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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Standardization of
Perishable Produce and Quality Development
Fifty-seventh session, 12-14 November 2001

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION

to be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
commencing at 10:00 hrs Monday, 12 November 2001

Note by the secretariat: Document numbers in square brackets refer to documents expected but not received by the time of the preparation of the agenda. They might be available late or at the meeting as room documents. As soon as they are received they will also be available on the home page of the agricultural standards unit.

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|----------|--|-------------------|
| 1 | Adoption of the agenda | TRADE/WP.7/2001/1 |
| 2 | Matters of interest arising since the fifty-sixth session | TRADE/WP.7/2001/2 |

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| 3 | Specialized Section on Coordination of Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables | TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2001/19 |
| | (a) Texts recommended for adoption as revised UNECE standards: | |
| | Beans, Sweet Peppers and Strawberries (if no objections received by 30 September 2001) | TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2001/19/Add.3 |
| | Lettuce | TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2001/19/Add.4 |
| | Onions | TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2001/19/Add.5 |
| | Peas | TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2001/19/Add.6 |
| | (b) Texts recommended for adoption as UNECE recommendations for a trial period: | |
| | Avocados (1 year), Table Grapes (2 years) | TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2001/19/Add.3 |
| | (c) Numbering system of the standards | TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2001/19, para. 167
TRADE/WP.7/2001/3 |
| | (d) Name of the Specialized Section | TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2001/19, para. 165 |
| | (e) Use of trade marks in UNECE standards | TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2001/19, paras 127 to 135
[TRADE/WP.7/2001/4] |
| | (f) Corrigendum to standards | TRADE/WP.7/2001/5
TRADE/WP.7/2001/5/Add.1 |
| 4 | Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit) | TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2001/13 |
| | (a) Texts recommended for adoption as revised UNECE standards: | |
| | Walnut Kernels | TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2001/13/Add.1 |
| | Walnut colour chart | To be sent out by INC before the session |
| | (b) Automatic inclusion of the annexes to the standard layout into the individual standards | TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2001/13, paras. 98, 118 |
| 5 | Specialized Section on Standardization of Early and Ware Potatoes | TRADE/WP.7/GE.5/2001/8 |

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|-----------|---|---|
| (a) | Amendments to the standards | TRADE/WP.7/GE.5/2001/8, paras. 25, 30 and 52 |
| (b) | Explanatory brochure | TRADE/WP.7/GE.5/2001/8, paras. 43 to 47 and 52 |
| 6 | Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2001/8 |
| (a) | Amendments to the standard | TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2001/8, Annex |
| (b) | Meetings of the bureau | |
| 7 | Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat | TRADE/WP.7/GE.11/2001/13 |
| 8 | Application of UNECE Standards | TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2001/18
TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2001/19, para. 153
TRADE/WP.7/2000/11 paras. 91 to 93 |
| 9 | General questions concerning the work of WP.7 and its Specialized Sections | |
| (a) | Status and possible revision of the Geneva Protocol | TRADE/WP.7/2001/6 |
| (b) | Revision of the Working Procedures of the Working Party and its Specialized Sections | |
| (c) | Name of the Working Party | |
| (d) | Elaboration of explanatory material to UNECE standards | TRADE/WP.7/2000/11 paras. 89 to 90 |
| 10 | Follow-up concerning items discussed at the last session | |
| (a) | Internationally recognized list of trade descriptions and classification codes for fruits and vegetables. | |
| (b) | Exchange of information on non-conformity cases | TRADE/WP.7/2000/11/Add.21 |
| (c) | List of countries accepting/not accepting code marks | TRADE/WP.7/2000/11/Add.22 |
| 11 | Report on operational activities (eg. international workshops and training courses on standardization and quality control) | |

12 Matters of interest arising from the activities of other international bodies:

TRADE/WP.7/2001/7 (Secretariat)

- (a) Codex Alimentarius Commission and Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables
- (b) European Union
- (c) ISO/TC34/SC14
- (d) OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables
- (e) World Trade Organization

13 Matters of interest arising from the reports of the:

- (a) Working Party on Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs
- (b) United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Commerce
- (c) Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies
- (d) UNECE Environment Division

14 Other business

15 Programme of work

TRADE/WP.7/2001/8 (Secretariat)

- (a) Calendar of meetings
- (b) Publications
- (c) Future work

16 Election of officers

17 Adoption of the report

PROPOSED TIME TABLE

12	November	10.00 - 13.00	Items 1 - 4
		15.00 - 18.00	Items 4 - 9
13	November	10.00 - 13.00	Items 9 - 16
		15.00 - 18.00	Meeting of the Working Group on Working Procedures
14	November	10.00 - 13.00	Item 17
		15.00 - 18.00	Working Group on harmonized trade descriptions and classification codes for fresh fruit and vegetables
15	November	10.00-13.00/ 15.00-18.00	Working Group on harmonized trade descriptions and classification codes for fresh fruit and vegetables

ANNOTATIONS

ITEM 1 Adoption of the agenda

According to the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda shall be the adoption of the agenda.

