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COMMITTEE ON TRADE

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

Fifty-second session
Geneva, 16-19 May 2006

REPORT ON ITS FIFTY-SECOND SESSION

Opening of the meeting

1. The meeting was opened by Ms. Virginia Cram-Martos, Director of the UNECE Trade and Timber Division. She summarized the results of the external evaluation of the work of UNECE and its consequences for the activities of the Specialized Section. The delegations welcomed the decision to strengthen the UNECE work in agricultural quality standards and to allocate one additional professional post to support this activity.

Participation

2. Representatives of the following countries attended the meeting: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America.

3. The European Community was also represented.

4. The following specialized agencies/programmes participated in the session: Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.

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5. 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.

Apologies

6. The representatives of Bulgaria and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) could not attend the session and sent their apologies.

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2006/1

7. The delegations adopted the provisional agenda with agreed changes in the sequence of agenda items. The documents referred to in the agenda under symbols ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2006/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 were not submitted. Documents with symbols from 2004 and 2005 were used instead. The following documents were added to the agenda:

Code	Title	Contribution from
INF.1	List of Apple Varieties	Germany (E)
INF.2	List of Apple Varieties	Czech Republic (E)
INF.3	Proposal to include a Table of Tolerances in UNECE Standards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	United States (E)
INF.4	Control Certificate	Germany (E)
INF.5	Proposal to Amend UNECE Standard FFV-19, Table Grapes	Germany (E/F)
INF.6	Minimum Maturity Requirements for Table Grapes	United States (E)
INF.7	Control Certificate	France (F)
INF.8	UNECE Standard FFV-07, Bilberries and Blueberries (Myrtille)	France (E)
INF.9	UNECE Standard FFV-54, Ceps/Cèpes	France (F)
INF.10	Proposal to amend UNECE Standard for Peaches and Nectarines	Spain (E)
INF.11	Sampling Programme SOIVRE 2005-2006	Spain (E)

INF.12	Draft Revised UNECE Standard for Apples	COPA/COGECA (E)
INF.13	Letter from EUROPATAT	EUROPATAT (E)
INF.14	List of Apple Varieties	United Kingdom
INF.15	Proposal to Amend UNECE Standard FFV-02, Apricots	Germany (E/F)
INF.16	Proposal to Amend UNECE Standard FFV-26, Peaches and Nectarines	Germany (E/F)
INF.17	UNECE Standard FFV-50, Apples	Germany (E/F)
INF.18	Concentrating Agricultural Quality Standards Work in the UNECE: Preliminary Draft Transition Plan	Secretariat (E)
INF.19	Statement of the OECD Secretariat	OECD (E)
INF.20	Statement of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme	Codex Secretariat

Annex 2 summarizes the action that needs to be taken to follow-up on the decisions of the Specialized Section meeting.

Item 2. Matters of interest since the last session

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/2006/3, ECE/TRADE/C/2006/10, INF.19

(a) UNECE and subsidiary bodies

8. The secretariat presented the main decisions taken at the sixty-first session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (TRADE/WP.7/2005/9) concerning the work of the Specialized Section.

(b) Other organizations

9. The representative of the Codex secretariat informed the meeting about the preparatory work for the thirteenth session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables to be held in Mexico from 25-29 September 2006. The documents for the session will be made available on the Codex website (<http://www.codexalimentarius.net/>).

10. The representative of the European Union (EU) provided information on: (a) harmonizing the EU standards with those of the UNECE; (b) discussions at the EU regarding products not covered by the EU standards; (c) a database on non-conformity with the standards on the EU market. He also made the comment that the EU market reform activities would probably have an impact on the work on standards.

11. The UNECE secretariat presented the information note submitted by OECD (INF.19) describing the OECD activities of interest to the Specialized Section.

12. The delegation of Morocco confirmed that the next OECD Scheme meeting of the Heads of National Inspection Services would be held from 4 to 6 December 2006 in Agadir, Morocco.

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

Documentation: INF.18

13. The Specialized Section discussed this agenda item on the basis of the preliminary draft transition plan (INF.18) submitted by the UNECE secretariat. Interested countries provided the secretariat with their comments on the text.

