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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

**REPORT OF THE SPECIALIZED SECTION ON STANDARDIZATION  
OF FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES ON ITS FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION**

**Summary**

The Specialized Section revised the text of the Standard Layout and recommended that the Working Party adopt it as a new Standard Layout. It submitted to the Working Party the amended texts on early and ware potatoes, apples, pears, lettuce, avocados, tomatoes and cucumbers for approval as revised UNECE standards. It also recommended that the Working Party adopt the revised texts on peaches and nectarines, and apricots as recommendations for trial use until the end of 2009.

The Specialized Section asked the rapporteurs to finalize the text of the Standard and brochure on sweet peppers, as well as the texts on chanterelles and fresh chilli peppers, and to present them at the 2009 session.

The UNECE cooperation task force met with the OECD exploratory task force during the session to assess the progress made in concentrating activities in agricultural quality standards within UNECE.

All documents discussed, as well as any agreed revisions, can be found on the UNECE website at: <http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/meetings/ge.01/2008-in-session.htm>

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The meeting was opened by Mr. Hans Hansell, Chief of the Trade Policy and Governmental Cooperation Section of the UNECE Trade and Timber Division. The meeting was chaired by Mrs. Ulrike Bickelmann (Germany).

## **II. ATTENDANCE**

2. Representatives of the following countries attended: Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America.

3. The European Community (EC) was also represented.

4. The following specialized programme participated in the session: Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme (Codex Alimentarius).

5. A representative of the following intergovernmental organization participated in the session: OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables.

6. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations participated in the session: COPA/COGECA (Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations / General Confederation of Agricultural Co-operatives in the European Union) and Europatat.

## **III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda item 1)**

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2008/1

7. The delegations adopted the provisional agenda, with proposed changes and amendments.

## **IV. MATTERS OF INTEREST SINCE THE LAST SESSION (Agenda item 2)**

### **A. UNECE and subsidiary bodies (Agenda item 2a)**

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/2007/19, ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/27,  
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/12, ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/13

8. The delegations were informed about the decisions of relevance to the work of the Specialized Section taken by the October 2007 session of the Committee on Trade (document ECE/TRADE/C/2007/19, paras. 26-30) and by the November 2007 session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/27, paras. 23-28, 38 – 44). The participants welcomed the approval of the Working Party's new terms of reference by the Committee on Trade in October 2007 and by the Executive Committee on 20 March 2008 (document ECE/EX/2008/L.8). According to the new terms of reference "any member of the

United Nations or of one of its specialized agencies can participate, on an equal footing, in the activities of WP.7 and its specialized sections”.

## **B. Other organizations (Agenda item 2b)**

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

Comparison of conformity certificates (INF.2, Informal document)

Report of the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

9. The OECD representative informed the meeting about the activities carried out or planned by that Organization in the period since the 2007 session of the Specialized Section. The OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme continued to implement the Reform Plan adopted in 2004. The first peer review, on the Hungarian Inspection System, was undertaken in 2007. Peer reviews are considered an effective way of exploring common problems in fruit and vegetables inspection. They also help identify good practices in the country under evaluation. The next peer review, on the fruit and vegetables quality inspection system in Slovakia, is envisaged for June 2008.

10. At its 2007 plenary meeting, the OECD Scheme Member Countries recognized the need for an explanatory brochure on pineapples, as international trade flows in this product have increased significantly in recent years. The OECD explanatory brochure on kiwifruit has been published and is available in hard copy. The brochure on cucumbers is expected to be completed by July 2008. The OECD continued work on brochures for apples, apricots, citrus fruit, hazelnuts, peaches and nectarines and pears. Good progress was made on the brochure for citrus fruit at the working group in Israel in April 2008.

11. Two new countries, Kenya and Serbia, have applied for OECD Scheme membership.

12. The representative of the secretariat of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme (Codex Alimentarius) highlighted the main results of the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, held in Mexico City from 12 to 17 May 2008. The Committee adopted draft Codex standards for tomatoes (final adoption), bitter cassava (final adoption) and apples (preliminary adoption). It discontinued work on the Codex Guidelines for the Inspection and Certification of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for Conformity to Quality Standards, which contained the conformity certificate, and initiated work on standards for durians, avocados, fresh chilli peppers and tamarillo (tree tomatoes), subject to approval by the Commission at its thirty-first session in July 2008.

