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COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of
Seed Potatoes

26 to 28 March 2003, Geneva

REPORT ON ITS THIRTY-THIRD SESSION

Executive summary:

The Specialized Section clarified that the international classes were introduced in the standard to encourage international harmonization but that until further notice the existing system of categories and national classes could be used within the standard.

The new introduction to the standard proposed by the extended bureau was agreed.

A list of pests to be checked on nuclear (initial) stock was agreed.

Field tolerances to be satisfied by the crop in respect to viruses and varietal purity were agreed.

It was agreed to include an assessment key for percentage tuber surface area coverage of blemish diseases based on the existing annex VIII and new material from France.

It was agreed to include a new annex X containing a summary table of tolerances.

It was agreed to include provisions concerning the variety in the standard.

Some reservations were withdrawn.

Delegations reported on the status of use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in their countries.

It was decided to work on an inventory of test methods, together with the list of pests and diseases (see addendum 1 to this report TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2003/10/Add.1).

The corrected draft publication on national certification schemes was discussed. It will be sent around to all countries who had received the original questionnaire for corrections and additions with a strict deadline of 31 August 2003 for any comments. After that date the secretariat will publish the text.

Concerns of seed buyers and possible solutions within the scheme were discussed.

The majority of the Specialized Section felt that discussions on early and ware potatoes were more appropriately situated within the Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables because the topics discussed had little to do with the discussions on seed potatoes.

Opening of the session

1. The session was held in Geneva from 26 to 28 March 2003 and was chaired by Mr. Pier Giacomo Bianchi (Italy).
2. The session was opened by the Chief of the Trade Policy and Governmental Cooperation Branch, Ms. Virginia Cram-Martos, who welcomed delegations to Geneva for their 33rd session. She gave a special welcome to the delegation of Kenya who was participating for the first time.
3. She said that this was the second UNECE meeting on potatoes that week. On Monday and Tuesday the Specialized Section on Standardization of Early and Ware Potatoes GE.5 had met, and one of their decisions might have an impact on the work on Seed Potatoes.
4. GE.5 had decided that in the future they want to hold their discussions in the framework of another Specialized Section to save administrative effort, and possibly travel money for delegations, and to be able to discuss topics on early potatoes yearly, without having to meet as a separate meeting.
5. Two options had been discussed: to join GE.6 or to join the Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (GE.1). The experts left it up to the Working Party to take this decision after consulting with GE.1 and GE.6 and other participants in UNECE meetings on agricultural quality standards.
6. The following items had been mentioned in GE.5 as advantages for joining GE.6:
 - Diseases discussed in the group on Seed Potatoes are the same as those mentioned in the standards for early and ware potatoes.
 - The quality of seed potatoes determines the quality of early and ware potatoes.
 - Some important delegations from potato-producing countries only participate in the group on seed potatoes.
7. The following items had been mentioned in GE.5 as advantages for joining GE.1:
 - The layout of the UNECE Standards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables is the same as the layout of the standards for Early and Ware Potatoes.
 - All delegates participating in the group on Early and Ware Potatoes also participate in the group on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables. Thus joining the group on Early and Ware Potatoes to the group on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables would save travel expenses for delegations.
 - The number of countries participating in GE.1 is higher than in GE.6.
8. Ms. Cram-Martos said that it was very important to the Working Party to know the opinion of the experts on seed potatoes on this matter.

9. Ms. Cram-Martos congratulated the extended bureau meeting, which had met no less than four times, on the excellent work in preparing this session. She thanked the delegations of France and Canada for hosting two of these meetings in their countries.

10. She informed that countries at the UNECE annual session earlier in 2003 had requested all subsidiary bodies of UNECE to review their structure in order to make their work more efficient and effective to free up resources for the assistance to the implementation of standards.

11. Ms. Cram-Martos asked the group to pay special attention to this matter. She said that the present efforts to promote the standard and facilitate its application were appreciated but it might also be interesting to develop a prototype for a training course which could be offered to countries wanting to develop their seed potato production. Such a course could also contribute to the integration of countries that are not included in the current EU enlargement process.

12. The delegation of Switzerland asked if this exercise might also give additional resources to the secretariat to attend meetings of the extended bureau if they are held outside Geneva.