14. The delegations supported the decision to strengthen the UNECE work in agricultural quality standards.

15. The Specialized Section regarded the proposed transfer of activities from the OECD as an opportunity for all United Nations Member States to contribute to the development of the standards and explanatory brochures. This would give the standards higher recognition and prominence. Because many of the same experts work on the same material in both bodies, a clear possibility for synergy also exists in bringing together the activities of the two organizations.

16. The UNECE and OECD would need to carefully plan the transition period for concentrating the activities within the UNECE. The OECD has expertise in developing interpretative material for standards, and countries appreciate this work. The transfer of activities to the UNECE should not have a negative effect on the quality of output.

17. The Specialized Section asked the UNECE to revise the draft transition plan taking into account the discussion at the session and recirculate it to the participants for review before submitting it to the Committee on Trade in June 2006.

18. The delegations stressed the need for the UNECE and Codex Alimentarius to work more closely with each other in order to avoid duplication of activities. However, the current priority for the UNECE should be on effectively accommodating the OECD activities.

Item 3. Proposals to revise UNECE standards

(a) Early and ware potatoes

Documentation: TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/7, TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/11, INF.13

19. The Specialized Section decided to combine the standards on early and ware potatoes. To preserve a clear distinction between the two types of potatoes in the combined standard, the delegations decided to add the following sentence in the beginning of the second paragraph of "I. Definition of Produce" in the draft proposal (TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/7):

“Early potatoes are obtained from early varieties and/or are harvested at the beginning of the season in the country of origin.”

20. The delegations agreed to recommend this standard for adoption by the Working Party at its sixty-second session in November 2006, subject to acceptance of the new standard by the trade.

21. The Specialized Section decided to set up a Working Group to discuss the application and further development of the standard on potatoes. The Group would be composed of representatives from Belgium, France (rapporteur), Germany, Netherlands, the United States and EUROPATAT. The participants of the former Specialized Section on the Standardization of Early and Ware Potatoes should also be invited to participate in the Group. The proposals put forward by France in TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/11 should be used in the work of the Group. Countries were invited to send their national standards to the secretariat for forwarding to the Working Group.

22. EUROPATAT offered to organize a Workshop on the application of the standard, which would be open to this Working Group as well as to a wide range of industry experts.

(b) Melons (commercial type)

Documentation: UNECE Standard for Melon in force (TRADE/WP.7/2002/9/Add.7)
TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/18/Add.1

23. The secretariat updated the UNECE Standard for Melons on its website as recommended in TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/18/Add.1. The Specialized Section decided not to amend the standard with a list of commercial types, as such a list can be found in the OECD guidelines on determining commercial types of melons <http://www.oecd.org/agr/fv>.

Item 4. Review of UNECE Recommendations

(a) Bilberries and Blueberries (trial until November 2006)

Documentation: TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/25/Add.5 and INF.8

24. The Specialized Section clarified the terminology between different *Vaccinium* species: bilberries (*Vaccinium Myrtillus*) and blueberries. The trial period of the recommendation remained unchanged. The secretariat will post on the UNECE website the table (INF.8) summarizing the use of the terms “bilberries” and “blueberries”.

(b) Cherries (trial until November 2007)

Documentation: TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/18/Add.3

25. The Specialized Section decided to delete the sentence “The cherries must be carefully picked” from section “II. A. Minimum requirements”. The recommendation will continue to have trial status.

(c) Peaches and Nectarines (trial until November 2006)

Documentation: UNECE Standard for Peaches and Nectarines in force
TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/25/Add.4, INF.10, INF.11 and INF.16

26. Possible changes to the standard were discussed on the basis of the papers by Spain (INF.10) and Germany (INF.16). The Spanish paper proposed three options on how to revise the minimum maturity requirements using the firmness parameter and the refractometric index. The German paper explained the changes that need to be considered to simplify the standard and to make it more coherent with the UNECE standard layout as well as the OECD explanatory brochure.