13. The secretariats of UNECE and Codex Alimentarius provided information on the progress made in coordinating their work. The document comparing the UNECE and Codex standard layouts was considered at the May meeting of the Codex Committee. The Committee supported the dialogue between the UNECE and Codex secretariats aimed at enhancing cooperation between the two bodies. However, it decided to finalize the revision of the Codex standard layout prior to harmonizing it with that of UNECE.

14. The Specialized Section supported the idea of harmonizing the two standard layouts, to the extent possible, as this would facilitate international trade. It encouraged countries participating in the UNECE activities to contribute to the work of the Codex electronic Working Group on a glossary of terms for inclusion in the Standard Layout. The Specialized Section asked the delegation of France, the focal point for this work, to present the first draft of the glossary for discussion at the May 2009 session of the Section.

15. The representative of the European Commission provided information on new EC regulations and on the reform of the Common Market organization of Fruit and Vegetables. The results of the discussion on the reform will become known in June 2008. Delegations were interested in learning more about the implications of the reform for commercial quality control in trade.

**C. Concentration of agricultural quality standards work in the UNECE  
(Agenda item 2c)**

16. The UNECE and OECD task forces met on 27 May to assess the progress made in preparing the transfer of work to the UNECE secretariat. The task forces took note of the following: (a) with the adoption of the Working Party's new terms of reference and working procedures, the working group on legal aspects had accomplished its task; (b) progress had been made on drawing up the first UNECE brochure on sweet peppers, which should be ready for publication by the end of 2009; (c) work on the brochure for inshell walnuts and walnut kernels had been put on hold awaiting for the revision of the Standard; (d) UNECE secretariat would need to have a regular budget for brochures; the consultancy fund had proved to be essential for drawing up the draft brochure on sweet peppers and should be maintained; (e) no decision had been taken on how the meetings of the specialized sections and the Working Party should be organized, as many delegates could come to Geneva for only one week a year.

17. The delegations of the Netherlands, New Zealand and the United Kingdom expressed their interest in preparing a new brochure for onions. However, the task forces decided to postpone this, in view of the considerable amount of work that still needed to be done on the brochures that had already been started.

**V. STANDARD LAYOUT (Agenda item 3)**

Documentation: 2007 Standard Layout

Netherlands proposal on mixed products (INF.18, Informal document)

18. The Specialized Section revised the Standard Layout, which was adopted by the Working Party for a trial period until the end of 2008. To allow for sales units with mixed products, which is current practice in the market, the delegates amended the "Uniformity" provision in section V, and the "Nature of produce" and the "Origin of produce" provisions in section VI (document 2007 Standard Layout - revised). These provisions were made optional and their use should be decided on a product-by-product basis. To allow for more flexibility for traders, the Specialized Section decided not to assign any net weight restrictions to the sales units. These were understood as units designed to be purchased in their entirety. Individual standards may include specific provisions on net weight limits, labelling, etc.

19. The marking on the mixed sales units may simply state “Mixture of <name of produce>”, if the product varieties in it are from the same country of origin. If the content of a mixed sales unit is composed of produce from different countries, the names of varieties and countries of origin should be indicated.
20. The Specialized Section decided to delete the skin defect qualification “provided they are not progressive” for Class I and Class II. Some skin defects may be progressive, but may not necessarily imply that the produce with such defects would be out of grade.
21. Some delegations stressed the necessity of addressing the zero tolerance for decay in the Standard Layout. Zero tolerance is fully justifiable at the packing house. However, there should be a tolerance for decay at destination. In practice, many countries allow certain percentages of rot for various commodities in order not to reject imported lots. These delegations suggested that the tolerances used in practice, particularly those in section II (Provisions concerning quality), could be brought up for discussion.
22. The Specialized Section decided to change the term “dispatcher” to “dispatcher/shipper” in section VI (Provisions concerning marking).
23. The Specialized Section decided to submit the revised text of the Standard Layout to the Working Party for approval.

