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Economic Commission for Europe

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Seventy-first session

Geneva, 2-4 November 2015

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations*

Session to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, together with an international conference on “Traceability of food and agricultural produce” on 3 November 2015**

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Matters arising since the last session:
 - (a) UNECE and subsidiary bodies
 - (b) Recent developments in other organizations and the use of standards by countries
3. Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat
4. Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes
5. Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
6. Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce
7. Food waste and standards
8. Capacity-building and promotional activities

* 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. Documents for the meeting and information will be made available online at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=38227#/>.

** Information on the conference (including the programme and logistics) will also be published at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=38227#/> as soon as available.

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

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Working Party will adopt the agenda.

Documentation: Annotated provisional agenda (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2015/1)

2. Matters arising since the last session

(a) UNECE and subsidiary bodies

The secretariat will present developments at the level of UNECE and the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards having an impact on the work of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards.

(b) Recent developments in other organizations and the use of standards by countries

Other organizations active in the area of agricultural quality standards will provide information about their activities. Country delegations are invited, if they wish to do so, to report on the use of UNECE agricultural quality standards in their country.

3. Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat

The Specialized Section submitted for approval the List of examples to be annexed to the Standard for Processed Poultry Meat, including ready-to-cook preparations and ready-to-eat products, as well as amendments to the Standards for Edible Meat Co-products and Bovine Meat – Carcases and Cuts. The Specialized Section will also be informed about discussions on eating quality; the addition of photos to the UNECE Standard for Deer Meat- carcasses and cuts and the 2015 seminar on meat entitled “public meets/meats private” on the interaction between private certification programmes and public sector, international standards.

Documentation: Report of the twenty-fourth session (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.11/2015/2)

Processed poultry meat – list of examples (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2015/3)

Edible Meat Co-Products (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2015/4)

Bovine Meat – Carcases and Cuts (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2015/5)

4. Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes

The Specialized Section did not have a regular session in 2015; however the delegation of Finland organized a Bureau meeting with field trips in Helsinki and Oulu, Finland in September 2015. The Working Party will be informed of this meeting’s outcome. In

addition, the Specialized Section will present the newly printed Seed Potato Field Inspection Guide.

Documentation: Report of the forty-second session (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.6/2014/2)
Guide to Seed Potato Field Inspection (ECE/TRADE/421)

5. Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

The Specialized Section submitted:

- the text of the Standards for Lambs Lettuce and for Persimmon for adoption as new UNECE standards;
- the revised texts of the Standards for Sweet Chestnuts, Truffles, Garlic, Tomatoes and Watermelons for adoption;
- the Standard Layout for UNECE Explanatory Brochures on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables for adoption

Documentation: Report of the sixty-third session (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2015/2)
Lambs lettuce (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2015/6)
Persimmon (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2015/7)
Sweet chestnuts (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2015/8)
Truffles (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2015/9)
Garlic (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2015/10)
Tomatoes (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2015/11)
Watermelons (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2015/12)
Standard Layout for UNECE Explanatory Brochures on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2015/13)

6. Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce

The Specialized Section submitted for adoption:

- the revised text of the UNECE Standard for Dates
- the Sampling Pan for Tree Nuts and Dried Produce
- the texts of the revised Standards for Inshell Pistachio Nuts and Almond Kernels as UNECE Recommendations for a one-year trial period;

It requested that the trial periods of the revised UNECE Recommendations on Dried Apricots, Dried Figs and Dried Grapes be extended through 2016. Should the Specialized Section, by 30 September 2015, succeed in finding a consensus on the revised Standard for Dried Grapes' proposed new provisions, the text will be submitted to the Working Party for approval as a revised UNECE Standard for Dried Grapes.

In addition, the Specialized Section will present the newly printed Explanatory Brochure for Inshell Walnuts.

Documentation: Report of the sixty-second session (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2015/2)
Dates (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2015/14)

Sampling Plan for Tree Nuts and Dried Produce
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2015/15)

Inshell Pistachio Nuts (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2015/16)

Almond Kernels (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2015/17)

Dried Grapes (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2015/18)

Dried Figs (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2015/19)

Dried Apricots (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2015/20)

7. Food waste and standards

The Chairpersons of the Specialized Sections and the secretariat will inform delegations on the discussions that took place at the 2015 sessions on this subject. Delegations are invited to discuss the subject and consider further steps for 2016 in light of the adoption of the post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals – and, particularly, Goal 12 (see <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015>).

8. Capacity-building and promotional activities

The secretariat and delegations will exchange information on capacity-building, training and promotional activities that have taken place since the last session of the Working Party or are planned for the near future.

9. Future work

The Working Party will decide on its future work.

Documentation: Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards - Future work
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2015/21 – English only)

10. Other business

Delegations will be invited to take up other issues not previously addressed during the session.

11. Election of officers

The delegations will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. At its 2014 session, the Working Party elected Mr. Ian Hewett (United Kingdom) as Chair and Ms. Agnieszka Sudol (Poland) as Vice-Chair.

12. Adoption of the report

The Working Party will adopt its report.

III. Tentative timetable

Monday, 2 November	10:00 – 13:00	Informal working group meeting (tbc)
	15:00 – 18:00	Items 1 to 5
Tuesday, 3 November	10:00 – 13:00	Conference on traceability
	15:00 – 18:00	Conference on traceability
Wednesday, 4 November	10:00 – 13:00	Items 6 to 12
