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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 AGENDA<sup>1</sup>**

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

**I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

- |    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 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<br>ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/20 |

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<sup>1</sup> 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](mailto: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>

- (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)  
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/2  
INF.9 (E)  
INF.10 (E)
  - (b) Apricots ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/3
  - (c) Cucumbers ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/4  
INF.12 (E,F)  
INF.8 (E)
4. Review of UNECE Recommendations
- (a) Cherries ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/5  
INF.6 (E,F)
  - (b) Peaches and Nectarines TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/25/Add.4  
~~ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/5~~  
INF.2 (E,F)  
INF.11 (E)
  - (c) Table grapes ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/4/Rev.1  
INF.8 (E)
  - (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  
INF.15 (E,F)  
INF.14 (E)
  - (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/Rev.1  
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  
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/10  
INF.13 (E)  
INF.12 (E,F)

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|---|--|
| (c) Revision of the terms of reference<br>(Geneva Protocol) | TRADE/WP.7/2005/9/Add.1  |
| 6. Use of code marks  | ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/10<br>ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/8<br>TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2003/25 |
| 7. List of authorities                                      | INF.4 (E)  |
| 8. Application of UNECE Standards                           | INF.5 (E)  |
| 9. Capacity-building activities                             |  |
| 10. Strengthening the work of the Section                   | ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/19/Rev.1   |
| 11. Other business  | INF.7 (F)<br>INF.8 (E)<br>PowerPoint presentations                                       |
| 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 (2006 Standard)

INF.1

French proposals to modify the Standard

ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/2

Europatat position on the Standard

INF.9 (E)

Europatat Workshop on Quality Standards

INF.10 (E)

**(b) Apricots**

When the OECD started its work on an explanatory brochure on apricots in 2006, a need to amend the standard was raised. The Specialized Section will consider OECD proposals for amendments to the UNECE Standard for Apricots submitted by Germany.

Documentation

OECD proposals to amend the Standard

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.

Some of the proposals contained in INF.12 will also be addressed under item 5(b).

Documentation

Cucumbers (1989 Standard)	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/4
OECD proposals to modify the Standard	INF.12 (E,F)
Turkish suggestions	INF.8 (E)

#### 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 (2006 Recommendation)	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/5
French proposals to modify the Recommendation	INF.6 (E,F)

##### (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 (2004 Recommendation)	TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/25/Add.4 ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/5
German/Spanish/UK/US proposals to modify the Recommendation	INF.2 (E,F)
UK proposed amendments (accounted for in INF.2)	INF.11 (E)

##### (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 (2006 Recommendation)	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/4/Rev.1
Turkish suggestions	INF.8 (E)

##### (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 (2006 Recommendation)

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 (2003 Recommendation)

TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/18/Add.2

Italian proposals to modify the Standard

ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/6

EC on sizing

INF.15 (E,F)

COPA/COGECA size/maturity relationship

INF.14 (E)

**(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

**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.

UK will present the Procedure for the Electronic Application for Certificates from the Horticultural Marketing Inspectorate (PEACH system).

Documentation

Conformity Certificate (2006 version)

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

Electronic signature (France)

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.

Some of the proposals concerning the Cucumber Standard have more general implications. Therefore, the proposals related to "practically free from damage caused by pests" and to "(slight) skin defects" in Classes I and II, as mentioned in INF.12, will be discussed under this agenda item.

#### Documentation

Standard Layout (2003 version)	TRADE/WP.7/2002/9/Add.13/Rev.1
Point of application (Germany, 2005)	TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/16
UK proposals on tolerances and marking	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/8
US proposals to amend the Standard Layout	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/9
German proposals on code marks	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/10
"Produce carefully picked"	INF.13 (E)
OECD proposals to modify the Cucumber Standard	INF.12 (E,F)

#### **(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 (2004 version)	TRADE/WP.7/2005/9/Add.1
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#### **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.

South African system of registration and coding of producers/packhouses will be presented (<http://www.nda.agric.za/docs/plantquality/PUC%20DATABASE.htm>)

#### Documentation

Use of code marks	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/10
UK proposals on tolerances and marking	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/8
List of countries accepting/not accepting code marks	TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2003/25

#### **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 (E)
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## 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 (E)**

## 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 of the WP.7 work** ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/19/Rev.1

## 11. Other business

Following the recommendations by the Working Party's 2005 and 2006 annual sessions, the Specialized Section may wish to continue its discussions on the definition of "sales packages/packages".

The Specialized Section may also wish to consider the possibility and ways of publishing standards on the UNECE website in languages other than the three official ones.

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

### Documentation

French proposals for Chanterelle	INF.7 (F)
Turkish suggestions on sweet peppers, bananas and plums	INF.8 (E)
Report to WP.7 on activities of GE.1	PowerPoint presentation (E)
German presentation on packages	PowerPoint presentation (E)

## 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 (Peaches and Nectarines; Standard Layout)
	15.00 - 18.00	Working groups (Early and Ware Potatoes, including the OECD Working Group; Table Grapes)
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	OECD Working Group on Apples
Friday, 25	10.00 - 11.30	Item 14
	11.30 – 13.00	OECD Working Group on Kiwifruit
	15.00 - 18.00	OECD Working Group on Citrus Fruit

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

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

[agristandards@unece.org](mailto:agristandards@unece.org)

All documentation can be found on our home page at:

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