ITEM 2 Matters of interest arising since the fifty-sixth session

Document: TRADE/WP.7/2001/2

The Working Party will be informed of the relevant outcome of the fifth session of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development.

ITEM 3 Specialized Section on Coordination of Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

Document: TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2001/19 (Report of the 47th session)

The Working Party will be informed on the outcome of the forty-seventh session of the Specialized Section and will be invited to take decisions on the following issues:

(a) Texts recommended for adoption as revised UNECE standards:

Beans, Sweet Peppers	TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2001/19/Add.3
Strawberries (if no objections received by 30 September 2001)	TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2001/19/Add.3
Lettuce	TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2001/19/Add.4

Onions TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2001/19/Add.5

Peas TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2001/19/Add.6

(b) Texts recommended for adoption as UNECE recommendations for a trial period:

Avocados (1 year),
Table Grapes (2 years) TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2001/19/Add.3

(c) Numbering system for the standards

Document: TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2001/19, para.167

TRADE/WP.7/2001/3

At the session the Secretariat proposed to change the numbering system used in UNECE standards to a legal numbering system (1, 1.2, 1.2.1, etc.) in order to make the standards easier to read and allow numbering of all paragraphs if necessary instead of having to use indentation which might easily get lost in one of the language versions and lead to confusion. The proposal was welcomed by several delegations. The secretariat has prepared a proposal to the Working Party based on the existing standard layout.

In the proposal some other minor possible changes to the standard layout are mentioned for discussion.

(d) Name of the Specialized Section

Document: TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2001/19, para.165

The Specialized Section proposes to change its name to

“Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables”.

(e) Use of trade marks in UNECE standards

Documents: TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2001/19, paras 127 to 135

[TRADE/WP.7/2001/4]

The question was discussed at length at the Specialized Section. It is expected that new information from the legal services will be available.

(f) Corrigendum to standards

Documents: TRADE/WP.7/2001/5 (Corrigendum English)

TRADE/WP.7/2001/5/Add.1 (Corrigendum French)

A number of corrections concerning some standards adopted at the last session (TRADE/WP.7/2000/11/Add.1 to Add.14) were pointed out to the secretariat and will be included in the texts if there are no objections.

ITEM 4 Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit)

Document: TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2001/13 (Report of the 48th session)

The Working Party will be informed on the outcome of the forty-eighth session of the Specialized Section and will be invited to take decisions on the following issues:

(a) Texts recommended for adoption as revised UNECE standards:

Document: TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2001/13, paras. 15 to 28

Walnut Kernels TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2001/13/Add.1

Walnut colour chart To be sent out by INC before the session

The Specialized Section agreed to publish the colour chart independently from the standard and to reword the footnote making reference to this annex. The delegation of INC proposed to provide 1000 copies of the annex before the session of the Working Party.

(b) Automatic inclusion of the annexes to the standard layout into the individual standards

Document: TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2001/13, paras. 98, 118

Following a suggestion from the Chairman, the Specialized Section proposes that all standards should always include the actual version of the annexes to the standard layout i.e. if the annexes were changed, the standards would automatically be adjusted.

ITEM 5 Specialized Section on Standardization of Early and Ware Potatoes

Document: TRADE/WP.7/GE.5/2001/8 (Report of the 15th session)

The Working Party will be informed on the outcome of the fifteenth session of the Specialized Section and will be invited to take decisions on the following issues:

(a) Amendments to the standards

Document: TRADE/WP.7/GE.5/2001/8, paras. 25, 30 and 52

The Specialized Section agreed on amendments concerning the definition of long varieties and the inclusion of an indicative list of long varieties of an irregular shape.

(b) Explanatory brochure

Document: TRADE/WP.7/GE.5/2001/8, paras. 43 to 47 and 52

The Specialized Section was of the opinion that there is an urgent need to ask the OECD Scheme to develop a revised explanatory brochure for Early and Ware Potatoes.

ITEM 6 Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes

Document: TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2001/8 (Report of the 31st session)

The Working Party will be informed on the outcome of the thirty-first session of the Specialized Section.

(a) Amendments to the standard

Document: TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2001/8, Annex

The Specialized Section recommends the adoption of the amendments and their inclusion in the revised UNECE Standard for Seed Potatoes.

(b) Meetings of the bureau

The Working Party will be informed of the results of the meetings of the extended bureau, in Milan, 23 July 2001 and Changins, 17 to 19 September 2001.

ITEM 7 Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat

Document: TRADE/WP.7/GE.11/2001/13 (Report of the 10th session)

The Working Party will be informed on the outcome of the tenth session of the Specialized Section as well as the meeting of rapporteurs on ovine meat, Buenos Aires, 1 to 2 October 2001.

