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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 to 14 November 2001, Geneva)

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

MATTERS OF INTEREST ARISING SINCE THE FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION

Note by the secretariat

This document contains the discussion on the work of the Working Party and its Specialized Sections held at the fifth session of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development.

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## **FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT**

The following excerpt is taken from the report of the Committee (ECE/TRADE/280, paragraphs 55 to 60):

### **"Item 9 - Agricultural quality standards"**

#### Documentation:

TRADE/WP.7/2000/11	Report of the 56 <sup>th</sup> session of WP.7
TRADE/2001/4	Summary of main activities and developments of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development (WP.7)

55. The secretariat gave an overview of the work carried out by the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development (WP.7) and its specialized sections since the last session of the Committee.

56. The following items were highlighted:

- The successful meeting of rapporteurs on Seed Potatoes held in Moscow at the invitation of the Ministry of Industry, Science and Technology. In this respect the secretariat thanked the Russian authorities and the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office at Geneva for the assistance in organizing this meeting.
- The adoption and publication of a UNECE Standard for Bovine Carcasses and Cuts.

57. The Committee, at its last session, had requested the secretariat to evaluate possibilities for reallocating resources within the Trade Division to the agricultural standards unit for the development of explanatory material (see ECE/TRADE/262, paragraph 37).

58. In response to this request, at the last session of WP.7, the Director of the Trade Division reported that additional resources had been requested for the work on agricultural standards but that the zero growth budget of UNECE made it unlikely that a new post would be created in the near future. She also emphasized that the secretariat would be prepared to support this work, provided that the required additional staff member could be obtained, either via extrabudgetary resources, or via a decision by member States as

to which lower priority activities should be discontinued in order to free the required resources. (see TRADE/WP.7/2000/11, para. 89).

59. The delegation of the Russian Federation emphasized the high priority that it attached to this work and its global impact, as seen from the number of countries from outside the UNECE region participating actively in the work. He also stressed that it was important for UNECE standards to be applied to a greater extent in Russia and the CIS in order to encourage the production of high quality produce and to facilitate trade. He also suggested achieving this by using the UNECE experience in this area to organize training courses for quality inspectors as well as for national standard-setting bodies.

60. The Committee **endorsed** the report of the fifty-sixth session of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development (TRADE/WP.7/2000/11) and **noted** the summary of main activities and developments (TRADE/2001/4)."