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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON TRADE

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce

Fifty-fourth session

Geneva, 25-29 June 2007

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION *

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
Starting at 10 a.m. on 25 June 2007

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Matters of interest since the last session
 - (a) United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and subsidiary bodies
 - (b) Other organizations

* Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations should complete the registration form, downloadable from <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 1265). Documents for the meeting are available on the website at <www.unece.org/trade/agr/meetings/2007.htm>. Additional information for visitors is available at <www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>

- (c) Concentration of agricultural quality standards work in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- 3. Revision of the Standard Layout for UNECE Standards on Dry and Dried Produce
- 4. Review of UNECE Recommendations
 - (a) Inshell Almonds (trial until November 2007)
 - (b) Pistachio Kernels and Peeled Pistachio Kernels (trial until November 2007)
 - (c) Dried Tomatoes (trial until November 2007)
 - (d) Inshell Hazelnuts (trial until November 2007)
- 5. Proposals to revise UNECE Standards
 - (a) Hazelnut Kernels
 - (b) Inshell Walnuts
 - (c) Dates, Whole
- 6. Draft new UNECE Standards
 - (a) Blanched Almonds Kernels
 - (b) Dried Peaches
 - (c) Inshell Macadamia Nuts and Macadamia Kernels
 - (d) Inshell Pecans and Pecan Kernels
 - (e) Inshell Peanuts and Peanut Kernels
- 7. Work by the OECD Scheme on sampling plan
- 8. List of authorities
- 9. Application of UNECE Standards
- 10. Strengthening the work of the Section
- 11. Capacity-building activities
- 12. Other business

13. Future work
14. Election of officers
15. Adoption of the report

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1. Adoption of the Agenda

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2007/1 - Annotated provisional agenda

1. The proposed provisional agenda and timetable will be presented for approval by the Specialized Section.

Item 2. Matters of interest since the last session

(a) United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and subsidiary bodies

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/2006/18 - Report of the first session of the Committee on Trade
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/20 - Report of the sixty-second session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

2. The secretariat will present those decisions taken during the biennial session of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Committee on Trade which have 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 that concern the work of the Specialized Section.

(b) Other organizations

3. 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 United Nations Economic Commission For Europe

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

4. UNECE and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) will report on the progress made in discussions on the concentration of the OECD and UNECE activities in agricultural quality standards within UNECE.

Item 3. Revision of the UNECE Standard layout for Dry and Dried Produce

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/10/Add.1 - Standard Layout for UNECE Standards on Dry and Dried Produce

5. In 2006, the Specialized Section revised the Standard Layout and agreed to the proposal to test it on a number of new standards and recommendations under trial. The Standard Layout may be revised following the outcome of these tests. The Specialized Section will discuss proposed changes to the Standard Layout for UNECE Standards on Dry and Dried Produce and will decide whether to recommend them to the Working Party for approval.

Item 4. Review of the UNECE Recommendations

6. At its last session, the Specialized Section decided to transmit the amended texts to the Working Party and to propose the extension of the trial period for one more year, until November 2007. The Specialized Section will review the results of the trial period and will decide whether to recommend the standards for adoption by the Working Party.

(a) Inshell Almonds

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/10/Add.3 - Revised UNECE Recommendation for Inshell Almonds

7. At the last session of the Specialized Section, delegations aligned the revised Recommendation for Inshell Almonds to the new Standard Layout. The trial period was extended to allow the industry to test the new amendments in the table of tolerances.

(b) Pistachio Kernels and Peeled Pistachio Kernels

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2007/2 - Revised UNECE Recommendation for Pistachio Kernels and Peeled Pistachio Kernels

8. The Working Group composed of Italy, Turkey (Rapporteur) and the United States of America will present this recommendation aligned to the new Standard Layout.

(c) Dried Tomatoes

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2007/3 - Revised UNECE Recommendation for Dried Tomatoes

9. At the fifty-third session of the Specialized Section, delegations requested the Working Group composed of Italy and the United States of America (Rapporteur) to present this recommendation aligned to the new Standard Layout.

(d) Inshell Hazelnuts

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/10/Add.4 - Revised UNECE Standard For Inshell Hazelnuts

10. At its last session, the Specialized Section reviewed the revised Standard on Inshell Hazelnuts, presented in the new Standard Layout. The trial period was extended to allow the industry to test the new amendments in the table of tolerances.

Item 5. Proposals to revise UNECE Standards

11. The Specialized Section will discuss the proposals made at its previous session as well as new proposals from countries to review the UNECE Standards referred to below. Proposed amendments to the Standards will be submitted to the Working Party for approval.

(a) Hazelnut Kernels

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2007/4 - Revised UNECE Standard for Hazelnut Kernels

12. At the fifty-third session of the Specialized Section, the delegation of Turkey proposed to align the text of the Hazelnut Kernel standard with the new Standard Layout to facilitate the development of the OECD brochure.

