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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-third session
Geneva, 21-25 May 2007

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA¹

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10 a.m. on 21 May 2007

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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|----|---|---|
| 1. | Adoption of the agenda | ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/1 |
| 2. | Matters of interest since the last session | |
| | (a) UNECE, Committee on Trade and Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards | ECE/TRADE/C/2006/18
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/20 |

¹ Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations should complete the registration form, downloadable from <http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/meetings/registr.htm>, and transmit it to the secretariat either 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 United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate to obtain a security badge to enter the Palais (in case of a problem, please call 022 917 12 65).

Documents for the meeting are available on the website at <http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/meetings/2007.htm>

Additional information for visitors is available at: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>

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| (b) | Other organizations | |
| (c) | Concentration of agricultural quality standards work in the UNECE | ECE/TRADE/C/2006/18/Add.1 |
| 3. | Proposals to revise UNECE Standards | |
| (a) | Early and Ware Potatoes | INF.1 (The Standard, Informal document)
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/2 |
| (b) | Apricots | ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/3 |
| (c) | Cucumbers | ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/4 |
| 4. | Review of UNECE Recommendations | |
| (a) | Cherries | ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/5 |
| (b) | Peaches and Nectarines | TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/25/Add.4
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/5
INF.2 (Informal document) |
| (c) | Table grapes | ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/4/Rev.1 |
| (d) | Ceps | ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/7 |
| (e) | Apples | TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/18/Add.2
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/6 |
| (f) | List of apple varieties | INF.3 (Informal document) |
| 5. | Amendments to the general texts | |
| (a) | Conformity Certificate | ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/17
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/7 |
| (b) | Standard Layout | TRADE/WP.7/2002/9/Add.13
TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/16
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/8
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/9 |
| (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
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/8 |
| 7. | List of authorities | INF.4 (Informal document) |
| 8. | Application of UNECE Standards | INF.5 (Informal document) |
| 9. | Capacity-building activities | |
| 10. | Strengthening the work of the Section | ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/19/Rev.1 |
| 11. | Other business | |
| 12. | Future work | |
| 13. | Election of officers | |
| 14. | Adoption of the report | |

II. ANNOTATIONS

1. Adoption of the agenda

The delegations will be invited to adopt the agenda.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/1

2. Matters of interest since the last session

(a) UNECE and subsidiary bodies

The secretariat will present those decisions taken during the biennial session of UNECE and the Committee on Trade having an impact on the work of the Specialized Section and the decisions taken at the sixty-second session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards concerning the work of the Specialized Section.

Documentation

UNECE, Committee on Trade: Report of its
First Session ECE/TRADE/C/2006/18
Working Party on Agricultural Quality
Standards: Report on its Sixty-Second Session ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/20

(b) Other organizations

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

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

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

Documentation

Concentrating Agricultural Quality Standards
Work in the UNECE: Draft Transition Plan ECE/TRADE/C/2006/18/Add.1

3. Proposals to revise UNECE Standards

(a) Early and Ware Potatoes

A Working Group on Early and Ware Potatoes was set up by the Specialized Section at its 2006 session and is composed of representatives from Belgium, France (rapporteur), Germany, Netherlands, the United States and Europatat. They will present the results of their discussions on the application and further development of the standard on potatoes adopted by the Working Party in 2006.

Documentation

Early and Ware Potatoes

INF.1 (The Standard, Informal document)
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/2

(b) Apricots

The Specialized Section will consider the German proposal to amend the UNECE Standard for Apricots.

Documentation

Apricots

ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/3

(c) Cucumbers

At the 2006 session of the OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables the need for changes to this standard had been raised in the light of the work on an explanatory brochure for the Cucumber Standard at the OECD.

Documentation

Cucumbers

ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/4

4. Review of UNECE Recommendations

The delegations will review the following recommendations, all on trial until 2007.

(a) Cherries

At its 2006 session, the Working Party adopted the recommendation to delete the paragraph “The cherries must be carefully picked”.

Documentation

Cherries

ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/5

(b) Peaches and Nectarines

The Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards returned the text for Peaches and Nectarines to the Specialized Section for further work and extended the trial period of the existing recommendation.

The Working Group set up by the Specialized Section and composed of representatives from France, Germany (rapporteur), Italy, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and the United States will present proposals concerning the revision of the standard.

Documentation

Peaches and Nectarines

TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/25/Add.4
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/5
INF.2 (Informal document)

(c) Table Grapes

At its 2006 session the Working Party adopted a section on minimum maturity requirements for the Table Grapes as a UNECE recommendation to be further discussed at the 2007 session of the Specialized Section. Subject to inputs from the OECD Scheme and Codex Alimentarius, other parts of the standard may also be revisited.