ITEM 8 Application of UNECE Standards

Documents: TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2001/18

TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2001/19, para. 153

Background: TRADE/WP.7/2000/11 paras. 91 to 93

Following a request by the Working Party at its last session, the secretariat prepared a consolidated document listing by standard the acceptances of countries. This information can also be found on the web site of the agricultural standards unit at: www.unece.org/trade/agr under the menu item GENERAL.

Delegations are invited to comment on this document, to transmit comments or corrections to the Secretariat and to make proposals concerning future work in this area.

ITEM 9 General questions concerning the work of WP.7 and its Specialized Sections

(a) Status and possible revision of the Geneva Protocol

Document: TRADE/WP.7/2001/6

The Secretariat reproduces in this document the Geneva Protocol (paragraph numbers have been added to facilitate reference), information on acceptances, as well as questions concerning its applicability. The goal of this document is to inform and to initiate a discussion which could lead to amendments to the protocol if deemed necessary by the Working Party.

(b) Revision of the Working Procedures of the Working Party and its Specialized Sections

It is expected that the working group will meet during this session.

(c) Name of the Working Party

The Working Party is invited to discuss whether it could be considered to simplify its name e.g. "Working Party on Agricultural Standards".

(d) Elaboration of explanatory material to UNECE standards

Background: TRADE/WP.7/2000/11 paras. 89 to 90

Delegations will be informed on any new developments concerning this topic.

ITEM 10 Follow-up concerning items discussed at the last session

- (a) Internationally recognized list of trade descriptions and classification codes for fruits and vegetables.
- (b) Exchange of information on non-conformity cases TRADE/WP.7/2000/11/Add.21
- (c) List of countries accepting/not accepting code marks TRADE/WP.7/2000/11/Add.22

ITEM 11 Report on operational activities (e.g. international workshops and training courses on standardization and quality control)

Delegations hosting international training courses and workshops will be invited to provide information on their activities in 2001 and 2002.

ITEM 12 Matters of interest arising from the work of other international organizations

Document: TRADE/WP.7/2001/7

- (a) Codex Alimentarius Commission and Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables
- (b) European Union
- (c) ISO/TC 34/SC 14
- (d) OECD Scheme
- (e) World Trade Organization

Representatives of the secretariats of the OECD Scheme, the European Union, the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, the World Trade Organization and the ISO have been invited to report on activities related to the standardization of perishable produce.

ITEM 13 Matters of interest arising from the reports of the:

- (a) Working Party on Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs
- (b) United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (CEFACT)

(c) Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies

(d) UNECE Environment Division

The Secretariat has been asked by the Commission to evaluate possibilities for cross-sectorial activities. Delegations are invited to discuss possible cooperation with the groups mentioned above.

ITEM 14 Other Business

Any other topic can be discussed under this agenda item.

ITEM 15 Programme of work

Document: TRADE/WP.7/2001/8

(a) *Calendar of Meetings*

The calendar of sessions of the Specialized Sections and the Working Party will be presented for the consideration of the Working Party.

(b) *Publications*

The secretariat will continue the practice of publishing standards on the Internet. The existing paper publications of the standards (dry and fresh produce) date back to 1992. Paper publications are still requested by users. An updated publication will document the work of the Working Party in the last 10 years and can be used for reference and promotional purposes. The following publications have been included in the publications budget for 2002:

- UNECE Standards for Dry and Dried Fruit, November 2002
- UNECE Standards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables, November 2002
- UNECE Standard for Seed Potatoes, November 2002
- UNECE Standard for Bovine Carcase and Cuts, 2nd Edition, November 2002
- UNECE Standard for Porcine Carcase and Cuts, 2nd Edition, November 2002
- National Certification Schemes for Seed Potatoes, May 2002
- Description sheets for potato diseases and parasites, May 2002
- Compendium of UNECE Standards (CD-ROM)
- booklet on the work done by the UNECE Agricultural Unit

(c) *Future work*

Delegations are invited to comment on areas of future work of interest to their countries.

ITEM 16 Election of officers

According to the Commission's Rules of Procedure and established practice, the Meeting is expected to elect a Chairperson and vice-chairpersons. The Working Party at its fifty-fifth session elected the following bureau:

Chairperson: Mr. M. Vilchez-Barros (Spain)

Vice-Chairperson: Ms. O. Vorovenci (Romania)
Vice-Chairperson: Mr. D.L. Priester (United States of America)

ITEM 17 Adoption of the report

The Working Party will adopt the report of its fifty-seventh session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT:

Contributions should be sent to the secretariat either on diskette by mail to :

**Food Standards Officer
UNECE Trade Division
Palais des Nations
Office 432
1211 Geneva 10
Tel: (41) 22 917 2450 Fax: (41) 22 917 0041**

or by e-mail to:

agrstandards@unece.org

Meeting documentation will be available on our homepage:

<http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/welcome.htm>