13. Ms. Cram-Martos said that the UNECE travel budget was very small and a substantial part of it was already used by the secretary of the group to attend the necessary formal intergovernmental meeting. Any other travel would continue to have to be financed through external funds.

14. The Chairman said that this was regrettable and that he had also mentioned the fact to the Working Party.

Participation

15. The session was attended by delegations from the following countries: Belgium, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America.

16. The European Community was also represented at the meeting.

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

Document for this session: TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2003/1

17. The provisional agenda was adopted.

Item 2: Matters of interest arising since the thirty-second session

Document for this session: TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2003/2

18. The meeting noted document TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2003/2 summing up the relevant outcome of the sixth session of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development and the fifty-eighth session of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development.

European Community

19. The delegation of the European Community informed the meeting that the European legislation for the marketing of seed potatoes was now available in a codified form (DIR 2002/56/EC), including the original text of DIR 66/403/EC and its 34 amendments. He also said that work was being done on variety registration of seed potatoes in the European Union, systems of micropropagation and true seed. He also said that the Commission worked on achieving even closer harmonization with the UNECE standard. He clarified that the import of seed potatoes into the European Union was not allowed with the exception of

Switzerland and some clearly defined derogations. The import of ware potatoes was allowed if they conformed to the directive on quarantine requirements (DIR 2000/29/EC). All legislation is available on the EU website at www.europa.eu.int (go to the Commission, then to the Food safety Directorate General)

20. The delegation of Kenya said that for Kenya as a trading partner of the European Union it was sometimes difficult if harmonization within the EU was not complete.

EPPO

21. The delegations of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom reported that EPPO worked on a new comprehensive commodity standard for potatoes taking into account phyto-sanitary aspects of potato production.

NAPPO

22. The delegation of the United States informed that NAPPO had updated their standards and submitted them to their members for comment.

23. The chairman said that it might be interesting if the extended bureau would examine the interaction between the EPPO and NAPPO texts and and the UNECE scheme.

Item 3: Information on the results of the meetings of the bureau

Document for this session: TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2003/2

24. The chairman summed up the main tasks undertaken by the different bureau meetings:

Hanvec/ France:	Preparing a list of pests and diseases.
Montebello/ Canada:	Review of proposals that will be discussed at this meeting.
Geneva - 2002:	Finalizing proposals.
Geneva - 2003:	Work on the publication on national certification schemes.

25. The group noted document TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2003/2 containing a summary of the extended bureau meeting held in Canada (30 September to 4 October 2002).

Item 4: Review of the UNECE Standard for Seed Potatoes

Document for this session: TRADE/WP.7/2002/9/Add.16 (Text of the standard in force)

26. Following a question from the chairman, delegations maintained existing reservations in the standard. It was agreed that after the meeting the secretariat would write to delegations not present at this session and who had entered reservations to ask if these reservations could be withdrawn.

27. The delegation of France asked if the introduction of international classes in the standard meant that if producer countries marked, as at present, the category and the national class on the label, they would no longer be in conformity with the UNECE Standard.

28. It was clarified after some discussion that the international classes had been introduced to encourage international harmonization so as to reach more clarity and transparency for the buyer, in the hope that the market would develop towards these new international classes. It was also clarified that, in the interim, buyers and sellers could continue the existing system of categories and national classes and still be in compliance with the UNECE Standard.

29. It was decided to clarify this in the text of the standard by renaming the title of section C. to read "Derogations from classification under B".

(a) Proposal for a new introduction to the UNECE Standard for Seed Potatoes

Document for this session : TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2003/3 (Secretariat)

30. The secretariat presented the new introduction, which had been developed during several bureau meetings, and had also been discussed at the last meeting of the Specialized Section.

31. He recalled that the objective of this text was to explain the goals and purpose of the standard, what it means to apply it, as well as its relationship to texts of other organizations.

32. Following a question from the United States it was clarified that section 4 requested countries to follow the procedure indicated there if they wished to apply stricter rules for items covered by the standard but that they had no such obligations concerning items not covered by it. Naturally they would have to follow the provisions of other standards or legislation covering such items.

