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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON TRADE

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

Fifty-fourth session
Geneva, 26-30 May 2008

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The meeting of the Specialized Section will start at 10:00 on Monday, 26 May¹.

Preliminary timetable		
Monday, 26 May	10:00 - 18:00	Preparatory discussions on Standard Layout, early and ware potatoes, table grapes, apples, peaches and nectarines, sweet peppers, apricots and cucumbers
Tuesday, 27 May	10:00 - 13:00	Items 1, 2, 3, 4
	15:00 - 18:00	Item 4 (cont'd)
Wednesday, 28 May	10:00 - 13:00	Items 5, 6, 7
	15:00 - 18:00	Items 9, 10, 11, 12, 13
Thursday, 29 May	10:00 - 13:00	Items 4(f) and 8
	14:30 - 17:00	Working groups
Friday, 30 May	8:30 - 11:00	Working groups
	11:00 - 12:00	Item 14

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 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 entrance 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
 - (a) UNECE and subsidiary bodies
 - (b) Other organizations
 - (c) Concentration of agricultural quality standards work in the UNECE
3. Standard Layout
4. Revision of UNECE standards
 - (a) Early and ware potatoes
 - (b) Table grapes
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 - (d) Kiwifruit
 - (e) Pears
 - (f) Sweet peppers
 - (g) Other standards
5. Review of UNECE recommendations
 - (a) Apricots
 - (b) Cucumbers
 - (c) Peaches and nectarines
6. New UNECE standards
 - (a) Chanterelles
 - (b) Fresh chilli peppers
7. Codex Standard for Bananas
8. UNECE explanatory brochure for sweet peppers
9. National systems of application of agricultural quality standards
10. Promotion of standards and capacity-building activities
11. Future work
12. Other business
13. Election of officers
14. Adoption of the report

II. ANNOTATIONS

1. Adoption of the agenda

The delegations will adopt the agenda.

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

2. Matters of interest since the last session

(a) UNECE and subsidiary bodies

The secretariat will present the decisions taken by the 2007 sessions of the Committee on Trade and of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards having an impact on the work of the Specialized Section.

Documentation: Report of the Committee on Trade (ECE/TRADE/C/2007/19)
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)

(b) Other organizations

Representatives of other organizations and country delegates will inform the Specialized Section about activities taking place in their agencies that are of relevance to the work of the Section.

The UNECE and Codex Alimentarius secretariats will provide information on the progress made in coordinating the work of the two organizations. They will present the results of the comparison of the UNECE and Codex standard layouts and of the conformity certificates.

Documentation: Comparison of standard layouts (INF.1, Informal document)
Comparison of conformity certificates (INF.2, Informal document)

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

UNECE and OECD will report on the progress made in discussions on the concentration of the OECD and UNECE activities in agricultural quality standards within UNECE.

3. Standard Layout

The Specialized Section will revise the Standard Layout, which was adopted by the Working Party for a trial period until the end of 2008.

Documentation: 2007 Standard Layout

4. Revision of UNECE standards

(a) Early and ware potatoes

At its 2007 meeting the Specialized Section asked the Working Group on Early and Ware Potatoes, comprising representatives of Belgium, France (rapporteur), Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Poland, the United States and Europatat, to review the French proposal for introducing quality classes in the Standard for Early and Ware Potatoes. They will present the results of their discussions.

Documentation: The Standard (FFV-52: Early and Ware Potatoes)
Working Group proposals (INF.3, Informal document)

(b) Table grapes

The Specialized Section will revisit the minimum maturity requirements.

Documentation: The Standard (FFV-19: Table Grapes)

(c) Apples

The Specialized Section will discuss the proposals on uniformity in size by France and the European Commission. The delegation of Italy will suggest how the list of apple varieties in the Standard should be managed and how grouping apple varieties by colour could be improved. The OECD Working Group on apples will propose amendments to the Standard.

