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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-sixth session
Geneva, 22-26 June 2009
Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda

MATTERS OF INTEREST SINCE THE LAST SESSION

(B) OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Activities of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme since the last session of the UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce.

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Member Countries:

- The number of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme's Member Countries has increased to 25, as Kenya and Serbia joined the Scheme in 2008.

Peer Reviews:

- The Peer Review of Fruit and Vegetables Quality Inspection System in Hungary has been published in 2008. The OECD Peer Review on the Slovak Quality Inspection System was undertaken in 2008 and published in April 2009. The next Peer Review on the Moroccan Fruit and Vegetables Quality Inspection System will be undertaken in 2009.

Explanatory Brochures:

- The OECD Scheme published the explanatory brochures on kiwifruit and cucumbers in 2008. The explanatory brochure on inshell hazelnuts was adopted and the electronic brochure will be published by 1 July 2009. It will be available on the OECD Scheme's website: www.oecd.org/tad/fv . The hard copy of the brochure will be published together with the explanatory brochure on hazelnut kernel. The explanatory brochures on potatoes, pears were also adopted and will be published in mid-2009. The electronic version of the brochure on citrus fruits will be published in the second half of 2009. Good progress has been made on the brochures on apples apricots and peaches and nectarines in 2008. The final adoption of these brochures is expected at the 2009 Plenary Meeting.

Distance Learning Tools:

- The Scheme has initialized the work on distance learning tools. The OECD Secretariat examines the possibility to develop a common project on this issue with the FAO.

OECD Meeting of the Heads of National Inspection Services:

- The OECD Meeting of the Heads of National Inspection Services was held in Finland on 2 - 4 June 2009.

Training Programmes:

- The OECD sponsored 2008 International Training Course (ITC) took place in Slovakia in mid-September 2008. The next ITC will take place in Mojmirovce, Slovakia on 30 June -2 July 2009.
- An OECD-Slovakia-USA sponsored Workshop on Fruit and Vegetables Quality and Safety took place in Albania on 11 – 15 May 2009.

Economic Market Analysis:

- At the 67th Plenary Meeting of the Scheme, CLAM gave an economic evaluation of the market situation for citrus fruits. The presentation gave an overview of the four main product and forecast of trade for the 2008-2009 season.
- At the 2009 Plenary meeting, the Scheme's Member Countries will be informed on the economic evaluation of the market situation for apples.

Other Projects:

- The work on the Guidelines on Inspection and Inspector's training as well as the work on Sampling were continued in 2008. A Workshop on Sampling is expected at the 2009 Plenary Meeting.