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COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
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Seventh session, 13 and 16 May 2003
Item 8 of the provisional agenda

**RECENT DEVELOPMENTS UNDER THE
WORKING PARTY ON PERISHABLE PRODUCE AND
QUALITY DEVELOPMENT (WP.7)**

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Note by the secretariat

This document supplements the report of the Working Party (TRADE/WP.7/2002/9). It highlights the decision requested from the Committee concerning the name of the Working Party and the work planned for 2003.

I. Name of the Working Party (see TRADE/WP.7/2002/9, paras. 109 to 112)

1. The Working Party proposes to the Committee to change its name to: “Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards”. The Working Party considers that the new name more adequately describes the work done at the moment and is also flexible enough to allow for work on new products in the future. Moreover, it is shorter and easier to remember than the present name.
2. The Committee is invited to **approve** this decision.

II. Work done and planned taking into account the discussions at the last Committee session (see ECE/TRADE/300, paragraphs 46 to 52)

2.1 Support of OECD’s work on explanatory brochures

3. The UNECE and OECD secretariats work very closely together in order to eliminate any procedural problems that might lead to delays in the production of explanatory brochures. The meetings of the two organizations are well coordinated so that the fact that the work on standards and brochures is done in different places does not lead to any delays but on the contrary can lead to more in depth discussions on the content of the standards.

2.2 Training courses on application of UNECE Standards for Meat

4. The secretariat has received from the Ministry of Industry, Science and Technology of the Russian Federation the confirmation of the proposal to organize two events in Moscow: a seminar on “Problems in the Implementation of the UNECE Standard for Bovine Carcasses and Cuts” (Moscow, 13-14 May 2003) and a meeting of the rapporteurs on Chicken Meat during the first or second week of September 2003.
5. The Committee is invited **to note** this information.

III. Meetings of Specialized Sections and the Working Party to be held in 2003

6. The following meetings are planned for 2003:

Early and Ware Potatoes (GE.5)	24 to 25 March
Seed Potatoes (GE.6)	26 to 28 March
Meat (GE.11)	6 to 9 May (rapporteurs 5 May)
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (GE.1)	17 to 20 June (working groups 16 June)
Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit) (GE.2)	24 to 27 June (working groups 23 June)
Working Party (WP.7)	4 to 6 November (working groups 3 November)

IV. Other notable items

4.1 *Use of Trade Marks in UNECE Standards*

7. The Working Party adopted at its last session an amendment to the standard layout for fresh fruit and vegetables taking into account comments from trademark holders and the legal office of the United Nations. The goal of the Working Party in this decision was to protect trademark holders' rights while ensuring that the users of UNECE Standards still receive all of the relevant information they need, even if this includes the mentioning of trademarks. The International Trademark Association (INTA) has welcomed this amendment and offered to assist the Working Party in any future questions concerning trademarks to prevent any further problems.

4.2 *Quality Standards and organic produce*

8. The Working Party will undertake research in 2003 on the impact of commercial quality standards on the producers of organic produce to find out if separate standards for organic produce are needed or if such produce can fulfill the criteria of the present UNECE Standards or if adjustments to the standards are necessary.

4.3 *Codification of Fresh Produce*

9. The Working Party continues cooperation with EAN International on developing internationally harmonized codes for fresh produce to be used in international trade. Consultations will be held with the International Federation for Produce Coding to define UNECE's role in this project.

4.4 *Possible cooperation of the two specialized sections on potatoes.*

10. The specialized sections on standardization of early and ware potatoes and seed potatoes met during the same week in 2003. One item on the agenda was a possible closer cooperation between the groups e.g. joining them to minimize administrative effort and maximize the time available for discussions. The Committee will be informed of the outcome of these discussions.

11. The Committee is invited **to note** this information.

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