



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRADE/WP.7/2000/11/Add.24
14 December 2000

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Standardization of
Perishable Produce and Quality Development
Fifty-sixth session, 6-8 November 2000, Geneva

REPORT OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION

Addendum 24

PRESENTATION BY OECD

Note by the secretariat: This document contains the presentation made by the OECD representative at the fifty-sixth session of the Working Party.

PRESENTATION BY OECD AT THE FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION
OF THE WORKING PARTY ON STANDARDIZATION OF
PERISHABLE PRODUCE AND QUALITY DEVELOPMENT

A. Programme of work of the OECD Scheme for the Application
of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables

At its fifty-ninth session, held on 13-15 May 2000, the Plenary Meeting of the Scheme adopted its programme of work. The programme includes two principal areas of work:

I. Quality standards and their interpretation

A decision was taken to prepare explanatory brochures on the standards for apples and pears, citrus fruits, plums, beans, tomatoes, strawberries, table grapes and cucumbers.

II. Quality assurance and quality control

II.1 Guidelines on implementation of quality assurance and quality control systems

II.1.1 Guidelines on implementation of quality control

(a) interface between quality assurance and quality control and other systems for control of fruits and vegetables

(b) guidelines on quality control

(c) guidelines on methods of objective testing and limits

– in determining the ripeness of fruit

II.1.2 Guidelines on the concept of quality

– internal quality

II.1.3 Guidelines on quality assurance issues

II.2 Harmonization meetings

II.2.1 Meetings of Heads of National Control Services

II.2.2 Training workshops/courses

II.2.3 Joint quality assessment

B. Publications

The Scheme's most recent publications are explanatory brochures on the standards for carrots and broccoli and the colour gauge for cauliflower. An explanatory brochure on the standard for asparagus is due to be published by the end of the year. The OECD Scheme's publications are on sale and available from the OECD bookshop or the OECD Web site at <http://electrade.gfi.fr/cgi-bin/OECDBookShop.storefront/>. They can be purchased in hard copy or as electronic files.

C. Promotion of the establishment of one single international grade-standard-setting body

The Plenary Meeting mandated the Chairperson and secretariat of the Scheme to contact ECE and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)/World Health Organization (WHO) informally with a view to obtaining assurances from ECE and FAO/WHO that they will take note of the following points and undertake to:

- (i) recognize the duplication of effort represented by the resources allocated by the three organizations currently involved in grade standard-setting;
- (ii) cooperate to establish a common approach aimed at limiting, to the extent possible, duplication of work in terms of resource allocation.

D. Countries requesting observer status in the Scheme

Following its application and the recommendations of the latest session of the Plenary Meeting, Bulgaria was granted ad hoc observer status in the Scheme until the next session of the Plenary Meeting.

E. Date of the next Plenary Meeting

The next Plenary Meeting will be held from 23 to 25 October 2001. The Produce Working Groups will meet on 22 October 2001.