33. It was agreed to submit the texts concerning EPPO and NAPPO to these organizations to get their comments.

34. The delegation of France suggested including a paragraph on the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and also to establish a closer cooperation with them in order to promote the application of the UNECE scheme.

35. The group felt that this was not urgent enough to delay adoption of the new introduction but encouraged France to prepare a document for the next session.

36. The group approved the text for inclusion in the standard. The deletion of section 2. E. was also approved as it was now covered by section 4 of the introduction. The inclusion of a table of contents in the standard was also agreed.

(b) Annex I: List of pests to be checked on Nuclear (Initial) Stock

Document for this session : TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2003/4

37. The proposal from the United Kingdom had been prepared to be clearer with respect to the pests to be checked and to change the terminology from “nuclear stock” to “initial stock”.

38. The text was adopted with a clarification that only those pests on the list actually present in a country would have to be tested for.

(c) Annex II: Minimum conditions to be satisfied by the crop with respect to viruses and varietal purity

Document for this session : TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2003/5

39. The proposal contained in 2003/5 was originally submitted by Portugal and amended at the bureau meeting in Canada. It proposes field tolerances of one fifth of the tolerances allowed in the direct progeny.

40. The chairman informed that the delegation of Sweden - not present at this session - had approved this proposal in writing.

41. Many delegations felt that the tolerance of 0.02 % for virus diseases in crop for production of pre-basic class seed was too strict as was also visible from the many reservations concerning the 0.1 % tolerance for virus diseases in the direct progeny of pre-basic class.

42. The delegation of the United Kingdom felt that this strictness was justified because pre-basic class was the starting material for producers of basic seed. It was also clarified that the 0.02 % was the value allowed at the final decision after roguing.

43. After some discussion it was decided to amend the standard allowing 0.5 % tolerance for virus diseases in the direct progeny of pre-basic class and consequently the field tolerance from 0.02 % to 0.1 %.

44. The reservation (footnote 5) from Belgium, France and Portugal concerning this value was deleted from the standard. The reservation from Poland (footnote 6) was also withdrawn. The delegation of the United Kingdom entered a reservation in annex II 3. concerning crop for production of basic seed II because they are at present not applying such a strict tolerance.

45. The document also proposed to simplify the provisions for minimum conditions for varietal purity. These were agreed without amendments.

d) Annex VIII: Assessment Key for percentage tuber surface area coverage of blemish diseases (e.g., Common scab, black scurf and powdery scab)

Document for this session : TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2003/6

46. The Specialized Section welcomed the new presentation from France for this annex showing one series of reference tubers for the different percentage covers contained in the standard. Delegations said that the images illustrated very well the appearance and distribution of black scurf. They felt though that it would be necessary to have in addition a series of pictures for diseases such as common or powdery scab contrary as the appearance of scabs was different in size and grouping from black scurf.

47. It was decided:

- to include the illustrations in 2002/6 in annex VIII as a presentation of symptoms of diseases such as black scurf.
- to try to develop a similar series of images showing the development of diseases such as common or powdery scab,
- to discuss this new series in the bureau and then send by email to all delegations for approval,
- to include this new series in the annex as an example for common/powdery scab if it is finalized before the deadline for documents for the Working Party. If it cannot be finalized on time the existing image for common scab will be maintained and renamed to read "diseases such as common/ powdery scab".

(e) New Annex X: Summary Table of Tolerances

Document for this session: INF.2

48. The summary table of tolerances prepared by the Chairman was agreed for inclusion in the standard as annex X with the inclusion of the modifications decided at this session concerning field tolerance.

(f) Development of the concept of variety in the Standard

Document for this session : TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2003/8

50. The delegation of Switzerland introduced its proposal, which aims at being clearer on some aspects concerning the variety which are considered important in other schemes (e.g. OECD).

51. In the proposal the role of the National Designated Authority responsible for implementing the standard in a given country in establishing a list of varieties accepted into the standard and requirements to the variety itself are clarified. It is also proposed to create and maintain a global list of varieties admitted to the standard based on contributions from countries and maintained by the secretariat.

52. The delegation of the United States welcomed the proposal but said that he would have to reserve his position on several aspects of it as at the moment his country would not be able to comply with the provisions e.g. no national list of varieties currently exists. He promised to present the text to his experts to discuss if it would be possible to withdraw the reservation eventually.

