

10 May 2011

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Trade

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce

Fifty- eighth session

Geneva, 27-30 June 2011

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

Other Business

Other Business

Proposal by the United States of America on scheduling GE.1 and GE.2 meetings

The United States of America submits the following proposal for discussion by the Fifty-ninth Session of the UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables; the Fifty-eight Session of the UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce and the Sixty-seventh Session of UNECE Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards.

Over the past three years the UNECE Specialized Sections on Standardization of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (GE.1) and the UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce (GE.2) demonstrated efficiency in developing/revising standards through effective time management during their plenary sessions. Most commendable, is the work of both Specialized Sections in 2010.

In view of the performance of both fore mentioned UNECE Specialized Sections which led to their reduced workloads and member countries reduced availability of resources due to the current global economic conditions; the United States proposes the following changes to the holding meetings of both Specialized Sections:

Proposal:

Host both Specialized Sections meetings in the same week:

GE.1 – Monday and Tuesday

GE.2- Wednesday and Thursday

Fridays- Reports from both Specialized Sections

Working Group meetings- from 09:00hrs to 10:00hrs, 14:00 to 15:00hrs and 18:00 to 19:00hrs

Retain options of either or both Specialized Sections meeting during the week of WP.7 meeting; and to return to the current meeting format if and when the needed.

The United States of America believes that this new meeting format allows greater UNECE member country and industry participation in both Specialized Sections meetings, reduce cost of participation in the UNECE standard setting process to member country (countries will no longer have to sacrifice participation in one meeting to attend the other- usually the same experts attend both meetings), and reduce UNECE cost for interpretation and other meeting related services. Additionally, the benefits of efficiency realized by the UNECE secretariat are shared with member states.