## **VI. REVISION OF UNECE STANDARDS (Agenda item 4)**

### **A. Early and Ware Potatoes (Agenda item 4a)**

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

24. The delegation of France presented the results of the April meeting of the Working Group on Early and Ware Potatoes held in Paris. The Working Group could not reach an agreement on introducing quality classes in the UNECE standard, as proposed by France. The Group recommended that the existing (2006) text of the standard be used in the work on the OECD explanatory brochure.
25. The delegation of France also presented its national regulation on trade in early and ware potatoes, as well as a technical interpretative brochure and foldable charts to help the interpretation of the regulation provisions and suggest better use of potatoes by consumers.
26. The OECD Working Group on an explanatory brochure for potatoes met on 26 May. It suggested that the Specialized Section clarify the wording of the following provisions for minimum requirements in the Standard:
- (a) “Frost damage”, which can happen only in the field. Other freezing injuries can happen in storage or transportation.

(b) “Cracks, etc. exceeding 3.5 mm in depth for early potatoes and 5 mm in depth for ware potatoes”. One figure, probably 4 mm, for both early and ware potatoes would be more practical.

(c) “Ware potatoes must be covered with well-formed skin”. The wording should explain that the skin has to be fully developed (i.e. to be mature) and cover the whole surface of the tuber.

27. The Specialized Section preferred that the above suggestions be reflected in the text of the Standard before the November meeting of the Working Party. The secretariat and Europatat will prepare a working document with the revised text of the Standard for circulation and approval through the intersession procedure.

28. The delegations agreed that once the text of the Standard is approved by the Working Party, it should remain stable for some time, and its practical use should be actively promoted, together with the OECD explanatory brochure.

#### **B. Table grapes (Agenda item 4b)**

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

29. As no proposals to review the minimum maturity requirements had been submitted, the Specialized Section did not discuss the standard.

#### **C. Apples (Agenda item 4c)**

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)

30. The Specialized Section discussed uniformity in size on the basis of Italy’s proposal supported by the delegations of France and the European Commission. This proposal did not change the substance of the Standard but made the sizing provisions easier to understand. It was decided to replace the textual explanation of uniformity in size by weight in section III with the table suggested by the delegation of Italy (see FFV-50: Apples - revised). The table will be submitted to the Working Party for approval as new provisions on uniformity in sizing by weight.

31. Several delegations found the figures on uniformity by diameter in the table too restrictive. They suggested that the uniformity ranges be wider and increase with the size of the fruit. A proposal was made to widen these ranges; it should be studied for discussion at the next session. The Specialized Section decided to revisit this table at its 2009 session.

32. The delegation of Italy proposed how the list of apple varieties in the Standard could be made more practical. Since it can be difficult to distinguish a mutant from the mother variety, and also with the aim of shortening the list, the delegation suggested reducing the list to 15

varietal groups, which are easier to identify and which can be assigned distinct colour qualifications. These groups would cover 90 per cent of apple varieties traded internationally.

33. The participants stressed that as colour was an important quality parameter for apples, it should be part of the list of varieties. The list, to be practical, should be reduced in size to comprise only those varieties for which international trade volumes are important. The delegations shortened the list by excluding the varieties for which size and colour requirements were not applicable. The use of varietal groups could help reduce the size of the list but could result in neglecting some widely traded varieties.

34. The Specialized Section confirmed the 10.5 Brix level as realistic for small apple varieties (of 50-60 mm). Higher levels can exclude produce perfectly acceptable in the market in early season. However, there is the risk that imports of small apple varieties of insufficiently good quality might corrupt the market in early season by pulling down prices for better quality produce.

35. The delegations noted the growing international market for small apple varieties. Several countries carry out breeding programmes aiming at developing small fruits. It would therefore be useful to revisit the Standard in the future to allow for new varieties smaller than 50 mm but of excellent quality. One way of incorporating such varieties into the Standard might be to include them in the list of varieties.

36. The OECD Working Group proposals to amend the Standard had been discussed at the OECD meeting on the explanatory brochure for apples.

