



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.11/2008/2
14 March 2008

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON TRADE

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat

Seventeenth session
Geneva, 28-30 April 2008
Item 4 of the provisional agenda

INFORMATION ON THE RESULTS OF THE RAPORTEURS' MEETINGS

Note by the secretariat^(*)

The Chairperson will inform the Specialized Section on the outcome of the November 2007 meeting of rapporteurs held in Moscow, which dealt with the standards for eggs and egg products and duck meat, and on the April 2008 meeting in Rennes, which initiated work on the standard for veal.

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

I. Meeting of the rapporteurs on the standards for eggs and egg products. Moscow, 29 to 31 October, 2007

1. A meeting of rapporteurs was held in Moscow on the request by delegations attending the sessions of the UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat who wanted to initiate a revision of the UNECE standards for eggs.
2. The meeting was organized and hosted by the delegation of the Russian Federation, through the All-Russian Research Institute for Poultry Processing Industry of the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences. In addition to the sessions, a technical visit was organized to the poultry processing plant “Elinar Broiler”, where participants could learn about recent developments in the poultry industry in Russia.
3. The main reason for initiating a review of the standards was that they had become obsolete and that some countries such as Czech Republic, Poland and the Russian Federation had expressed a desire to update and simplify them. They requested the Specialized Section on Meat to launch a Working Group, including a rapporteurs’ meeting, to revise the standards and make proposals on updating them.
4. The standards had originally been developed under the auspices of the now defunct UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Eggs and Egg Products. The most recent update was in 1994. The list of the revised UNECE standards discussed at the meeting included: eggs-in-shell (42), eggs-in-shell for processing (43), chilled eggs-in-shell (44), preserved eggs-in-shell (45), and hens egg products for use in the food industry (63).
5. The discussions took also into consideration the recent European Commission texts, especially:
 - Council Regulation (EC) No. 1028/2006 on marketing standards for eggs
 - Commission Regulation (EC) No. 557/2007 sets on detailed rules for implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1028/2006.
 - Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1336/2007 amending Regulation No 557/2007.
 - Commission Directive 2002/4/EC on the registration of establishments keeping laying hens, covered by Council Directive 1999/74/EC.
6. A suggestion to combine old standards 42 to 45 into one new standard for eggs in shell was discussed at the meeting. The standards differ mainly in terms of eggs storage conditions. A second standard should be for egg products for use in the food industry. Both standards could be structured along the lines of the standard layouts for meat and fresh fruit and vegetables standards.
7. The revised texts of the standards will be presented and discussed at the April 2008 session of the Specialized Section.

II. Meeting of the rapporteurs on the standard for duck meat – carcasses and parts. Moscow, 1 to 2 November, 2007

8. This meeting discussed the draft of the new standard for duck meat – carcasses and parts, which was prepared and presented by the delegation of China.

9. The participants reviewed the draft, which is based on the current UNECE standards for chicken and turkey meat. The document keeps the structure of other meat poultry standards. Since this format comprises similar categories for the specifications of quality, labelling, packing and coding, the main discussions were carried out on carcass and part descriptions.

10. The delegation of China took note of the recommendations and will complete the text with photographs and skeletal diagrams. The delegation of Poland will provide with a description for items on duck blood products.

11. The document will be submitted for discussion and approval to the April 2008 session of the Section.

12. About 30 persons took part in the meetings in Moscow, representing Australia, Belarus, China, Czech Republic, Poland, Ukraine and the Russian Federation. There were also participants from producing enterprises in Russia.

III. Meeting of the rapporteurs on veal meat – carcasses and cuts. Rennes, France, 24 to 25 April 2008

13. The Specialized Section decided at its sixteenth session (2007) to initiate the process of drafting a preliminary UNECE Standard for Veal Meat – Carcasses and Cuts.

14. The meeting of rapporteurs on veal will be organized by the delegation of France and it will be held in Rennes, France, on 24 and 25 April 2008.

15. Since the definition of veal is still under discussion in the EU, the delegations decided to proceed with the definition of the main cuts that should be included in the Standard. A working group comprising the delegations of Australia, France and the United States of America was formed to prepare the first draft. The results of the meeting of rapporteurs on veal will be submitted to the session of the Specialized Section, to be held in Geneva from 28 to 30 April 2008.