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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-second session  
Geneva, 16-19 May 2006

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA\***

The fifty-second annual session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables will be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from Tuesday, 16 to Friday, 19 May 2006.<sup>1</sup> Working groups will have the possibility to meet on Monday, 15 May. The secretariat will provide additional information for the meetings of the working groups closer to that date. The annotated provisional agenda and tentative timetable of the meeting are presented below.

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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 UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Villa Les Feuillantines, 13, Avenue de la Paix 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/ge.01/a2006\\_52.htm](http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/meetings/ge.01/a2006_52.htm). Information for visitors is available at: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>.

\* The present document has been submitted after the official documentation deadline by the Trade and Timber Division due to resource constraints.

**I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1.	Adoption of the agenda	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2006/1
2.	Matters of interest since the last session	
	(a) UNECE and subsidiary bodies	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2006/2 ECE/TRADE/C/2006/3 ECE/TRADE/C/2006/10
	(b) Other organizations	
	(c) Concentration of Agricultural Quality Standards work in the UNECE	ECE/TRADE/C/NONE/2006/1
3.	Proposals to revise UNECE Standards	
	(a) Early and Ware Potatoes	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2006/3 TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/7 TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/11
	(b) Melons (Commercial type)	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2006/4 TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/18/Add.1
4.	Review of UNECE Recommendations	
	(a) Bilberries and Blueberries (trial until 2006)	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2006/5 TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/25/Add.5
	(b) Cherries (trial until 2007)	TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/18/Add.3
	(c) Peaches and Nectarines (trial until 2006)	TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/25/Add.4
	(d) Potatoes (trial until 2006)	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2006/6 TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/7
	(e) Table grapes (trial until 2007)	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2006/7 TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/18/Add.1
	(f) Truffles (trial until 2006)	TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/25/Add.8
	(g) Ceps (trial until 2007)	TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/14 TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/18/Add.4
	(h) Apples (trial until 2007)	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2006/8 TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/18/Add.2
	(i) List of apple varieties	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2006/9
5.	Amendments to the general texts	
	(a) Control Certificate	TRADE/WP.7/2005/9/Add.2
	(b) Standard Layout	
	(c) Revision of the terms of reference	TRADE/WP.7/2005/9/Add.1
6.	Use of code marks	
7.	List of authorities for exchange of information on non-conformity cases	
8.	Application of UNECE Standards	
9.	Capacity-building activities	
10.	WHO strategy on diet, physical activity and health	
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 adopt the agenda.

<u>Documentation</u>	Provisional agenda and annotations ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2006/1
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### 2. Matters of interest since the last session

#### (a) UNECE and subsidiary bodies

The secretariat will provide information on the UNECE Reform and on how the newly formed Committee on Trade envisages implementing it. The secretariat will also present a summary of the discussions and outcomes of the following meetings:

- Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards, 61st session, October 2005
- United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Commerce (UN/CEFACT)

#### (b) Other organizations

The delegations will be informed about the activities of:

- Codex Alimentarius Commission and Codex Committee on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
- European Union
- OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables

#### (c) Concentration of Agricultural Quality Standards work in the UNECE

Participants will discuss the concentration of these activities in the UNECE on the basis of a draft transition plan prepared by the secretariat (ECE/TRADE/C/NONE/2006/1). The implications of the transfer are outlined in paragraph 18 of document ECE/TRADE/C/2006/3.

#### Documentation

Matters of interest since the last session	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2006/2
Strengthening the UNECE Committee on Trade	ECE/TRADE/C/2006/3
Committee on Trade: Draft Terms of Reference	ECE/TRADE/C/2006/10
Report on the concentration of work on Agricultural Quality Standards	ECE/TRADE/C/NONE/2006/1

### 3. Proposals to revise UNECE Standards

The Specialized Section will discuss proposed changes to UNECE Standards on early and ware potatoes and melons. Proposed amendments to the standards will be submitted to the Working Party for approval. The secretariat will then prepare a new version of the standard.

**(a) Early and Ware Potatoes**

At the last meeting of the Specialized Section, the delegation of France proposed a number of amendments to the standard relating to the minimum requirements and to the introduction of quality classes based on the definitions in the French national standard. The Specialized Section decided to create a Working Group to discuss the proposed amendments and invited all delegations to provide the delegation of France with their national standards and to contribute to the work of the group. The Specialised Section decided to first discuss the status of the recommendation and then the proposal to amend the standard.

Documentation            Early and Ware Potatoes  
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2006/3  
TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/7 (Text of the recommendation in trial period)  
TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/11 (France)

**(b) Melons (Commercial type)**

At its previous session, the Specialized Section decided to review the guide on commercial types of melons prepared by France, and to decide if a list of commercial types harmonized with the guide should be included in the standard. The Specialized Section also intended to decide if “Galia” has to comply with the “Charentais” maturity requirements.

Documentation            Melons (Commercial type)  
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2006/4  
TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/18/Add.1

**4. Review of UNECE Recommendations**

The Specialized Section will discuss the proposals made at its previous session and new proposals from countries to review UNECE Recommendations referred to below. Proposed amendments to the recommendations will be submitted to the Working Party for approval. The secretariat will then prepare new versions of the recommendations.

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

The Working Party extended the trial period for this recommendation until November 2006 as proposed by the Specialized Section at its fifty-first session. The Specialized Section was of the opinion that additional research was needed to ensure the correct use of the names “Bilberries” and “Blueberries” in different languages. The delegation of France will report on the results of the enquiry on the use of these names in different countries.