37. The Specialized Section asked the secretariat to incorporate the agreed changes into the text of the Standard and circulate it as a working document to delegations for comments. The countries will provide the secretariat with reduced lists of varieties, eliminating those varieties that are not important in international trade.

38. Several participants stressed the need for UNECE and Codex to cooperate in working on their standards for apples to avoid having two diverging international recommendations for the same commodity.

#### **D. Kiwifruit (Agenda item 4d)**

Documentation: The Standard (FFV-46: Kiwifruit)

39. The text of the UNECE Standard for Kiwifruit had been amended in January 2008 in conjunction with the work on the OECD explanatory brochure. The Specialized Section agreed to the changes, after consultation through the list server. The provision on presentation was deleted from the Standard to align the text with the revised Standard Layout. This provision had been eliminated in the Standard Layout to allow for flexibility and new packaging in presenting the produce.

**E. Pears (Agenda item 4e)**

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

40. The Specialized Section agreed to change the classification provisions for Class I and Class II to read respectively: “slight bruising not exceeding 1 cm<sup>2</sup> in area” and “slight bruising not exceeding 2 cm<sup>2</sup> in area”. It also asked the secretariat to align the text with the new Standard Layout. The Specialized Section agreed to the OECD Working Group proposals to delete any reference to the date of marketing in the case of summer pears, and recommended that the provision on mixtures of varieties be integrated. The amended text will be submitted to the Working Party for approval as a new Standard.

**F. Sweet peppers (Agenda item 4f)**

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

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

**G. Lettuce (Agenda item 4g)**

Documentation: Belgium’s proposals on lettuce (INF.14, Informal document)

42. The Specialized Section agreed to Belgium’s proposal to add “lettuce with root ball” to the produce not covered by the Standard, although this product may be ready for consumption. The amended text will be submitted to the Working Party for approval as a new Standard.

43. A separate discussion is needed on how to integrate lettuce with roots and soil into the Standard.

**H. Mushrooms (Agenda item 4h)**

Documentation: Germany’s proposals on mushrooms (INF.15, Informal documents)  
The Standard (FFV-24: Cultivated mushrooms)

44. The Specialized Section did not agree to Germany’s proposals to change the provisions in the sections on the definition of produce and on tolerances. Concerning the proposal on deleting the provision on how mushrooms should be cut, the delegates decided to revisit this issue at the next session after consultations with the industry.



**I. Avocados (Agenda item 4i)**

Documentation: Israel's proposals on avocados (INF.16, Informal document)  
The Standard (FFV-42: Avocados)

45. The delegations agreed to Israel's proposal to introduce new overlapping size ranges in section III of the Standard (see FFV-42: Avocados - revised) to take into account the property of avocados to lose weight during transportation. The proposed size ranges do not affect uniformity requirements. The Specialized Section decided to submit the new sizing provisions to the Working Party for approval. The delegation of Spain will inform the Specialized Section of its position on the new ranges before the next session of the Working Party.

46. The Specialized Section noted that big avocado varieties (e.g. Antillian) were not covered by the proposed table of size ranges. The delegation of the United States volunteered to draw up proposals for the 2009 session on how to incorporate big varieties into the Standard. The results of the UNECE work on the Standard should be shared with Codex, where similar work has recently been initiated.

**J. Citrus fruit (Agenda item 4j)**

Documentation: Israel's proposals on citrus fruit (INF.17, Informal document)  
The Standard (FFV-14: Citrus fruit)  
South Africa's comments on Israel's proposals (INF.21, Informal document)

47. The participants decided to postpone the discussion of the Standard until next session. To prepare the discussion, the Specialized Section asked the delegation of Israel to collect and put together, in a working document, the OECD Working Group and countries' suggestions on reviewing the Standard. Delegates pointed out the need to revise provisions concerning: (a) juice content in lemons; (b) labelling, especially for mandarins; (c) deletion of the obligatory mentioning of chemical post-harvest treatment; (d) mentioning of colouring in maturity requirements; (e) sizing and uniformity rules.

