



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
18 January 2016

Original: English

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## Economic Commission for Europe

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

Sixty-fourth session

Geneva, 18 -21 April 2016

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

### Provisional agenda and annotations \*

Session to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva.

#### I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Matters arising since the last session
3. Revision of UNECE standards
4. Food loss/waste related to the use of standards
5. Discussion on quality tolerances in marketing standards
6. Traceability
7. Revision of the Standard Layout for UNECE Standards on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
8. Glossary of terms used in UNECE standards
9. Promotion and capacity-building

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\* Delegates attending the meetings are invited to register online at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=38239#/> or contact the secretariat either by e-mail (Subashini.Narasimhan@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22 917 0629) for a registration form. Prior to the meeting, delegates are requested to present themselves, with a valid identification card/passport, at the UNOG Security (Pregny gate) to obtain the security badge (in case of a problem, please call 022 917-1514). Documents for the meeting and information will be made available online at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41420#/>.

10. Other business
11. Future work
12. Election of officers
13. Adoption of the report

## II. Annotations

### 1. Adoption of the agenda

The delegations will adopt the agenda.

*Documentation:* Annotated provisional agenda (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2016/1)

### 2. Matters arising since the last session

#### (a) UN, UNECE and subsidiary bodies

The secretariat will present matters arising from the United Nations General Assembly, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards having an impact on the work of the Specialized Section.

*Documentation:* Report of the Working Party (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2016/2)

#### (b) Recent developments in other organizations

Representatives of other organizations and country delegations will inform the Specialized Section about activities taking place in their agencies that are of relevance to the work of the Section.

### 3. Revision of UNECE standards<sup>1</sup>

#### (a) Truffles

At the November 2015 session of the Working Party, the delegation of France requested further discussions on the English version of the revised non-exhaustive list of commercialized truffles to be included in the UNECE Standard for Truffles. The Working Party therefore decided to return the proposal to the Specialized Section for review.

*Documentation:* Revision of UNECE Standards – Truffles, Garlic, Headed Cabbage, Table Grapes and Annonas (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2016/3)  
Truffles, proposals by France (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2015/9)

#### (b) Garlic

At the November 2015 session of the Working Party, the delegation of Sweden expressed concern about the tolerances for physiological damage included in the proposed new text of the standard. The Working Party therefore decided to return the proposal to the Specialized Section for review.

In addition, the 19th Session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV) which took place in Mexico in October 2015, decided to recommend to the

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<sup>1</sup> All UNECE standards for fresh fruit and vegetables can be found at <http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/standard/fresh/ffv-standardse.html>.

Codex Alimentarius Commission to advance the standard for garlic in the Step Procedure to be finalized at its next session<sup>2</sup>

*Documentation:* Revision of UNECE Standards – Truffles, Garlic, Headed Cabbage, Table Grapes and Annonas (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2016/3)  
Revised UNECE Standard Garlic (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2015/10)

**(c) Headed Cabbage**

At the April 2015 session of the Specialized Section on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables, the Specialized Section decided to review the UNECE Standard for Headed cabbage with a focus on the issue of running to seed.

*Documentation:* Revision of UNECE Standards – Truffles, Garlic, Headed Cabbage, Table Grapes and Annonas (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2016/3)

**(d) Table Grapes**

At the April 2015 session of the Specialized Section on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables, the Specialized Section decided to review the UNECE Standard for Table grapes with a focus on the tolerance for loose berries.

*Documentation:* Revision of UNECE Standards – Truffles, Garlic, Headed Cabbage, Table Grapes and Annonas (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2016/3)

**(e) Annonas**

The delegation from Costa Rica asked the Specialized Section to review the sizing provisions for Soursop and include size codes for large produce.

*Documentation:* Revision of UNECE Standards – Truffles, Garlic, Headed Cabbage, Table Grapes and Annonas (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2016/3)

**(f) Sweet Peppers**

At the April 2015 session of the Specialized Section on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables, the Specialized Section decided to review the UNECE Standard for Sweet Peppers. Delegations are invited to send proposals for amendments to the Secretariat.

*Documentation:* Revision of UNECE Standards – Sweet Peppers (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2016/4)

**(g) Tomatoes**

At the November 2015 session of the Working Party, several delegations asked for further discussions on the proposed new text of the standard. The Working Party therefore decided to return the proposal to the Specialized Section for review.

In addition, at the April 2015 session of the Specialized Section, delegates decided to review the UNECE Standard for Tomatoes and attempt to identify possible areas of food loss/waste caused by the application of the standard.

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<sup>2</sup> See Appendix IV - Report 19<sup>th</sup> session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables at [http://www.codexalimentarius.org/sh-proxy/en/?lnk=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FMeetings%252FCX-731-19%252FReport%252FREP16\\_FFVe.pdf](http://www.codexalimentarius.org/sh-proxy/en/?lnk=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FMeetings%252FCX-731-19%252FReport%252FREP16_FFVe.pdf).

*Documentation:* Revision of UNECE Standards – Tomatoes  
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2016/5)

**(h) Leeks**

At the April 2015 session of the Specialized Section, delegates decided to review the UNECE Standard for Leeks and take into account the work on an explanatory brochure by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) for this product. In addition, delegates decided to examine the UNECE Standard for Leeks in an attempt to identify possible areas of food loss/waste caused by the application of the standard. Delegations are invited to send proposals for amendments to the Secretariat.

