



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2000/1  
17 November 1999

ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND  
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Standardization of  
Perishable Produce and Quality Development

Specialized Section on Standardization of  
Seed Potatoes

31 January -3 February 2000, Geneva

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTIETH SESSION

to be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
commencing at 10.00 hrs on Monday, 31th January 2000

**NOTE by the secretariat:** Document numbers in square brackets have been reserved for papers not received by the secretariat at the time of the preparation of the agenda. They will either be distributed before the meeting in the original language only (if received until 6 weeks before the session) or at the session as informal papers (if received later). They will also be available on the homepage if sent in electronic format.

- |    |   |                        |
|----|---|------------------------|
| 1. | Adoption of the agenda  | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2000/1 |
| 2. | Matters of interest since the twenty-ninth session                        | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2000/2 |
| 3. | Reports of Meetings of Rapporteurs on<br>Standardization of Seed Potatoes |                        |
|    | (a) Seattle   | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2000/3 |
|    | (b) Milan   | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2000/4 |

4. Review of the UN/ECE Standard for Seed Potatoes TRADE/WP.7/1998/9/Add.12
  - (a) Review of Part II, Subpart E
  - (b) Tolerances for powdery scab
  - (c) Virus tolerances in direct progeny of basic and certified potatoes
  - (d) Introduction of sub-divisions in the categories
  - (e) Discussion on areas of certification schemes that might benefit from further standardization
5. Status of the revised UN/ECE Standard for Seed Potatoes, its promotion and future role
6. Questionnaire on certification schemes TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/1998/7 (Israel)  
[TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2000/5 (France, Italy, Switzerland, Secretariat)]
7. Discussion on genetically modified organisms [TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2000/6 (Switzerland)]
8. Routine procedures for sampling [TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2000/7 (France, Netherlands)]
9. Matters of Interest related to the activities of the:
  - European Union
  - World Trade Organization
  - European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO)
  - North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO)
  - International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)
10. Preparation of the meetings of rapporteurs and the next session of the Specialized Section
  - (a) Date and place
  - (b) Preparation of a meeting of the rapporteurs with EPPO, NAPPO and IPPC

- (c) Establishment of long and short term objectives
- 11 Preparation of the 56th session of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development
- 12 Other business
- 13 Election of officers
- 14 Adoption of the report

#### Proposed timetable

31	January	10.00 - 13.00	Items 1 - 4
		15.00 - 18.00	Item 4
1	February	10.00 - 13.00	Items 4 - 5
		15.00 - 18.00	Items 5 - 8
2	February	10.00 - 13.00	Items 8 - 13
3	February	10.00 - 13.00	Item 14

#### ANNOTATIONS

##### **Item 1 Adoption of the agenda**

According to the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda.

##### **Item 2 Matters of interest arising since the twenty-ninth session**

Document TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2000/2 sums up the relevant outcome of the second and third sessions of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development and the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development.

**Item 3 Reports of Meetings of Rapporteurs on Standardization of Seed Potatoes**

Documents for this session: TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2000/3 (Report Seattle)  
TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2000/4 (Report Milan)

Meetings of rapporteurs took place in December 1998 in Seattle and in September 1999 in Milan. The reports of these meetings will be taken into account under several agenda items of this session.

**Item 4 Review of the UN/ECE Standard for Seed Potatoes**

Documents for this session: TRADE/WP.7/1998/9/Add.12 (Text of the standard in force)

(a) Review of Part II, Subpart E

At the meeting of rapporteurs in Milan it was asked whether countries had the right to impose stricter measures also for regulated non-quarantine pests or only for those mentioned in Annexes II and V. The UN/ECE secretariat replied that the drafting of Subpart E was not clear and should be reviewed at the next meeting of the Specialized Section. (see TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2000/4, para. 7)

(b) Tolerances for powdery scab

The rapporteurs propose to include a new paragraph in Annex IV, A. (see TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2000/4, para. 22)

(c) Virus tolerances in direct progeny of basic and certified potatoes

The rapporteurs propose amendments to Annex V 2. (b) and 3. (b). (see TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2000/4, paras. 23 and 30).

