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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON TRADE

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce

Fifty-third session
Geneva, 13-16 June 2006

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA*

The fifty-third annual session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce will be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from Tuesday, 13 to Friday, 16 June 2006¹. Working groups will have the possibility to meet on Monday, 12 June. The secretariat will provide additional information for their meetings closer to that date. The annotated provisional agenda and tentative timetable for the session are presented below.

¹ Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations should complete the registration form, downloadable from <http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/meetings/registr.htm> and transmit it to the secretariat either by e-Mail (alissa.mayor@unece.org) or by fax (+41.22.917.06.29). Prior to the meeting, the delegates are requested to present themselves with a valid identification card/passport at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny gate to obtain a security badge to enter the Palais (in case of a problem please call 022.917.12.65). Documents for the meeting are available on the website at http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/meetings/ge.02/a2006_53.htm. Additional information for visitors is available at: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>

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

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1.	Adoption of the agenda	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/1
2.	Matters of interest since the last session	
	(a) UNECE and subsidiary bodies	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/2 ECE/TRADE/C/2006/3 ECE/TRADE/C/2006/10
	(b) Concentration of agricultural quality standards work in the UNECE	
	(c) Other organizations	
3.	Revision of the Standard Layout	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/3
4.	Review of UNECE Standards	
	(a) Inshell Hazelnuts	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/4 (Germany)
	(b) Inshell Walnuts	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/5 (Germany)
	(c) Dates, Whole	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/6 (Germany)
5.	Review of UNECE recommendations	
	(a) Inshell Almonds (trial until November 2006)	TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2005/19/Add.1
	(b) Pistachio Kernels and Peeled Pistachio Kernels (trial until November 2006)	TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2005/19/Add.2
	(c) Dried Tomatoes (trial until November 2007)	TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2005/19/Add.3
6.	Draft new UNECE standards	
	(a) Blanched Almonds	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/7
	(b) Inshell Macadamia Nuts and Macadamia Kernels	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/8 ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/9
	(c) Inshell Pecans and Pecan Kernels	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/10 ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/11
	(d) Dried Peaches	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/12
	(e) Dried Peppers	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/13
	(f) Inshell Peanuts and Peanut Kernels	TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2005/9 (United States) TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2005/10 (United States)
7.	Work by the OECD Scheme on sampling	
8.	Strengthening the work of the Section	
9.	Application of UNECE Standards	
10.	Capacity-building activities	
11.	Other business	
12.	Future work	
13.	Election of officers	
14.	Adoption of the report	

II. ANNOTATIONS

1. Adoption of the agenda

The proposed provisional agenda and timetable are presented for approval by the Specialized Section.

Documentation: Provisional agenda and annotations
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/1

2. Matters of interest since the last session

(a) UNECE and subsidiary bodies

The secretariat will provide information on the UNECE Reform and on how the newly formed Committee on Trade envisages implementing it. The secretariat will also present a summary of the discussions and outcomes of the last session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards, in October 2005.

(b) Concentration of agricultural quality standards work in the UNECE

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in its Work Plan on UNECE reform (E/ECE/1434/Rev.1) requested that "Consultations should be initiated with the OECD in order to concentrate the activities of the two organizations within the ECE". As a follow-up to this request, participants will consider a draft transition plan prepared by the secretariat and discussed in detail at the meeting of the Specialized Section on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables in May 2006.

Documentation:

Matters of interest since the last session	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/2
Strengthening the UNECE Committee on Trade	ECE/TRADE/C/2006/3
Committee on Trade: Draft Terms of Reference	ECE/TRADE/C/2006/10
Report on the concentration of work on agricultural quality standards	

(c) Other organizations

The delegations will be informed about the activities of:

- Codex Alimentarius Commission
- European Union
- OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables

3. Revision of the Standard Layout

The Specialized Section will discuss proposed changes to the Standard Layout for UNECE Standards on Dry and Dried Produce and will decide whether to recommend them to the Working Party for approval.

Documentation: Standard Layout for UNECE Standards on Dry and Dried Produce
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/3 (Germany)

4. Review of UNECE Standards

The Specialized Section will discuss the proposals made at its previous session as well as new proposals from countries to review UNECE Standards referred to below. Proposed amendments to the standards will be submitted to the Working Party for approval.