53. The delegation of the European Community also said that the proposed text on presence of novel traits in the variety was not in line with Community legislation and they would have to enter a reservation if that text was adopted.

54. The delegation of the Netherlands proposed to simplify the proposal by accepting all varieties into the standard which have been certified in a country. He also felt that maintaining a global list of varieties was a time-consuming task which would place a heavy workload on the secretariat.

55. The delegation of France asked how new varieties that had not yet been registered but that were sent internationally for trials, could be handled under the proposed provisions. It was clarified that the UNECE Standard would not deal with varieties that had not yet been registered. Those would have to be dealt with by the NDA.

56. The text was amended taking into account the comments made and with a reservation from the United States. The chairman said that he still felt that a global list of varieties was useful information for the users of the standard and that the bureau would continue to work on this subject.

57. The amended text was agreed for inclusion into the standard.

Item 5: Minimum conditions to be satisfied by the production and maintenance of Nuclear (Initial) Stock.

58. This item had already been dealt with under 4 (b).

Item 6: Destination tolerances

59. At a previous session it had been agreed to work on destination tolerances as one possibility of dealing with tuber rots.

60. The secretariat said that by working on this question the group was in line with the work concerning fruit and vegetables where all standards contain an obligation that the condition of the products has to be such as to arrive in satisfactory condition at its point of destination. He also said that the group on fresh fruit and vegetables was considering opening up the standards for checks at all stages of marketing and not only at export control point.

61. The working group (Netherlands, United Kingdom and the United States) agreed to prepare a proposal on this question.

Item 7: Recommended best handling practices

62. At the extended bureau meeting in Canada, the delegation of Canada had proposed to prepare a document on best handling practices in order to deal with tuber rots.

63. The delegation of France said that they had earlier proposed to work on a quality assurance system, which would include more than just handling.

64. The delegation of the United States was not convinced of the usefulness of including best handling practices in the standard. They also asked if other countries had such provisions and if it was possible to make use of those.

65. It was decided to refer the question back to Canada and invite them to prepare a discussion paper.

Item 8: Impact of GMOs on the Standard

Document for this session : TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2003/7

66. At the last session the delegation of Canada distributed an information paper on methods and approaches to enhance varietal integrity within seed potato certification systems. The paper was distributed before the session as an official document.

67. No further information or proposal was available from the the working group (Canada, the Russian Federation and the European Community), which had agreed to look at the following issues related to GMOs:

- identity of the variety
- the impact of GMOs on the standard
- the possibility to label the variety
- to check whether the present system is still valid to assess varietal identity and purity.

68. Each delegation present gave the status of GMO in their areas of responsibility:

European Union: Did not agree with the definition of “plants with novel traits” as an official EU definition was available in DIR 2001/18/EC. He also said that the marketing directive for seed potatoes contains a provision in article 15 that “any label or document – official or otherwise shall indicate that the variety has been genetically modified”. In the legislation concerning the common catalogue (DIR 2002/53/EC) the indication of genetic modification is compulsory. Concerning adventitious presence of GMO in conventional varieties and a threshold work is continuing in the Commission.

Belgium, France, Greece and Ireland, United Kingdom: Implement EU rules. No GMO varieties have been certified or are proposed.

Netherlands: Implements EU rules. Five years ago two GMO varieties were included in the national list but cannot currently be certified because of the current moratorium in the EU. The same company that registered these varieties works on new varieties for the production of modified starch.

Kenya: GMO varieties must be labelled. They are being tested but none have been certified and none are commercialised.

Turkey: Follows EU policies for GMO varieties.

Poland: No GMO varieties registered. Only research but not in the field.

Switzerland: GMO varieties are not allowed in the environment.

United States: A number of GMO varieties were certified in earlier years but no GMO varieties have been certified since two years. There is low acceptance from processors for GMO varieties.

Italy: Implements EU rules. Does not allow any presence.

Item 9: Superficial necrosis caused by virus

69. There was no proposal available on this matter and the Chairman asked if delegations were still interested in discussing the question. He said that at present superficial necrosis was not covered by the standard and lots could not be rejected.