27. Some delegations pointed out that traders avoid using quantitative maturity parameters and that more time was needed to decide on what maturity testing criteria should be retained in the standard. The Specialized Section decided to add to the standard the third option proposed in the Spanish paper and to extend the trial period to the end of 2007. As a result, the following text will be added to the standard:

“B. Minimum maturity requirements

The fruit must be sufficiently developed and display satisfactory ripeness.

In order to satisfy this requirement, the refractometric index of the pulp measured at the middle point of the fruit flesh at the equatorial section must be greater than or equal to 8° Brix and the firmness must be lower than 6.5 kg measured with a plunger of 8 mm diameter (0.5cm²) at two points of the equatorial section of the fruit, with the skin intact, except for fruits with Brix values greater than 10.5°, in which case firmness must be lower than 8 kg/0.5 cm²”.

28. To advance work on the standard the Specialized Section set up a Working Group composed of representatives of: France, Germany (rapporteur), Italy, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and the United States. A revised version of the German paper should be sent to the secretariat for translation and submitted to the November session of the Working Party for approval. Countries were encouraged to send comments on the paper to the rapporteur.

(d) Potatoes (trial until November 2006)

See paragraphs at Item 3(a).

(e) Table grapes (trial until November 2007)

Documentation: TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/18/Add.1, INF.5 and INF.6

29. The delegations discussed changes to the standard based on the contributions from Germany (INF.5) and the United States (INF.6). The United States delegation suggested simplifying the minimum maturity requirements by: (a) fixing the refractometric index at the level of 16° Brix; and (b) accepting fruit with a refractometric index lower than 16° Brix provided the sugar/acid ratio is at least 20:1. Exceptions were proposed for several grape varieties. These proposals had also been suggested to the Codex Working Group on Table Grapes as complementary to a more general proposal by the Working Group that was circulated to countries for comments and consideration at the September 2006 meeting of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.

30. The German paper summarized proposals by the OECD Working Group on the explanatory brochure for table grapes. The proposals were aimed at aligning the text of the standard with the UNECE Standard Layout and facilitating the application of the standard.

31. The delegations agreed that no special provisions for exceptions on trademarks should be made in the United Nations standard.

32. The Specialized Section decided to introduce a minimum bunch size of 100 grams and recommended it for trial. No annex of varieties would be needed if one minimum size were accepted.

33. The Specialized Section asked the representative of Germany to update its document to reflect the discussions at the current session and at the September 2006 meeting of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. The paper should then be sent to the secretariat for translation and submission to the sixty-second session of the Working Party in November 2006 for approval as a new standard.

(f) Truffles (trial until 2006)

Documentation: TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/25/Add.8

34. The Specialized Section decided to recommend to the Working Party to adopt the Standard for Fresh Truffles as a new UNECE standard.

(g) Ceps (trial until 2007)

Documentation: TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/14
TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/18/Add.4

35. The delegations accepted the following French proposals (INF.9) to change the UNECE Recommendation for Ceps (TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/18/Add.4):

The second paragraph of section “II. A. Minimum requirements” should read: “The pore layer must not be dark green or blackish.”

The fourth indent of the second paragraph of “B. Classification ... (iii) Class II” should read: “- brownish pore layer”.

36. The standard continues to be on trial until November 2007.

(h) Apples (trial until 2007)

Documentation: TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/18/Add.2, INF.12, INF.17 and Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Apples

37. The delegations discussed the current provisions concerning sizing and size tolerances. The industry finds it difficult to apply these provisions, because, in practice, the uniform size of apples is determined by a combination of weight and diameter.

As a solution, Germany proposed leaving the sizing requirements unchanged and updating the provision on size tolerances (INF.17). Another approach would be to simplify the sizing requirements, as indicated in the proposed draft Codex standard for apples. COPA/COGECA reported that it was preparing an option based on a fixed size chart.

38. The Specialized Section noted the growing importance of small varieties. What parameters should be used to measure quality characteristics, such as maturity, for small varieties? Should the Brix degree be used as a maturity index for all size classes or only for apples below a certain size? The Section decided to continue discussions on the standard at its next session. The results of the work in Codex and the fixed size chart from COPA/COGECA will be important contributions for this discussion.