(d) Introduction of sub-divisions in the categories

In the discussion on virus tolerances at the meeting of rapporteurs there was considerable difference of opinion between importing and exporting countries as to what is meant by having a "minimum standard". (see TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2000/4, paras. 28 and 29). It was suggested to solve the problem by creating sub-divisions to classes. It was recognized that this had been suggested and rejected before but it was agreed to discuss the matter again.

- (e) Discussion on areas of certification schemes that might benefit from further standardization

It was suggested to identify areas of quality of seed potatoes which would benefit from further standardization (yield, varietal purity, classification, homogeneity of the seed lot etc.)(see TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2000/4, para.19).

**Item 5 Status of the revised UN/ECE Standard for Seed Potatoes, its promotion and future role**

This subject was discussed at length at the meetings of rapporteurs in Seattle (see TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2000/3, paras. 3 and 4 and Annex 2) and Milan (see TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2000/4, paras. 3-19, and 28). The Specialized Section may wish to discuss this matter further. The secretariat will report on contacts with the World Trade Organization.

**Item 6 Questionnaire on certification schemes**

*Discussion at the last session:* see TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/1998/9 para. 17

Documents for this session: TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/1998/7 (Israel)  
[TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2000/5 (France, Italy, Switzerland, Secretariat)]

The rapporteurs agreed (see TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2000/4, para. 31) that the UN/ECE publication on National Certification Schemes for Seed Potatoes should be updated. The publication was seen as a useful tool to promote the UN/ECE standard and the work of the group. A first draft for a questionnaire had been prepared by the rapporteur from Israel for the last session. It was agreed that France, Italy, Switzerland and the Secretariat would finalize the questionnaire and present it to the Specialized section.

**Item 7 Discussion on genetically modified organisms**

The question was discussed at the meeting of rapporteurs in Milan (see TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2000/4, paras. 40 to 42). The observer from Switzerland offered to prepare a discussion document.

**Item 8 Routine procedures for sampling**

Documents for this session: [TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2000/7 (France, Netherlands)]

The rapporteurs from the Netherlands and France will present to the Specialized Section the document they handed out at the rapporteurs meeting in Seattle with an additional explanation.

**Item 9 Matters of Interest related to the activities of the:**

- European Union
- World Trade Organization
- European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO)
- North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO)
- International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

These organizations have been invited to bring any matters of interest to the Meeting under this item.

**Item 10 Preparation of the meetings of rapporteurs and the next session of the Specialized Section**

- (a) Date and place of the next meeting of rapporteurs and the Specialized Section
- (b) Preparation of a meeting of the rapporteurs with EPPO, NAPPO and IPPC

It was suggested that the Specialized Section could try to get IPPC recognition as the body responsible for standardization of certification programs. The rapporteurs agreed to suggest to the Specialized Section that in 2000 the rapporteurs should meet with EPPO, NAPPO and IPPC to discuss these questions (see TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2000/4, paras. 15 to 18).

- (c) Establishment of long and short term objectives

**Item 11 Preparation of the 56th session of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development**

Delegations are invited to mention any item that should be brought to the attention of the Working Party.

**Item 12 Other business**

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

**Item 13 Election of officers**

According to the Commission's Rules of Procedure and established practice, the Specialized Section is expected to elect a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen. At its twenty-ninth session the group elected Mr. B. Borrel (Canada) as its Chairman and Mr. U. Kimmel (Israel) and Mr. P. G. Bianchi (Italy) as its Vice-Chairmen.

**Item 14 Adoption of the report**

The Working Party will adopt the report of its thirtieth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

**NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT:**

Contributions should be sent to the secretariat either on diskette by mail to :

**Food Standards Officer  
UN/ECE Trade Division  
Palais des Nations  
Office 432  
1211 Geneva 10  
Tel: (41) 22 917 2450 Fax: (41) 22 917 0041**

or by e-mail to:

**agrstandards@unece.org**

Meeting documentation will be available on our homepage:

**<http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/welcome.htm>**

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