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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 Meat****Twenty-eighth session**

Geneva, 12—13 October 2020 (online)

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

**Adoption of the agenda****Provisional agenda and annotations\***

Session to be held online together with a webinar on Coping and rebuilding - resilient sustainable food systems (meat) during and after COVID-19. \*\*

**I. Provisional agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Matters arising since the last session:
  - (a) United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and subsidiary bodies;
  - (b) Other organizations.
3. Eating quality.
4. Revision of the Standard for Porcine meat, carcasses and cuts.
5. Alignment of meat cut descriptions and harmonized system codes – update.
6. Discussion on the possible development of international minimum sustainability guidelines in the meat sector.
7. COVID-19: Exchange of experiences (maintaining standards and inspections).
8. Discussion on the possible development of a livestock language (Australia – tbc).
9. Other business.
10. Future work.

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\* Delegates attending the meetings are encouraged to register online at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=52645>. In the event of difficulties with the new electronic registration, contact the secretariat by e-mail ([Stephen.hatem@unece.org](mailto:Stephen.hatem@unece.org)).

\*\* The program of the webinar will be made available at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=52645>

11. Election of officers.
12. Adoption of the report.

## **II. Annotations**

### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

The delegations will adopt the agenda.

*Documentation:* Provisional agenda and annotations (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.11/2020/1)

### **2. Matters arising since the last session**

#### **(a) United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and subsidiary bodies**

The secretariat will present developments at the level of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards as well as the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7) having an impact on the work of the Specialized Section.

*Documentation:* Report of the Working Party (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2019/2)

#### **(b) Other organizations**

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

### **3. Eating quality**

The Specialized Section will be provided an overview on new developments in eating quality research and activities relevant to the UNECE bovine standard presented by the Rapporteur (Poland). The Specialized Section is invited to exchange views and provide updates on their experiences.

*Documentation:* Eating quality – updates (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.11/2020/3)

### **4. Revision of the Standard for Porcine meat, carcasses and cuts**

The Specialized Section is invited to review the proposals by the delegation from the Russian Federation to amend the Standard for Porcine meat.

*Documentation:* Proposals by the delegation from the Russian Federation to amend the Standard for Porcine meat (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.11/2020/4)

### **5. Alignment of meat cut descriptions and harmonized system codes - update**

Following initial discussions at the meeting of the Specialized Section in Potsdam, Germany, in 2019 and reviewed and endorsed by the November 2019 session of the Working Party, the Specialized Section is invited to discuss the scoping of a potential project on Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) code alignment with meat cut codes.

*Documentation:* Alignment of meat cut descriptions and harmonized system codes – project scope (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.11/2020/5)

## 6. Discussion on the possible development of international minimum sustainability guidelines for the meat sector

Following initial discussions at various symposia held by the Specialized Section, delegations are invited to deliberate on the possible development of international minimum sustainability guidelines for the meat sector.

## 7. COVID-19: Exchange of experiences (maintaining standards and inspections)

Given the implications of the recent COVID-19 outbreak for the food and meat sector, the Specialized Section is invited to exchange views on its impact on standards conformity checks and inspection as well as any other related issue to strengthen recovery and resilience.

## 8. Discussion on the possible development of a livestock language

The delegation from Australia will present their proposal for the possible development of a livestock language. The Specialized Section is invited to review and exchange views.

## 9. Other business

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

## 10. Future work

The Specialized Section will discuss proposals and priorities for its future work.

## 11. Election of officers

The Specialized Section will elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

## 12. Adoption of the report

The Specialized Section will adopt the report of the session (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.11/2020/2).

## III. Tentative timetable

Monday, 12 October	13.00 – 14.30	International seminar: Coping and rebuilding - resilient sustainable food systems (meat) during and after COVID-19
	14:30 – 16:00	Items 1 to 6
Tuesday, 13 October	14.00 – 16.00	Items 6 (cont) to 12