39. The delegations exchanged views on the concepts of single minimum size, uniformity and colour, indicated in the proposed draft Codex standard for apples. Moving to a single minimum size would be a welcome simplification, but would need to be checked with the industry. There is no clear distinction between small and large varieties.

40. To develop a practical and easy-to-understand approach to uniformity, the Specialized Section formed a Working Group of representatives of: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, South Africa, the United States, the European Community (rapporteur) and COPA/COGECA. The Group will use inputs from COPA/COGECA (fixed size charts) and from the September 2006 meeting of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables.

41. Colour was regarded as an important quality characteristic, widely used by traders. Varieties were also important for the decision making of consumers. Including colour characteristics on the label could be problematic as there were already too many labelling requirements.

42. COPA/COGECA provided information on the preliminary results of the research establishing a correlation between the size and the Brix value of apples. The results indicated a correlation between the fruit size and sugar content for the sampled varieties of French and Italian apples.

43. The standard continues to be on trial until November 2007.

(i) List of apple varieties

Documentation: INF.1, INF.2 and INF.14

44. The delegations used the note by the United Kingdom (INF.14) to discuss whether the annex to the standard should be limited to the most important apple varieties, and particularly those traded internationally. Most delegations were in favour of having a shorter list of varieties in the standard. However, reducing the list could negatively affect the work of inspectors, who rely on the quality characteristics of varieties contained in the list.

45. A proposal was made to remove the list of varieties from the standard and to maintain it in a separate database for reference.

46. The Specialized Section decided to continue discussion on the list of varieties at future sessions.

Item 5. Amendments to the general texts

(a) Control Certificate

Documentation: TRADE/WP.7/2005/9/Add.2, INF.4 and INF.7

47. The delegations discussed changes to the control certificate on the basis of the proposals by the Working Group on the control certificate (TRADE/WP.7/2005/9/Add.2) and contributions by France (INF.7) and Germany (INF.4). The German note reflected the changes discussed by the OECD Scheme and proposed for inclusion into the inspection guidelines. The Specialized Section agreed on the following:

- Change the name to Conformity Certificate / Continuation Sheet.
- The wording in Box 17: “The consignment referred to above conforms, at issue time of the present certificate, with the standards applied”. It is more important to know that the produce is in conformity with the standard than how that was established.
- The wording in Box 18: “Certificate issued electronically” should be given as an example in the explanatory notes.
- The wording in Box 19: “Signatory”. Who the authorizing person is should be specified in the explanatory notes. The certificate should allow for private signatures even though the ultimate responsibility might be with the State authorities.
- In Box 16 leave “Country of origin” only. Indicate in the explanatory notes that the country of origin may be given by using the ISO 3166-1 (2-letter alpha-code).
- Mention in the explanatory notes to Box. 6 that the address of the inspection service should be indicated.

- The character size should not be smaller than 10 pt.
- Where possible, the size of boxes should allow for manual completion.
- The validity of the certificate should be indicated by the last day of validity.
- Member States would discuss further whether or not to remove the descriptive text under Box 4: “This certificate is for the exclusive use of the control service”.

It was not decided whether the net weight only should be indicated for each lot.

48. The Specialized Section asked the secretariat to:

- Collect any further comments from the delegates.
- Align the conformity certificate with the latest recommendations for the UN Layout Key and other UNECE trade facilitation recommendations.
- Present the revised certificate to the November 2006 meeting of the Working Party for approval.
- Investigate procedures and techniques for electronic signature and stamping used by countries.

(b) Standard Layout

Documentation: TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/16, INF.3

49. The delegations discussed the German proposal (TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/16) presented to the WP.7 in 2005, based on the European Community regulations, for a new wording in the standard layout to acknowledge that UNECE standards can be applied at all stages of marketing and not only at the export stage. Although the Specialized Section could not reach agreement on this proposal, many countries were in favour of changing the standard layout in such a way that it would open the application of the standards to all stages of distribution. In doing so, it might, however, be useful to point to the export stage as the “reference” point for the application of standards.

50. The participants also discussed whether this change should be reflected in the standards or in the Geneva Protocol.

51. The German document (TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/16) should be resubmitted to the next session of the Specialized Section for revisiting the issue.

