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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**COMMITTEE ON TRADE**

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Item 3(c) of the provisional agenda

**COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURAL QUALITY STANDARDS**

**RECENT DEVELOPMENTS UNDER WP.7 AND  
CHANGES TO THE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE 2008-2009 BIENNIUM**

Note by the secretariat

*Summary*

This document summarizes the activities and main achievements of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7) since the last session of the Committee. Additional information is available at the following webpage:  
<http://www.unece.org/trade/agr>

## I. STANDARDS

1. The Working Party and its Specialized Sections held the following intergovernmental and expert meetings since June 2006 to work on agricultural quality standards:

- (a) Seed Potatoes (GE.6) 19 - 21 March 2007
- (b) Meat (GE.11) 30 April - 3 May 2007
- (c) Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (GE.1) 21 - 25 May 2007
- (d) Dry and Dried Produce (GE.2) 25 - 29 June 2007
- (e) Working Party (WP.7) 7 - 9 November 2007
- (f) Two expert meetings on seed potatoes were held in Arras, France (16-18 October 2006) and in Changin, Switzerland (11 January 2006).
- (g) Meeting of Rapporteurs on Offals of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat (30 October 2006)

2. At its November 2006 session, the Working Party<sup>1</sup>:

- (a) Adopted a revised Standard for Seed Potatoes and its List of Diseases
- (b) Adopted/reconfirmed the following four standards for fresh fruit and vegetables:
  - (i) Early and ware potatoes
  - (ii) Melons
  - (iii) Truffles
  - (iv) Bilberries and blueberries
- (c) Amended the following seven recommendations for fresh fruit and vegetables and dry and dried produce:
  - (i) Table grapes
  - (ii) Cherries
  - (iii) Peaches and nectarines
  - (iv) Ceps

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<sup>1</sup> For more details, see the report on the sixty-second session of the Working Party, (document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/20).

- (v) Inshell hazelnuts
  - (vi) Inshell almonds
  - (vii) Pistachio kernels
- (d) Developed a new Standard Layout for UNECE Standards for Dry and Dried Produce
- (e) Adopted the following five meat standards:
- (i) Turkey
  - (ii) Ovine
  - (iii) Chicken
  - (iv) Porcine
  - (v) Llama/Alpaca
- (f) Revised the Conformity Certificate

3. The Working Party reviewed its work based on the results of the survey carried out in 2005 (document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2006/19).

4. The UNECE and the European Community (EC) worked together to keep the EC marketing standards harmonized with the UNECE standards.

## **II. CAPACITY-BUILDING**

- (a) Joint OECD/UNECE/EC Workshop on Fruit and Vegetables Standards, 3-7 July 2006, Tbilisi, Georgia
- (b) Joint Slovakia/OECD/UNECE Workshop on Fruit and Vegetables Standards, December 2006, Chisinau, Moldova
- (c) Joint Slovakia/OECD/UNECE International Training Course, 18-20 June 2007, Mojmírovce, Slovakia
- (d) Promotion of the standards for seed potatoes and early and ware potatoes at the “Potato Russia 2007” congress, 21-23 August 2007, Moscow, Russian Federation
- (e) Workshop on international commercial quality standards for agricultural produce, 24-26 September 2007, Ragusa, Sicily, Italy

## **III. COMMUNICATIONS**

5. All UNECE Agricultural Quality Standards are available at the following website:  
[http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/standard/stand\\_e.htm](http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/standard/stand_e.htm)

6. In support of the decision in the UNECE reform plan requesting the concentration of work on agricultural quality standards within the UNECE (E/ECE/1434/Rev.1, paragraph 56), UNECE submitted document ECE/TRADE/C/2006/18/Add.1 (Concentrating agricultural quality standards work in the UNECE: draft transition plan), as approved by the Committee on Trade, to the OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables in November 2006. Since then, WP.7 and the OECD have worked together to determine what would need to be done for the proposed concentration of work to successfully take place.

#### **IV. CHANGES TO THE PROGRAMME OF WORK 2008-2009**

7. Following the UNECE reform plan decision, and in view of the progress made to implement this decision by the Committee on Trade and the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards and its specialized sections, the programme of work for 2008-2009 (document ECE/TRADE/C/2006/12, section 1.3, paragraph 4) should be amended as follows:

- Prepare new Terms of reference and working procedures for the Working Party and its specialized sections.

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