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Economic Commission for Europe

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Seventy-third session

Geneva, 7-8 November 2017

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations *

Session to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 8 November 2017, together with an international conference on “Rooting for Sustainable Food – or Doing More and Better with Less (SDG-12)” on 7 November 2017.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Matters arising since the last session:
 - (a) United Nations, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and subsidiary bodies
 - (b) Recent developments in other organizations
3. Sustainable Development Goals and the work under the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards
4. Revision of the Terms of Reference of the Working Party
5. Revision of the Working Procedures of the Working Party
6. Report on the United States Food Safety Modernization Act
7. Capacity-building and promotional activities

* Delegates attending the meetings are invited to register online at <https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=tVrBKW> or contact the secretariat by e-mail (Stephen.hatem@unece.org) for a registration form. Documents for the meeting and information will be made available online at [http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=44974#/#/](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=44974#/).

** Information on the conference (including the programme and logistics) will be published at [http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=44974#/#/](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=44974#/) as soon as available.

8. Electronic quality certificates for fresh fruit and vegetables
9. Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes
10. Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce
11. Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
12. Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat
13. Future work
14. Other business
15. Election of officers
16. 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.7/2017/1)

2. Matters arising since the last session

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

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

(b) Recent developments in other organizations

Other organizations active in the area of agricultural quality standards will provide information about their activities.

3. Sustainable Development Goals and the work under the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Delegations are invited to review the discussions at the Conference on Standards and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Rooting for Sustainable Food – or Doing More and Better with Less (SDG-12)) as well as discussions that have taken place at each Specialized Section session in 2017 and decide on future steps. The secretariat will provide further information prior to the session. The Chairpersons of the Specialized Sections will inform delegations on the mapping exercises undertaken to identify the link between their work and how they contribute to achieving the SDGs. In addition, posters will be exhibited to illustrate this work and the secretariat will present a new part of its web site dedicated to SDGs.

Documentation: Sustainable Development Goals and the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/3)

4. Revision of the Terms of Reference of the Working Party

Delegations are invited to review the first proposal of revised Terms of Reference for WP.7 prepared after initial discussions among the Chairs of all four Specialized Sections.

Documentation: Revised Terms of Reference (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/4)

5. Revision of the Working Procedures of the Working Party

Delegations are invited to discuss the Working Procedures of WP.7 and possibly adopt provisions on country-specific reservations, especially when standards containing such reservations are revised.

Documentation: Revised Working Procedures (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/5)

6. Report on the United States Food Safety Modernization Act

The delegation from the United States will present the Working Party with information on the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) introduced in the United States in September 2016 and outline how this new regulation impacts countries exporting food to the United States.

7. Capacity-building and promotional activities

The secretariat will review all capacity-building activities under the United Nations Development Account 9 project which will end in December 2017, the Fergana Valley project and preview upcoming work. The secretariat will also present the ongoing work on explanatory posters. Delegations will exchange information on capacity-building, training and promotional activities that have taken place since the last session of WP.7 or are planned for the near future.

8. Electronic quality certificates for fresh fruit and vegetables

The Secretariat will give a brief update about the discussions at the May 2017 session of the Specialized Section on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables and initial steps taken on the development of an electronic quality certificate for fresh fruit and vegetables.

9. Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes

In 2017, the Specialized Section had one regular meeting (Geneva, Switzerland) where delegations discussed sampling sizes, risk-based inspections, issues related to true potato seed; reviewed their position on the blackleg of potatoes; finalized the survey on seed potato virus testing methods; and continued their work on explanatory guides and other visual/promotional material. The Specialized Section also held a Rapporteurs meeting (Emmeloord, Netherlands) in September 2017.

The Specialized Section submitted for adoption by the Working Party the following documents:

Documentation: Report of the forty-fourth session (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.6/2017/2)

Blackleg statement (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/6)

Food loss/waste – the case of seed potato certification
(ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/7)

10. Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce

In 2017, the Specialized Section held one regular meeting in Geneva, and contributed to the Farmer's Market exhibition held on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. In addition to on-going work, new work was started on three standards (dried coconut pieces, dried bananas, dried ripe papaya) and on explanatory posters (dried apricots, inshell pistachio nuts, inshell walnuts, walnut kernels).

The Specialized Section submitted for adoption by the Working Party the following texts:

Documentation: Report of the sixty-fourth session (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.2/2017/2)
Walnut kernels (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/8)
Inshell almonds (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/9)
Dried coconut pieces (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/10)
Dried bananas (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/11)
Explanatory brochure for walnut kernels (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/12)

11. Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

The Specialized Section held one regular session this year and its work was showcased at the aforementioned Farmers Market event. In addition to its work on standardization, work was initiated on new baseline quality requirements for minimum quality criteria, particularly, for developing markets but also others; a code of good practice to reduce food loss along the entire supply chain and on an electronic quality (e-quality) certificate. Work on traceability continued with the set-up of a database for code mark.

The Specialized Section submitted the following texts for adoption by the Working Party:

Documentation: Report of the sixty-fifth session (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.1/2017/2)
Rhubarb (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/13)
Cherries (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/14)
Fennel (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/15)
Plums (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/16)
Fresh figs (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/17)
Kiwi fruit (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/18)
Headed cabbages (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/19)
Standard layout (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/20)
Apples (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/21)
Pears (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/22)
Tomatoes (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/23)

12. Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat

The Specialized Section held its regular session on 6 November 2017, therefore, some of the documents for adoption are only available in English. The Section also held a workshop on “Sustainable Meat Markets, Cross-border Trade and Eating Quality” in Dublin, Ireland, on 10-11 August 2017 and a workshop on “Cross-border Trade of Meat and Electronic Certification” on 19-21 September in Nanjing and Tianjin, China.

The Specialized Section submitted the following texts for adoption by the Working Party:

Documentation: Report of the twenty-sixth session (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.11/2017/2)

Eggs-in-shell (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.11/2017/5-ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/24)

Egg products (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.11/2017/6-ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/25)

Eating quality (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.11/2017/3-ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/26)

Explanatory guide for the bovine standard (ECE/CTCS/WP.7/GE.11/2017/4-ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/27)

Duck meat – amendments and revisions (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.11/2017/7-ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/28)

Goose meat – amendment and revisions (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.11/2017/8-ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/29)

Rabbit meat – amendment and revisions (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.11/2017/9-ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/30)

13. Future work

The Working Party will decide on its future work.

14. Other business

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

15. Election of officers

The delegations will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. At its 2016 session, the Working Party elected Mr. Pierre Schauenberg (Switzerland) as Chair and Ms. Agnieszka Sudol (Poland) as Vice-Chair.

16. Adoption of the report

The Working Party will adopt its report, which will be issued as ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/2.

III. Tentative timetable

Tuesday, 7 November	10:00 – 13:00	Conference on Standards and SDGs
	15:00 – 18:00	Conference on Standards and SDGs
Wednesday, 8 November	9:30 – 12:30	Items 1 to 8
	14.30 – 17:30	Items 9 to 16