Documentation            Bilberries and Blueberries  
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2006/5  
TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/25/Add.5

**(b) Cherries (trial until 2007)**

At its previous session, the Specialized Section proposed that the UNECE Standard for Cherries (FFV-13) be amended to allow the standard to be used for both, cherries with and without the

stem attached. Delegations are asked to report on the progress made in testing this proposal. The delegation of France asked for a further extension of the trial period at the Working Party until 2007 (originally it was a one-year trial period until 2006). France was still conducting a testing procedure that would be finishing by end of May-June 2006.

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

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

The Specialized Section may wish to discuss new proposals regarding the standard, if any.

Documentation Peaches and Nectarines  
TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/25/Add.4

**(d) Potatoes (trial until 2006)**

The trial was extended to give the trade more time to consider the proposal to have one standard for early and ware potatoes. The organization EUROPATAT had some concerns about merging the two standards. The Specialized Section will discuss and decide on whether there should be one standard to cover both types of potatoes, now that delegations have had more time to consult with their national organisations.

Documentation Potatoes  
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2006/6  
TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/7 (Text of the recommendation in trial period)

**(e) Table grapes (trial until 2007)**

At its previous session the Specialized Section proposed to the Working Party to amend the text of the Recommendation, specifically the sections on minimum quality and minimum maturity requirements. The delegations may wish to put forward and discuss other proposals on the Recommendation.

Documentation Table grapes  
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2006/7  
TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/18/Add.1

**(f) Truffles (trial until 2006)**

The Specialized Section may wish to discuss how the trial is progressing and new proposals regarding the standard, if any.

Documentation UNECE Recommendation for Fresh Truffles  
TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/25/Add.8

**(g) Ceps (trial until 2007)**

The Specialized Section may wish to discuss how the trial is progressing and new proposals regarding the standard, if any.

Documentation            Ceps (trial until 2007)  
TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/14  
TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/18/Add.4

**(h) Apples (trial until 2007)**

The Specialized Section has been asked by the Working Party to re-consider if it is necessary to allow measuring uniformity by weight in addition to measuring uniformity by diameter. Views on the recommended values for maturity that are on trial will also be discussed. It was stressed at the last meeting the importance of testing these requirements and to continue studies on quality parameters for apples.

Documentation            Apples (trial until 2007)  
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2006/8  
TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2005/18/Add.2

**(i) List of apple varieties**

At the last session delegates were invited to report on their experiences with the template for requesting inclusion of apple varieties. The Secretariat will report on this survey. The Specialized Section was of the view that not only new varieties proposed for inclusion should be considered but also that the existing list for apples was too long. It was mentioned that the fact that a variety was not included in the list did not prevent it from being traded. The delegation of the United Kingdom offered to coordinate efforts to simplify the variety list for apples.

Documentation            List of Varieties  
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2006/9

**5. Amendments to the general texts**

**(a) Control Certificate**

At its last session, the Working Party discussed the proposal from the working group on how to align the present UNECE control certificate with the requirements of the UN layout key, and how to ensure compliance with the UNTDED (United Nations Trade Element Directories). The working group will report on what it has achieved so far.

Documentation            Alignment of the control certificate with the UN layout key  
TRADE/WP.7/2005/9/Add.2

**(b) Standard Layout**

At the last session of the Specialized Section, the delegation of Germany presented a proposal, based on European Community regulations, for a new wording in the standard layout to acknowledge that UNECE Standards are applied in all stages of marketing. The participants will

be invited to discuss the proposal and decide if it should be reflected in the standard layout or be dealt with in the Geneva Protocol.

Documentation            Standard Layout  
                                 ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/NONE

**(c) Revision of the terms of reference**

The secretariat will report on the work on revising the terms of reference for the Working Party and the Specialized Sections (Geneva Protocol).

Documentation            Terms of Reference  
                                 TRADE/WP.7/2005/9/Add.1

**6. Use of code marks**

The delegations will discuss and decide on how to advance the work on harmonizing code marks across countries. At its last session, the Specialized Section decided that this proposal should be discussed at the Working Party.

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

The secretariat will report on the work done to draw up a list.

**8. Application of UNECE Standards**

At its previous session the Specialized Section decided to simplify the content and the format of the application of UNECE Standards list. The secretariat will present a new layout of the list for comments and suggestions.

**9. Capacity-building activities**

The secretariat will provide information on capacity-building activities planned for 2006.

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

The secretariat will report on the plans to prepare in coordination with WHO, Codex and OECD, promotional material (posters) based on the postcards that were created in the past.

**11. Other business**

Participants may wish to discuss any other issues of interest for the work of the Specialized Section. The secretariat will make a presentation on how to use the list server technology and how to track changes in documents.

**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 21-25 May 2007.

**13. Election of officers**

The Specialized Section will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. At its fifty-first session the group elected Mr. David Holliday (United Kingdom) as Chairperson and Ms. Ulrike Bickelmann (Germany) as Vice-Chairperson.

**14. Adoption of the report**

The Specialized Section will adopt its major decisions before it adjourns. The final report of the session will be produced by the secretariat, after the annual session, according to the Committee's procedures as found in TRADE/2005/19.

**III. TENTATIVE TIMETABLE**

Monday, 15	10.00 - 13.00	Working groups
	15.00 - 18.00	Working groups
Tuesday, 16	10.00 - 13.00	Items 1, 2, 3
	15.00 - 18.00	Items 3 (cont'd) and 4
Wednesday, 17	10.00 - 13.00	Items 4 (cont'd)
	15.00 - 18.00	Items 5, 6
Thursday, 18	10.00 - 13.00	Items 7 – 13
	15.00 - 18.00	Working groups as necessary
Friday, 19	10.00 - 13.00	Item 14
	15.00 - 18.00	No session

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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)

Contributions should be sent to the secretariat by e-mail to:

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

or on diskette/CD-ROM by post to:

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All documentation can be found on our home page at:

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