Documentation: The Standard (FFV-50: Apples)
Uniformity in size (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2008/2)
Proposals on the list of apple varieties (INF.4, Informal document)
Working Group proposals (INF.5, Informal document)

(d) Kiwifruit

The text of the UNECE Standard for Kiwifruit was amended in January 2008 in conjunction with the work on the OECD explanatory brochure. The amendments proposed by the Bureau were to align the text of the Standard with the UNECE Standard Layout. The Specialized Section accepted them after consultation through the list server.

Documentation: The Standard (FFV-46: Kiwifruit)

(e) Pears

The Specialized Section will discuss the amendments to the UNECE Standard for Pears proposed by the OECD Working Group on the explanatory brochure for pears.

Documentation: The Standard (FFV-51: Pears)
Working Group amendments (INF.6, Informal document)

(f) Sweet peppers

The Standard for Sweet Peppers will be discussed under item 8 in conjunction with the work on the UNECE explanatory brochure.

Documentation: The Standard (FFV-28: Sweet peppers)
Proposals for revision (INF.7, Informal document)

(g) Other standards

The Specialized Section may wish to revise other standards provided that interested countries have submitted written proposals.

5. Review of UNECE recommendations

The delegations will review the following recommendations, all adopted by the 2007 session of the Working Party for trial use until 2008.

(a) Apricots

The Specialized Section will consider the outstanding issues of russeting, single minimum size irrespective of quality class, maximum permissible ranges for uniformity in different classes, and possible reference to Brix levels in measuring maturity.

Documentation: The Recommendation (FFV-02: Apricots)

(b) Cucumbers

The Specialized Section will finalize provisions on sizing bearing in mind that size is not a quality-related parameter for cucumbers, and that sizing can be done by weight, length and diameter.

Documentation: The Recommendation (FFV-15: Cucumbers)
Proposals on sizing (INF.8, Informal document)

(c) Peaches and nectarines

At its 2007 meeting the Specialized Section asked Italy (Rapporteur) and other producing countries to do further work on provisions on sizing and maturity requirements. The delegation of Italy will report on the results of this work.

Documentation: The Recommendation (FFV-26: Peaches and nectarines)
Proposals on sizing and maturity requirements (INF.9, Informal document)

6. New UNECE standards

(a) Chanterelles

The delegation of France will present a draft Standard for Chanterelles. The work on this Standard should take into account the existing Codex European regional standard for this product.

Documentation: Draft Standard for Chanterelles (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2008/3)

(b) Fresh chilli peppers

The delegation of Mexico will present a draft Standard for Fresh Chilli Peppers.

Documentation: Draft Standard for Fresh Chilli Peppers (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2008/4)
Explanatory note from Mexico (INF.10, Informal document)

7. Codex Standard for Bananas

The delegation of Turkey will suggest to the Specialized Section the improvements it would like to make to the Codex Standard for Bananas.

Documentation: Proposals by Turkey (INF.11, Informal document)

8. UNECE explanatory brochure for sweet peppers

The Specialized Section will discuss the draft UNECE explanatory brochure for sweet peppers.

Documentation: Draft brochure (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2008/5)

9. National systems of application of agricultural quality standards

Delegations will share information on how their national systems are organized and function to support application of agricultural quality systems.

10. Promotion of standards and capacity-building activities

The secretariat will provide information on the United Nations Development Account project to promote international commercial agricultural quality standards worldwide. The delegations will also share information on capacity-building activities that are either planned or have already taken place.

11. Future work

The Specialized Section will discuss its future work.

12. Other business

The secretariat will present the revised questionnaire on the use of UNECE standards, the restructured website of the Working Party and the updated list of authorities. Any other issues of interest for the work of the Specialized Section can be discussed under this agenda item.

13. Election of officers

The Specialized Section will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. At its fifty-third session the group elected Ms. Ulrike Bickelmann (Germany) as Chair and Ms. Kristina Mattsson (Sweden) as Vice-Chair.

14. Adoption of the report

The Specialized Section will adopt the report of the session.