70. Several delegations mentioned that they were very interested in the topic. At the moment these viruses are treated differently in countries according to their prevalence.

71. It was decided that the discussion paper on these viruses prepared by the Netherlands and the United Kingdom for the meeting of rapporteurs in Milan in 1999 should be updated with contributions from France for the next session.

Item 10: Standardization of test methods

72. The delegation of the Russian Federation had suggested at a previous session to work on the standardization of methods for detection of viruses and pests.

73. Several delegations feared that the standard would become too prescriptive if test methods were included. Methods were developing rapidly and any text might be quickly out of date. They also questioned if the group was the competent forum to deal with these questions. They were not in favour of standardization of test methods.

74. Others felt that it was necessary to have reference test methods and that somebody would have to start working on them in order to ensure harmonization and comparability of results.

75. It was decided to work on an inventory of existing methods used in certification programmes, as was already included in the pest list proposed by France in item 11.

Item 11: List of pests and diseases

Document: TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2003/9

76. The document contains the updated list of pests and diseases from France that was completed with a column on possible test methods existing for the pests contained in the UNECE standard.

77. It was clarified that “sans tolérance” from the French original should be translated with “0 tolerance” in English.

78. Some delegations asked why pests that were not regulated in the UNECE Standard had been included in the list. It was clarified that the goal had been to create a comprehensive list of pests that concerned potatoes and that the group might consider to work on eventually.

79. Some delegations felt that it would be difficult to fill in and update the last column which contains information on the treatment of the pests in other regulations (on the country level or regional or international). Others felt that the last column provided important information and should be kept.

80. It was agreed to keep this column but to clarify in the text that it was for information only and might not be complete and to invite corrections and contributions.

81. The list is reproduced in addendum 1 to this report (see TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2003/10/Add.1) and will also be made available on the web site.

Item 12: Results of overview of national schemes for seed potato certification (questionnaire)

Document for this session: INF.2

82. The secretariat presented the document and thanked Ms. Jeanne Bortolan, who is working as an intern, for her work on updating it. The text now includes all the comments made at different bureau meetings and has also been checked again for consistency with the answers to the questionnaire.

83. After inclusion of the corrections mentioned or announced at the session the document will be sent again to all countries that received the original questionnaire with a very strict deadline for replies so that the text can be sent for publication in summer.

Item 13: Concerns of seed buyers

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2002/12

TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2001/INF.2

84. The delegations of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom confirmed that the information given in their documents was still correct. No further information had been received from other countries.

85. The main concerns of seed buyers are thus: sizing and grading tolerance, seed vigour, tuber rots and black leg.

86. The delegation of Kenya said that late blight was a concern for seed buyers in her country and they were interested in varieties that were tolerant to late blight.

87. The chairman asked if something could be done within the UNECE Scheme to address these concerns.

88. The delegation of the Netherlands said that for seed vigour they had concluded that there was no agreed method on how to deal with it. Concerning blackleg they said that the only things to be done were to have very low tolerances and to bring down the number of generations which had been done in some countries. But they said that even that was not a guarantee to avoid blackleg.

89. They said that problems with seed vigour and blackleg could also arise because of inadequate practises from farmers (e.g. too cold storage affects seed vigour) but they questioned if the UNECE scheme was the right place to address these issues.

90. Concerning sizing it was said that there were now different rules in the EU standard, which might be an item for discussion at UNECE. It was also said that there was demand from buyers on specifying the number of tubers.

Item 14: Discussion on areas of certification scheme which may benefit from further standardization.

91. No proposals were made under this item.

Item 15: Next meetings and future work

92. The next meeting of the Specialized Section has been tentatively scheduled to take place from 22 to 24 March 2004 in Geneva. In the interim it is intended to hold three meetings of the extended bureau, in Italy in July 2003, in Scotland in October 2003 and in Geneva in January 2004. It was recalled that all members of the Specialized Section were welcome to participate at the extended bureau meetings. Further information will be communicated by the secretariat as soon as possible.

