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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

COMMITTEE ON TRADE

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat

Eighteenth session  
Geneva, 27-30 April 2009  
Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**PROPOSAL FOR A UNECE STANDARD FOR RETAIL CUTS**

**Explanatory note on creating a new standard for retail meat cuts**

Note submitted by the United States of America

The following explanatory note to initiate the activities to develop a new UNECE Standard for Retail Meat Cuts has been submitted by the United States of America. This note has been prepared following the decision of the Specialized Section to begin work on the new standard for retail meat cuts (document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.11/2008/8, para. 41).

## **Proposal to initiate work on a UNECE Standard for Retail Meat Cuts**

### **UNECE Standard for Retail Meat Cuts 2009 Edition - Proposed Action Plan**

#### **Objective**

The delegation of the United States of America will develop a draft voluntary consensus standard that will describe fresh bovine (including veal), ovine, porcine and caprine retail meat items commonly traded internationally. The standard will feature nomenclature, codification and text definition for each meat cut.

#### **Proposed Actions**

The delegation of the United States will need to acquire, from each delegation within the Specialized Section, the retail standards currently used in their countries. It will then be able to discern the anatomic regions (primal cuts) to accommodate a logical format for assigning nomenclature to each item.

When practical, the codification systems within the UNECE standards for bovine (including veal), porcine, ovine and caprine will be used.

Descriptions will be prepared for each item. It is the intent of the delegation of the United States to accommodate all countries by listing all items presented in each of the national retail standards. The descriptions will be accompanied by a photographic illustration of each item.

A draft standard will be prepared for consideration by the third quarter of 2009. The United States will host a working level rapporteurs' meeting at a location to be determined. Once a consensus has been reached, plans will be made for carrying out the photography of the cuts.