**K. Tomatoes (Agenda item 4k)**

Documentation: Netherlands proposals on tomatoes (INF.19, Informal document)  
The Standard (FFV-36: Tomatoes)

48. The delegations agreed with the Netherlands proposals to amend presentation and marking provisions of the Standard to allow for mixed sales units of tomatoes (see FFV-36: Tomatoes - revised).

49. The "uniformity in size" provisions were harmonized, to the extent possible, with those in the draft Codex standard, which is for final adoption by the Codex Alimentarius Commission in July this year. The delegations decided to draw up proposals on uniformity by weight and count, similar to those agreed upon in the Standard for Peaches, for discussion at the next session.

50. The Specialized Section decided to submit the revised sizing, presentation and marking provisions to the Working Party for approval.

## **VII. REVIEW OF UNECE RECOMMENDATIONS (Agenda item 5)**

### **A. Apricots (Agenda item 5a)**

Documentation: The Recommendation (FFV-02: Apricots)

51. The Specialized Section considered the issues of russeting, single minimum size irrespective of quality class, and characteristics of maturity. The delegations agreed on the allowed limits for russeting at 10 and 15 per cent of the total surface area for Class I and Class II, respectively.

52. Some countries use minimum size as an important parameter of maturity. Countries not doing so use other maturity indications, such as firmness, colour and shape of the fruit, and Brix values. Minimum size requirements do not necessarily protect the market from immature apricots but may represent a technical barrier to trade.

53. The minimum size requirements may be deleted from the Standard under condition of including maturity indicators. The delegations asked the Working Group (Hungary and the technical assistant for the OECD brochure on apricots) to prepare for the next session proposals on minimum size and maturity characteristics that could be reflected in the Standard.

54. The Specialized Section decided to ask the Working Party to extend the trial period of the recommendation for one more year.

### **B. Cucumbers (Agenda item 5b)**

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

55. The Specialized Section agreed on the provisions on sizing to read:

“Size is determined by either weight or by a combination of diameter and length.  
Uniformity in size is compulsory for Classes ”Extra” and I.

56. To ensure uniformity, one of the following two options should be applied:

(a) Cucumbers sized by weight

The range in weight of cucumbers in the same package must not exceed:

- 150 g where the smallest piece weighs 400 g or more.
- 100 g where the smallest piece weighs between 180 and less than 400 g
- cucumbers below 180 g should be reasonably uniform in size

(b) Cucumbers sized by length and diameter

The range in length of cucumbers in the same package must not exceed 5 cm in length between the longest and the shortest cucumber in the same package, and cucumbers should be reasonably uniform in diameter.

57. The Specialized Section decided to submit the revised sizing provisions to the Working Party for approval as a new Standard.

**C. Peaches and Nectarines (Agenda item 5c)**

Documentation: The Recommendation (FFV-26: Peaches and nectarines)

Proposals on sizing and maturity requirements (INF.9, Informal document)

58. The Specialized Section discussed provisions on sizing and maturity requirements on the basis of the proposals presented by Italy on behalf of the Working Group. Although some producing countries were in favour of introducing Brix maturity levels tied to a harvest date, as suggested in INF.9, the delegations decided not to change minimum maturity requirements, as they are stated in the current recommendation. The section on sizing provisions was changed to allow for sizing by the maximum diameter of the equatorial section, by weight or by count (see revised INF.9). The Working Group was asked to reduce the number of size ranges from the proposed 10 to 7. Some delegations preferred not to have any reference to minimum size, sizing codes and Brix maturity requirements in the Standard.

59. Once the size ranges have been agreed, the section on the sizing provisions should be submitted to the Working Party for approval as a recommendation for a one-year trial period.

**VIII. NEW UNECE STANDARDS (Agenda item 6)**

**A. Chanterelles (Agenda item 6a)**

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

60. The delegation of France presented a draft Standard for Chanterelles. The work on this Standard took into account the Codex European Regional Standard for this product.

