comments in the text.