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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-eighth session
Geneva, 17-19 March 2008

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The official meeting of the Specialized Section will start at 10:00 on Monday, 17 March¹.

Preliminary timetable		
Monday, 17 March	10:00 – 13:00	Items 1-4
	15:00 – 18:00	Items 5-6
Tuesday, 18 March	10:00 – 13:00	Items 7-9
	15:00 – 18:00	Items 10-15
Wednesday, 19 March	10:00 – 13:00	Item 16

¹ Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations should complete the registration form, downloadable from <http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/welcome.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, 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 and information for Geneva visitors are available on the website mentioned above.

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Matters of interest since the last session
3. Information on the results of the meetings of the Bureau
4. Review of the Standard
 - (a) Assessment key for common and netted scab, and powdery scab
 - (b) Sampling procedure for inclusion in the Standard
5. Procedures for assessment of non-compliance at destination
6. Images for the list of diseases and pests
7. Exchange of information on crop inspection practices
8. Control under official supervision and accreditation system
9. Exchange of information on post-harvest tests
10. Electronic certification
11. Vigour
12. Promotion of the Standard
13. Future work
14. Other business
15. Election of officers
16. Adoption of the report

II. ANNOTATIONS

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Documentation: Annotated provisional agenda (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.6/2008/1)

The delegations will adopt the agenda.

2. Matters of interest since the last session

Documentation: Report of the Working Party (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/27)
Terms of reference (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/12)
Working procedures (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/13)

The Chairperson and the secretariat will inform the participants about the outcomes of the November 2007 session of the Working Party: (a) its new terms of references and working procedures; (b) approved 2007 versions of the Standard and of the List of diseases and pests; and (c) the questionnaire on national application of UNECE standards.

3. Information on the results of the meetings of the Bureau

Documentation: Meeting of the Bureau (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.6/2008/2)

The Chairperson will inform the Specialized Section on the outcome of the Extended Bureau meeting held in Moscow. The report of the Moscow meeting contains information that will be referred to under the different agenda items.

4. Review of the Standard

Documentation: The Standard (S-1: Seed potatoes)

(a) Assessment key for common and netted scab, and powdery scab

The Specialized Section will consider pictures of scab and Rhizoctonia processed to the estimated 33.3 and 10 per cent of tuber surface area coverage and will decide on their inclusion in the Standard.

(b) Sampling procedure for inclusion in the Standard

Documentation: Definition of origin (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.6/2008/3)

The discussion on sampling practices and lot inspection, that took place at the 2007 session of the Specialized Section (document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.6/2007/INF.4), showed the need for improving the definition of “origin” as it is used in the definition of “lot”. The participants will discuss a revised definition of “origin”, that the delegation of the United States will propose, and will decide on the definition’s new wording.

5. Procedures for assessment of non-compliance at destination

Documentation: Non-compliance at destination (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.6/2008/4)

The delegation of France will present a draft text on assessment of non-compliance at destination for possible inclusion in the Standard.

6. Images for the list of diseases and pests

Documentation: List of diseases and pests (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/3)

The Specialized Section will discuss and select pictures that will be presented by the delegation of France to complement the list of diseases and pests.

7. Exchange of information on crop inspection practices

Documentation: Crop inspection questionnaire (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.6/2008/5)

The delegation of the United Kingdom will present a draft questionnaire to collect information on national crop inspection practices for discussion and approval by the Specialized Section.

8. Control under official supervision and accreditation system

Documentation: Control under official supervision (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.6/2008/6)
Seed accreditation in EU (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.6/2008/7)

The delegation of Canada will introduce the topic of control under official supervision.

The delegation of Italy will present a paper on the system of seed accreditation in the European Union. The Specialized Section will discuss how the existing international supervision and accreditation systems could be used in the work on the Standard.

9. Exchange of information on post-harvest tests

Documentation: Post-harvest tests questionnaire (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.6/2008/8)

The delegation of the United States will present a draft questionnaire to collect information on national practices in post-harvest tests for discussion and approval by the Specialized Section.

10. Electronic certification

The delegation of the United States will make a presentation on the use of electronic phytosanitary certificates. The secretariat will report on the results of the survey on the use of electronic certificates in other countries. It will also make a presentation on the United Nations electronic Trade Documents project. The Specialized Section will discuss how to advance practical application of electronic certification in the international seed potatoes trade.

11. Vigour

The participants will be invited to report on any available methodologies for measuring vigour. The Specialized Section will decide if it would like to incorporate vigour into the seed potatoes certification system.

12. Promotion of the Standard

Documentation: Prototype training course (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.6/2008/INF.1)
Draft promotional leaflet (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.6/2008/INF.2)

The secretariat will provide information on the United Nations Development Account project to promote international commercial agricultural quality standards worldwide.

The Specialized Section will discuss a draft promotional leaflet and will be invited to make proposals on specific promotional activities and tentative dates for these during the 2008-2011 period.

13. Future work

The Specialized Section will discuss its future work. It will decide on how to proceed with the discussion of PTNRD, *Erwinia* and PCN (potato cyst nematode), the items suggested for future work at the 2007 session of the section.

14. Other business

Documentation: UNECE and RUCIP tolerances (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.6/2008/INF.3)

Europatat will be invited to provide information on the progress made in harmonizing the table of tolerances in the RUCIP rules for seed potatoes with the tolerances in the UNECE Standard, as it was suggested at the 2007 session of the Specialized Section.

The secretariat will present the new structure of the Working Party website.

Any other questions of interest can be discussed under this agenda item.

15. Election of officers

The Specialized Section will elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. At its thirty-sixth session the group elected Mr. Pier Giacomo Bianchi (Italy) as its Chairperson and Mr. Willem Schrage (United States of America) as its Vice-Chairperson.

16. Adoption of the report

The Specialized Section will adopt the report of the session.