Documentation

Table Grapes

ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/4/Rev.1

(d) Ceps

The Specialized Section will decide if they would like to propose further changes in addition to those recommended at the 2006 session of the Specialized Section.

Documentation

Ceps

ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/7

(e) Apples

The Working Group of representatives from Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, South Africa, the United States, the European Community (rapporteur) and COPA/COGECA (Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations / General Confederation of Agricultural Co-operatives in the European Union) will report on the results of its work to develop a practical and easy-to-understand approach to uniformity. The Working Group was asked by the Specialized Section to take into consideration the fixed-sized charts from COPA/COGECA and the output of the September 2006 meeting of the Codex Alimentarius Committee on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables.

Documentation

Apples

TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/18/Add.2
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/6

(f) List of apple varieties

The Specialized Section decided to continue discussion on the list of varieties at its 2007 session. The secretariat will suggest how to present the list on the UNECE website.

Documentation

List of Varieties

INF.3 (Informal document)

5. Amendments to the general texts

(a) Conformity Certificate

The Specialized Section will consider the revised Conformity Certificate which has been aligned with the UN Layout Key and approved by the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards.

The secretariat will report on the results of the survey of national procedures and techniques for electronic signature and stamping.

Documentation

Conformity Certificate

ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/17

ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/7

(b) Standard Layout

The delegations will revisit this issue on the basis of the German proposal (TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/16) concerning the application of standards at different stages of marketing. The Specialized Section will also try to clarify how tolerances for different parameters should be applied, including with regard to maturity.

Documentation

Standard Layout

TRADE/WP.7/2002/9/Add.13

TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/16

ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/8

ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/9

(c) Revision of the terms of reference (Geneva Protocol)

The delegations will consider work to be done on the Geneva Protocol within the broader context of current discussions on the possible concentration of work on agricultural quality standards in the UNECE.

Documentation

Revision of the Geneva Protocol

TRADE/WP.7/2005/9/Add.1

6. Use of code marks

The Specialized Section will discuss this point on the basis of an issue note, prepared by Germany, Sweden and United Kingdom.

Documentation

Use of code marks

ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/10

ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/8

7. List of authorities

The secretariat will present the updated list of authorities (including contact persons) available on the UNECE website.

Documentation

List of authorities

INF.4 (Informal document)

8. Application of UNECE Standards

The Specialized Section will propose how to improve the presentation of information about the application of UNECE standards on its website. The Specialized Section will also consider a draft questionnaire drawn up by the secretariat following the decision of the Working Party to collect, every two years, information on the practical use of UNECE standards.

Documentation

Draft questionnaire

INF.5 (Informal document)

9. Capacity-building activities

The delegations and the secretariat will share information on capacity-building activities that are either planned or have already taken place.

10. Strengthening the work of the Section

The Specialized Section will consider how to strengthen its work based on the results of the survey of the work of the Working Party.

Documentation

Survey on the Specialized Section's Work

ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/19/Rev.1

11. Other business

Any other issues of interest for the work of the Specialized Section that participants may wish to discuss.

12. Future work

The Specialized Section will discuss proposals and priorities for future work. It will also agree on the provisional agenda for its next session, scheduled tentatively for 26 to 30 May 2008.

13. Election of officers

The Specialized Section will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. At its fifty-second 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.

III. TENTATIVE TIMETABLE

Monday, 21	10.00 - 13.00	Working groups (Early and Ware Potatoes, Table Grapes and Peaches and Nectarines)
	15.00 - 18.00	Working groups
Tuesday, 22	10.00 - 13.00	Items 1, 2, 3
	15.00 - 18.00	Items 3 (cont'd) and 4
Wednesday, 23	10.00 - 13.00	Items 4 (cont'd)
	15.00 - 18.00	Items 5, 6
Thursday, 24	10.00 - 13.00	Items 7 – 13
	15.00 - 18.00	Working group and expert meetings, including one on the OECD Explanatory Brochure for Kiwis
Friday, 25	10.00 - 13.00	Item 14
	15.00 - 18.00	Any Working Groups from Thursday that wish to continue

The current versions of the UNECE standards on fresh fruit and vegetables are available at:

http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/standard/fresh/fresh_e.htm

Written contributions should be sent to the secretariat by e-mail to:

agrstandards@unece.org

All documentation can be found on our home page at:

<http://www.unece.org/trade/agr>