(b) Inshell Walnuts

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2007/5 - Revised UNECE Standard for Inshell Walnuts

13. At the fifty-third session of the Specialized Section, the delegations have discussed proposals to amend the Standard. The text was presented in the new format aligned with the revised Standard Layout. The working group composed of France, Germany (Rapporteur), Italy and the United States of America will report on the amended text. The United States of America will present a revised colour chart for discussion and approval.

(c) Dates, Whole

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2006/10/Add.2 - Revised UNECE Standard for Dates

14. At the fifty-third session of the Specialized Section, the delegations discussed in an informal meeting proposals to amend the UNECE Standard for Whole Dates (DDP-08). At its fifty-fourth session, the Section will discuss a proposal presented by the delegation of Tunisia.

Item 6. Draft New UNECE Standards

15. The Specialized Section will discuss the following proposals, which may be submitted to the Working Party for approval as recommendations for new UNECE standards.

(a) Blanched Almonds Kernels

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2007/6 - Draft new UNECE Standard for Blanched Almonds Kernels

16. The Rapporteur of the Working Group (Spain) will report on the comments received from delegations and industry experts, and will present the text of the Standard aligned to the new Standard Layout.

(b) Dried Peaches

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2007/7 - Draft new UNECE Standard for Dried Peaches

17. The Rapporteur of the Working Group (United States of America) will report on the comments that had been received from delegations and industry experts and will present the text of the Standard aligned to the new Standard Layout.

(c) Inshell Macadamia Nuts and Macadamia Kernels

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2007/8 - Draft new UNECE Standard for Inshell Macadamia Nuts
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2007/9 - Draft new UNECE Standard for Macadamia Kernels

18. The Rapporteur of the Working Group (United States of America) will report on the comments received from delegations and industry experts, and will present the text of the Standard aligned to the new Standard Layout. At the last session, the section noted that a very limited number of countries are trading in inshell macadamia nuts. The Section will decide whether the Standard should be limited to Macadamia Kernels only.

(d) Inshell Pecans and Pecan Kernels

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2007/10 - Draft new UNECE Standard for Inshell Pecans
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2007/11 - Draft new UNECE Standard for Pecan Kernels

19. The Rapporteur of the Working Group (United States of America) will report on the comments that had been received from delegations and industry experts and will present the text of the Standard aligned to the new Standard Layout. At the last session, the Section noted that

the traded volumes with Inshell Pecans are relatively low. The Section will decide whether the Standard should be limited to Pecan Kernels only.

(e) Inshell Peanuts and Peanut Kernels

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2007/12 - Draft new UNECE Standard for Inshell Peanuts
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2007/13 - Draft new UNECE Standard for Peanut Kernels

20. The Rapporteur of the Working Group (United States of America) will report on the comments that had been received from delegations and industry experts and will present the text of both Standards aligned to the new Standard Layout.

Item 7. Work by the OECD Scheme on sampling plan

21. The OECD Scheme will inform the Specialized Section on progress made on this issue.

Item 8. List of authorities

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

Item 9. Application of UNECE Standards

23. 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.

Item 10. Strengthening the work of the Section

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/19/Rev.1 - Survey on the Specialized Section's Work

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

Item 11. Capacity-building activities

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

Item 12. Other business

26. The session will address any other issues of interest for the work of the Specialized Section that participants may wish to discuss.

Item 13. Future work

27. The Specialized Section will discuss proposals and priorities for future work. It will also agree on the provisional agenda for its next session, tentatively scheduled to be held from 23 to 27 June 2008.

Item 14. Election of officers

28. The Specialized Section will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. At its fifty-third session the group elected Mr. Csaba Garpar (Hungary) as Chair and Mr Ilhami Köksal (Turkey) as Vice-Chair.

Item 15. Adoption of the Report

29. The Specialized Section will adopt its major decisions. The final report of the session will be produced by the secretariat after the annual session.

III. TENTATIVE TIMETABLE

Monday, 25 June 2007	10.00 – 13.00	Working groups: Standard Layout
	15.00 – 18.00	Working groups
Tuesday, 26 June 2007	10.00 – 13.00	Items 1 – 3
	15.00 – 18.00	Items 3 (continued) and 4
Wednesday, 27 June 2007	10.00 – 13.00	Items 4 (continued) and 5
	15.00 – 18.00	Items 5 (continued) and 6
Thursday, 28 June 2007	10.00 – 13.00	Items 7 – 14
	15.00 – 18.00	Working groups, as necessary
Friday, 29 June 2007	10.00 – 13.00	Item 15

The current versions of the UNECE standards on dry and dried produce are available at: www.unece.org/trade/agr/standard/dry/dry_e.htm

Written contributions should be sent to the secretariat by e-mail to: agristandards@unece.org

All documentation can be found on our home page at: www.unece.org/trade/agr

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