*Documentation:* Revision of UNECE Standards – Leeks (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2016/6)

**(i) Citrus fruit**

At the 2015 session of the Specialized Section, the delegates decided to postpone discussions on the amendment of the standard to the 2016 session. The changes proposed by the delegation from South Africa are included in the new document together with an informative (non-exhaustive) list of varieties which is intended to be published as a separate document on the UNECE website.

*Documentation:* Revision of UNECE Standards - Citrus fruit – Proposals by South Africa  
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2016/7)

**(j) Apples**

At the 2015 session of the Specialized Section it was decided to ask all delegations to send to the secretariat a list of those varieties that are of commercial importance to their countries. The list presented in the document was compiled by the secretariat on the basis of contributions received from delegations.

*Documentation:* Revision of UNECE Standards Apples – List of varieties  
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2016/8)

**(k) Aubergines**

At the 19th session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV) which took place in Mexico in October 2015, it was decided to recommend to the Codex Alimentarius Commission to advance the standard for aubergines for final adoption (June 2016).<sup>3</sup> In an effort to harmonize the provisions, the Specialized Section is invited to compare the two texts.

*Documentation:* Comparison UNECE Standard for Aubergines and proposed draft Codex Standard for Aubergines (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2016/9)

**(l) Other standards**

Depending on the requests from countries, the Specialized Section may wish to consider other standards.

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<sup>3</sup> See Appendix III - Report 19<sup>th</sup> session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables at [http://www.codexalimentarius.org/sh-proxy/en/?lnk=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FMeetings%252FCX-731-19%252FReport%252FREP16\\_FFVe.pdf](http://www.codexalimentarius.org/sh-proxy/en/?lnk=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FMeetings%252FCX-731-19%252FReport%252FREP16_FFVe.pdf).

#### **4. Food loss/waste related to the use of standards**

The Working Party at its 2015 session asked the Specialized Sections to continue their work on food loss/waste related to the use of standards and decided to organize a conference on this topic at its 2016 session. The Specialized Section is therefore invited to review the discussion paper prepared by the Rapporteur (Sweden) with input from other delegations.

*Documentation:* Food loss/waste related to the use of standards – Discussion paper (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2016/10)

#### **5. Discussion on quality tolerances in marketing standards**

At its 2015 session, the Specialized Section started discussion on quality tolerances for decay in UNECE marketing standards. Delegates are invited to continue their discussions led by the Rapporteur (Netherlands).

#### **6. Traceability**

Based on discussions at the 2015 session of the Specialized Section, the Conference on Traceability of Agricultural Produce organized under the auspices of the Working Party in November 2015 as well as at the OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables, delegates are invited to continue their discussions on how the standards and other means could support traceability efforts. A short oral report will be provided by the discussion group on traceability.

*Documentation:* Summary report and presentations made at the November 2015 UNECE Conference on Traceability of Agricultural Produce  
<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=38227#/>

#### **7. Revision of the Standard Layout for UNECE Standards on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables**

Delegations are invited to amend the 2011 version of the Standard Layout taking into account the outcome of discussions on e.g. traceability, food loss/waste reduction, tolerances and others.

Delegations will be informed about the on-going work on the Standard Layout for Codex Standards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables and the draft adopted by the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of CCFV (see Appendix VII of the Codex Report)<sup>4</sup>

*Documentation:* Revision of the Standard Layout for UNECE Standards on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2016/11)

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<sup>4</sup> See Appendix VII - Report 19<sup>th</sup> session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables at [http://www.codexalimentarius.org/sh-proxy/en/?lnk=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FMeetings%252FCX-731-19%252FReport%252FREP16\\_FFVe.pdf](http://www.codexalimentarius.org/sh-proxy/en/?lnk=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FMeetings%252FCX-731-19%252FReport%252FREP16_FFVe.pdf).

**8. Glossary of terms used in UNECE standards**

The Working Group, led by the Rapporteur (France), will present its work on a Glossary of terms used in UNECE standards on fresh fruit and vegetables.

Documentation: Draft Glossary of Terms (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2016/12)

**9. Promotion and capacity-building**

The delegations and the secretariat will exchange information about their promotional and capacity-building activities.

**10. Other business**

Any other issues of interest for the work of the Specialized Section can be discussed under this agenda item.

**11. Future work**

The Specialized Section will discuss its future work.

**12. Election of officers**

The Specialized Section will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. At its sixty-third session, it elected Ms. Ulrike Bickelmann (Germany) as Chair and Ms. Kristina Mattsson (Sweden) as Vice-Chair.

**13. Adoption of the report**

The Specialized Section will adopt the report of the session.

**III. Tentative timetable**

Monday, 18 April	10:00 - 13:00	Working Group meetings
	15:00 - 18:00	Items 1, 2, 3
Tuesday, 19 April	10:00 - 13:00	Items 3
	15:00 - 18:00	Items 3, 4
Wednesday, 20 April	10:00 - 13:00	Item 4 (cont.), 5, 6
	15:00 - 18:00	Items 7, 8
Thursday, 21 April	10:00 - 13:00	Items 9, 10, 11, 12, 13