52. The delegation from the United States presented a proposal to include a table of tolerances in UNECE Standards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables. The arguments were: (a) the uniform international interpretation of normative terms such as “slight and superficial” facilitating greater use of the standards; (b) clarification of “Quality Tolerances” for Extra Class

thereby facilitating greater use of this class; (c) resolving the interpretation of quality defects for Extra Class and Class I; and (d) setting fixed tolerances for individual defects for each class.

53. The Specialized Section was of the opinion that standards should be simple and that their interpretation should be kept separately. The concerns of the United States would be discussed during the revision of the standard layout.

(c) Revision of the terms of reference

Documentation: TRADE/WP.7/2005/9/Add.1, INF.18

54. The delegations decided to consider revisions to the Geneva Protocol and to the terms of reference of the Working Party within a broader framework of discussion on concentrating the work on agricultural quality standards in the UNECE. The item should be included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-third session of the Specialized Section.

Item 6. Use of code marks

55. The secretariat will consult with countries on how to proceed with this issue and will report to the 2007 session of the Specialized Section.

Item 7. List of authorities for exchange of information on non-conformity cases

56. The secretariat will propose to the next session of the Specialized Section how to better present the lists of authorities on the UNECE website.

Item 8. Application of UNECE standards

57. The Specialized Section asked the secretariat to propose how to improve the presentation of information about the application of UNECE standards on the UNECE website. Document TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/17 on the revision of the list of acceptances of UNECE standards should be used as reference.

Item 9. Capacity-building activities

58. The delegation of Slovakia provided information on the Joint OECD/UNECE/EC Workshop on Fruit and Vegetables scheduled for 3-7 July 2006 in Tbilisi, Georgia. The participants will discuss how to interpret standards and how to apply inspection procedures.

59. The delegation of Slovakia also reported that an international training course would be organized, jointly with OECD and UNECE, from 19-21 June 2006 in Mojmirovce, Slovakia. The programme can be found at <http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/meetings/hist2006.htm>.

60. The delegation of Germany informed the Specialized Section that the 26th International Meeting on Quality Control of Fruit and Vegetables would be held from 5-7 March 2007 at the Gustav-Stresemann-Institut in Bonn.

61. The delegation of the United Kingdom confirmed that the training course on harmonizing interpretation of standards would be held in Guildford, United Kingdom from 13-15 September 2006.

Item 10. WHO strategy on diet, physical activity and health

62. The UNECE secretariat, jointly with the World Health Organization (WHO), is producing posters to promote consumption of fruit and vegetables.

Item 11. Other business

63. The secretariat explained how to use the List Server to improve communication and information flow among the members of the Specialized Section.

64. Delegations stressed the importance of reserving Monday before the annual session of the Specialized Section for working groups to discuss topics of interest.

Item 12. Future work

Documentation: INF.15 (Germany)

65. The Specialized Section decided to submit document INF.15, Proposal to Amend UNECE Standard FFV-02, Apricots, to the 2007 session of the Specialized Section. The document will be published as an addendum to this report.

66. The delegation of the United States asked the participants to share the results of studies that might have been undertaken in countries on maturity requirements for table grapes.

67. The Specialized Section requested the secretariat to draw up a list of standards containing the sentence "The produce must be carefully picked". The Section will decide at its next session if the sentence should be removed from all standards.

68. The participants agreed that any future proposal should contain an introductory paragraph explaining why the proposal was being made.

69. It was stated that the Geneva Protocol and standard layout should be accorded higher priority.

70. Annex 1 contains the agreed provisional agenda for the 2007 session of the Specialized Section. Further proposals should be submitted to the secretariat at least 12 weeks before the

next session, tentatively scheduled for 21-25 May 2007. The deadline for submitting documents for this session is 9 March 2007.

Item 13. Election of officers

71. Mr. David Holliday (United Kingdom) announced that he would not be able to continue participating in the Specialized Section as he had taken on different functions in his organization. The delegations thanked Mr. Holliday for his valuable contribution to the work.

