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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON TRADE

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes

(Thirty-sixth session, 20 - 22 March 2006)

Item 4 (a) of the Provisional Agenda

REFERENCE TO UNECE STANDARD ON THE LABEL*

Submitted by Italy

This document is presented for discussion. The Specialized Section will recommend to the Working Party how to reference the UNECE Standard in the label.

* The present document has been submitted after the official documentation deadline by the Trade and Timber Division due to resource constraints.

1. The acceptance of free trade amongst EU Member States was enacted by the introduction of the “Single Market”. For seed potatoes, the framework adopted for providing common, harmonised conditions was that of UNECE Seed Potato Standard. Application of these conditions was recognised on the label by the statement “EC Rules and Standards”.

2. By the same logic, it would seem appropriate that the application of UNECE Seed Potato Standard in international trade should be acknowledged by providing similar wording on the label. The Extended Bureau, therefore, proposes that the words “UNECE Rules and Standards” be included in the information provided on the label (Annex V). Countries trading in seed potatoes internationally would, thus, have this wording on the official label. This would significantly enhance the profile of UNECE Standard if used by exporting countries either at the request of an importing country or as standard practice.

- a. Problems: too much information on the label, what to do when destination changes?
- b. Suggestion to include “within UNECE Standards” on phyto-sanitary certificates.
- c. Importing countries are not asking for the UNECE standards.
- d. Proposal for Specialized Section: {1. “UNECE Standard” if appropriate}: under Annex V and renumber the rest.