Item 16: Preparation of the 59th session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

93. The secretariat will transmit to the Working Party :

- The proposals for amending the UNECE Standard for Seed Potatoes :
 - New introduction
 - List of pests to be checked on nuclear (initial) stock
 - Introduction of field tolerances to be satisfied by the crop in respect to viruses and varietal purity
 - Assessment key for blemish diseases
 - Change of the title of section C.
 - Provisions concerning the variety.
 - New annex X.
 - Withdrawal of reservations.
 - The position of the Specialized Section concerning the integration of the work on early and ware potatoes (see paragraph 94. below).

Item 17: Other business

94. At the beginning of the session the Chief of Section had invited delegations to give advice to the Working Party for the decision on where to place the discussions on early and ware potatoes. Two options had been mentioned, placing them within the Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables GE.1 or the one on Seed Potatoes GE.6.

United Kingdom:	GE.1 because it deal with questions of how the produce is presented for sale.
United States:	GE.1 because in the United States USDA AMS deals with questions of early and ware potatoes and other produce while APHIS deals with seed potatoes.
Switzerland:	Has a slight preference for GE.1 on the understanding that there is a good cooperation between GE.1 and GE.6 if questions concerning diseases are raised.
Turkey:	GE.1 because the standard layout and the delegations participating are the same.
Greece:	Has to consult with its delegation to the meeting on early and ware potatoes.
Kenya:	GE.1 because it is not possible to join discussions on early and ware potatoes with those on a regulated product such as seeds.
Netherlands:	GE.1.
Ireland:	GE.1 because they are dealt with in the same service.

- France: Seed potatoes and early and ware potatoes are quite different things and it could complicate discussions in GE.6 if the two were joined. In favour of GE.1.
- Belgium: GE.1 because the same service responsible for fresh produce is responsible for early and ware potatoes .
- Italy/chair : No preference but will not be able to lead discussions on early and ware potatoes because his service is responsible for seed only.
- Poland : GE.1 because the same service deals with vegetables and early and ware potatoes.

Item 18: Election of officers

The group re-elected Mr. P.G. Bianchi (Italy) as its Chairman and Mr. P. Miauton (Switzerland) as its Vice-Chairman.

Item 19: Adoption of the report

95. The Specialized Section adopted the report of its thirty-third session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

Note by the secretariat :

The annex to this report contains a draft agenda for the next session.

Addendum 1 to this report is published as a separate document (TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2003/10/Add.1) and contains the list of pests and diseases.

ANNEX
Draft agenda for the next meeting

Specialized Section on Standardization of

Seed Potatoes

22 to 24 March 2004, Geneva

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION
to be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
commencing at 10.00 hrs on Monday, 22th March 2004

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| 1. | Adoption of the agenda | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2004/1 |
| 2. | Matters of interest since the thirty-second session | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2004/2 |
| | - Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards | |
| | - Committee for trade, Industry and Enterprise Development | |
| | - European Union | |
| | - OECD, WTO, NAPPO, EPPO | |
| 3. | Information on the results of the meetings of the bureau | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2004/2 |
| 4. | Review of the UNECE Standard for Seed Potatoes | Text of the revised standard adopted by the Working Party |
| | (a) Proposal for a paragraph on IPPC for the introduction | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2004/3 (France) |
| | (b) Proposal for destination tolerances | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2004/4 (Netherlands, United Kingdom and the United States) |
| | (c) Global list of varieties ; concept of variety | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2004/5 (Bureau) |
| | (d) Further development of Annex VIII: Assessment Key for percentage tuber surface area coverage of blemish diseases | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2004/6 (France, Bureau) |
| 5. | Relationship between the UNECE, EPPO and NAPPO standards | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2004/7 (Bureau) |
| 6. | Sizing issues | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2004/8 (Bureau) |
| 7. | Recommended best handling practices | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2004/9 Discussion paper Canada |
| 8. | The impact of GMO's on the Standard | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2004/10
(Canada, the Russian Federation and the European Community) |
| 9. | Superficial necrosis caused by virus | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2004/11 Discussion paper (France, Netherlands, United Kingdom) |

10. Further development of the pest list and mentioning of standard test methods TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2004/12 (Bureau)
11. Prototype training course for seed potato certification
12. Next meetings and future work
13. Preparation of the 60th session of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development
14. Other business
15. Election of officers
16. Adoption of the report