61. The Specialized Section asked the delegation of France to review the text, taking into account the comments made by participants on: (a) the absence of Class II in the draft; (b) the possibility for mixed sales units; (c) the need to align minimum requirements with those in the Standard Layout; and (d) the consistency in the terminology used. The text might then be submitted to the Working Party for approval as a recommendation for a one-year trial period.

62. The last session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables had agreed to provisionally retain chanterelles in the priority list and to revisit this issue once UNECE had finalized the standard.

**B. Fresh chilli peppers (Agenda item 6b)**

Documentation: Draft Standard for Fresh Chilli Peppers (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2008/4)  
Explanatory note from Mexico (INF.10, Informal document)  
Thailand's Standard for Chilli Peppers (INF.20, Informal document)

63. The Specialized Section welcomed the presentation of the draft Standard for Fresh Chilli Peppers by the delegation of Mexico. The delegations made the following suggestions for further work on the text of the draft standard: (a) limit the standard to fresh chilli peppers traded internationally; not cover other hot peppers; (b) use terminology (e.g. "varieties", "commercial types") consistently throughout the text; (c) align, to the extent possible, the section on minimum requirements and other parts of the draft with the Standard Layout; (d) simplify sizing provisions (see the Thailand's national standard); (e) add mixed sales units; (f) make description of defects understandable to non-experts applying the standard; (g) consider the possibility of moving the table on Scoville units to an explanatory brochure. An explanatory brochure would considerably facilitate practical application of the standard.

64. The Specialized Section asked the delegation of Mexico to prepare, in cooperation with other producing and exporting countries, a revised draft of the standard for consideration at the May 2009 session. That text could then be submitted to the Working Party for approval as a recommendation, and to Codex as a contribution to their work on a similar standard.

**IX. CODEX STANDARD FOR BANANAS (Agenda item 7)**

Documentation: Proposals by Turkey (INF.11, Informal document)  
Codex Standard for Bananas

65. The Specialized Section provided information to the delegation of Turkey on the use of the starch/sugar ratio as an indicator of banana maturity. Very few countries apply the starch test on imports of bananas, maturity being measured by colour and shape of the fruit, and by other indicators.

66. The Specialized Section decided not to initiate work on a UNECE Standard for Bananas. Specific concerns regarding this product should first be referred to the Codex Committee.

**X. UNECE EXPLANATORY BROCHURE FOR SWEET PEPPERS  
(Agenda item 8)**

Documentation: Draft brochure (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2008/5)  
Comments by Germany (INF.12, Informal document)  
Comments by Switzerland (INF.13, Informal document)

67. The Specialized Section considered proposed revisions to the Standard for Sweet Peppers, together with the explanatory text and illustrative photographs of the draft UNECE brochure. The delegations will send to the secretariat their specific comments and photographs. The Specialized Section asked the Working Group, composed of France, Germany, the Netherlands, United Kingdom and United States, to finalize the Standard and brochure and

present them at the 2009 session. The Working Group may wish to meet during the November 2008 meeting of the Working Party.

**XI. NATIONAL SYSTEMS OF APPLICATION OF AGRICULTURAL QUALITY STANDARDS (Agenda item 9)**

68. The delegation of Kenya made a presentation on the national system of application of agricultural quality standards and on compliance with the EU Regulation on Conformity Checks of Fruits and Vegetables.

**XII. PROMOTION OF STANDARDS AND CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES (Agenda item 10)**

69. The secretariat provided information on the United Nations Development Account project to promote international commercial agricultural quality standards worldwide. The delegations also informed the meeting on capacity-building activities that had either been planned or had already taken place. The table on capacity-building and other activities is regularly updated on the UNECE website (<http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/welcome.htm>).

**XIII. FUTURE WORK (Agenda item 11)**

68. The Specialized Section discussed its future work.

**XIV. OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda item 12)**

70. The secretariat presented the revised questionnaire on the use of UNECE standards, the restructured website of the Working Party and the updated list of authorities.

**XV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Agenda item 13)**

71. The Specialized Section re-elected Ms. Ulrike Bickelmann (Germany) as Chair and Ms. Kristina Mattsson (Sweden) as Vice-Chair.

**XVI. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (Agenda item 14)**

72. The Specialized Section adopted its report.