72. Following the proposals from the United Kingdom and Finland, the Specialized Section elected Ms. Ulrike Bickelmann (Germany) as Chair and Ms. Kristina Mattsson (Sweden) as Vice-Chair.

Item 14. Adoption of the report

73. The Specialized Section adopted its report.

The following addenda are published separately:

ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2006/10/Add.1 Conformity Certificate

ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2006/10/Add.2 Draft revised UNECE Standard for Apricots

ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2006/10/Add.3 Draft revised UNECE Standard for Peaches and
Nectarines

ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2006/10/Add.4 Draft revised UNECE Standard for Table Grapes

Annex 1. Provisional Agenda 2007

1.	Adoption of the agenda	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/1
2.	Matters of interest since the last session	
	(a) UNECE and subsidiary bodies	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/2
	(b) Other organizations	
	(c) Concentration of agricultural quality standards work in the UNECE	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/3
3.	Proposals to revise UNECE Standards	
	(a) Early and Ware Potatoes	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/4 TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/7 TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/11
	(b) Apricots	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/5
4.	Review of UNECE recommendations	
	(a) Cherries (trial until 2007)	TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/18/Add.3
	(b) Peaches and Nectarines (trial until 2007)	TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/25/Add.4
	(c) Table grapes (trial until 2007)	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/6 TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/18/Add.1
	(d) Ceps (trial until 2007)	TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/14 TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/18/Add.4
	(e) Apples (trial until 2007)	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/7 TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/18/Add.2
	(f) List of apple varieties	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/8
5.	Amendments to the general texts	
	(a) Conformity Certificate	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/9
	(b) Standard Layout	
	(c) Revision of the terms of reference (Geneva Protocol)	TRADE/WP.7/2005/9/Add.1
6.	Use of code marks	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/10
7.	List of authorities for exchange of information on non-conformity cases	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/11
8.	Application of UNECE Standards	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/12
9.	Capacity-building activities	
10.	Strengthening the work of the Section	
11.	Other business	
12.	Future work	
13.	Election of officers	
14.	Adoption of the report	

Note: An informal meeting the day before the fifty-third session of the Specialized Section will take place to discuss the revision of the Geneva Protocol and revisions/amendments to standards.

Annex 2. Actions to follow-up on the decisions of the Specialized Section meeting

	Follow-up action	Deadline	Responsibility
1.	Revise and recirculate the draft transition plan	31/05/06	Secretariat
2.	Submit the standard on early and ware potatoes to WP.7	4/08/06	Secretariat
3.	Provide the secretariat with national standards for potatoes for forwarding to the Working Group	1/08/06	Countries
4.	Organize a workshop on application of the standard on potatoes		EUROPATAT
5.	Post the table with the use of terms “bilberries” and “blueberries” on the website	30/11/06	Secretariat
6.	Amend the recommendation for cherries	30/11/06	Secretariat
7.	Draw up a list of standards containing the sentence “The produce must be carefully picked”	1/02/07	Secretariat
8.	Prepare the standard for peaches and nectarines (INF.16) for submission to WP.7	4/08/06	Germany/ Secretariat
9.	Prepare the standard for table grapes (INF.5) for submission to WP.7	4/08/06	Germany/ Secretariat
10.	Submit the standard on truffles to WP.7	4/08/06	Secretariat
11.	Amend the standard on ceps	30/11/06	Secretariat
12.	Draw up a chart on fixed sizes for apples	Sept.	COPA/COGECA
13.	Draw up proposals on uniformity for apples	1/02/07	WG on uniformity
14.	Put the list of apple varieties on the website	30/11/06	Secretariat
15.	Submit the control certificate to WP.7	4/08/06	Secretariat
16.	Draft a note on national procedures for electronic signature and stamping	1/02/07	Secretariat
17.	Consult with countries on the use of code marks	1/02/07	Secretariat
18.	Proposals on organizing information on the web site	1/02/07	Secretariat
19.	Submit the proposal on apricots (INF.15) to 2007 session of the Section	1/02/07	Secretariat
20.	Share results of studies on maturity requirements for table grapes	Ongoing	Countries/ Secretariat
21.	Collect proposals for the provisional agenda for 2007 session of the Section	1/02/07	Secretariat