(a) Inshell Hazelnuts

(b) Inshell Walnuts

At the fifty-second session of the Specialized Section, the delegation of Germany presented proposals aligning the two standards with the amendments made to the text for the Inshell Almonds standard. The application of these standards in the European Union has shown the need for introducing further changes, one being the simplification of the sizing method to take into account the different practices and units used in different countries. The rapporteur (Germany) will submit updated proposals, which will also take into consideration the revised standard layout.

Documentation: Inshell Hazelnuts
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/4
Inshell Walnuts
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/5

(c) Dates, Whole

The Specialized Section will discuss the German proposal to amend the UNECE Standard for Whole Dates (DF-08). Countries may wish to first consider the proposals at the meeting of the Working Group on Dates on Monday, 12 June.

Documentation: Dates, Whole
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/6

5. Review of UNECE recommendations

(a) Inshell Almonds – (trial until November 2006)

(b) Pistachio Kernels and Peeled Pistachio Kernels – (trial until November 2006)

At its last session, the Specialized Section decided to transmit the amended texts to the Working Party and to propose the extension of the trial period for one more year until November 2006. The Specialized Section will review the results of the trial period and will decide whether to recommend the standards for adoption by the Working Party.

Documentation: Inshell Almonds
TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2005/19/Add.1
Pistachio Kernels and Peeled Pistachio Kernels

TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2005/19/Add.2

(c) Dried Tomatoes – (trial until November 2007)

The secretariat reminds the countries of the trial status of this recommendation until November 2007. The delegations may wish to discuss how to proceed with this recommendation.

Documentation: Dried Tomatoes
TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2005/19/Add.3

6. Draft new UNECE standards

The Specialized Section will discuss the following proposals, which may be submitted to the Working Party for approval as recommendations for new UNECE standards.

(a) Blanched Almonds

Documentation: Blanched Almonds
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/7

(b) Inshell Macadamia Nuts and Macadamia Kernels

Documentation: Inshell Macadamia Nuts and Macadamia Kernels
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/8
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/9

(c) Inshell Pecans and Pecan Kernels

Documentation: Inshell Pecans and Pecan Kernels
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/10
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/11

(d) Dried Peaches

Documentation: Dried Peaches
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/12

(e) Dried Peppers

Documentation: Dried Peppers
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/13

(f) Inshell Peanuts and Peanut Kernels

Documentation: Inshell Peanuts and Peanut Kernels
TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2005/9 (United States)
TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2005/10 (United States)

7. Work by the OECD Scheme on sampling

The OECD Scheme will inform the Specialized Section on progress made on this issue.

8. Strengthening the work of the Section

The secretariat will make a presentation on how to use the list server technology and how to track changes in documents. These tools should help improve communication and information sharing, and prompt broader participation in the work of the Section.

9. Application of UNECE Standards

The secretariat will inform the Specialized Section about the available information on the application of UNECE Standards.

10. Capacity-building activities

The secretariat and delegations will be invited to provide information on capacity-building activities for 2006-2007.

11. Other business

Participants may wish to discuss any other issues of interest for the work of the Specialized Section.

12. Future work

The Specialized Section will discuss proposals and priorities for future work. It will also agree on the provisional agenda for its next session, scheduled tentatively for 25-29 June 2007.

13. Election of officers

The Specialized Section will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. At its fifty-second session it elected Mr. Csaba Gaspar (Hungary) as Chairperson and Mr. İlhami Köksal (Turkey) as Vice-Chairperson.

14. Adoption of the report

The Specialized Section will adopt its major decisions. The final report of the session will be produced by the secretariat, after the annual session, according to the Committee's rules of procedure as found in TRADE/2005/19.

III. TENTATIVE TIMETABLE

Monday, 12	10.00 - 13.00	Working groups: Standard Layout
	15.00 - 18.00	Working groups: Whole Dates
Tuesday, 13	10.00 - 13.00	Items 1, 2.a, 2.c, 3
	15.00 - 18.00	Items 3 (cont'd) and 4
Wednesday, 14	10.00 - 13.00	Item 4 (cont'd)
	15.00 - 18.00	Items 5, 6
Thursday, 15	10.00 - 13.00	Items 2.b, 7 – 13
	15.00 - 18.00	Working groups, as necessary
Friday, 16	10.00 - 13.00	Item 14
	15.00 - 18.00	No session

The current versions of the UNECE standards on dry and dried produce are available at:
http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/standard/dry/dry_e.htm

Contributions should be sent to the secretariat by e-mail to:
agristandards@unece.org

Or on diskette/CD-ROM by post to:

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All documentation can be found on the website at:
<http://www.unece.org/trade/agr>