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COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND  
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Ninth session, 23-27 May 2005

Item 5.7 of the provisional agenda

**WORKING PARTY ON AGRICULTURAL QUALITY STANDARDS**

**Summary of Main Activities and Developments**

**DOCUMENT FOR INFORMATION AND DECISION**

Note by the secretariat

This document sets out the main achievements in 2004 and highlights of the work planned for 2005. It supplements the report of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (TRADE/WP.7/2004/10), which the Committee will be asked to endorse. Additional information on the Working Party is available at the following website address: <http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/welcome.htm>

**1. Support for the Committee's overall objectives**

1. The Working Party and its four specialized sections contribute directly to the general objectives of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development regarding trade facilitation by:

- Creating internationally harmonized commercial quality standards for different produce
- Updating existing standards
- Cooperating with other international organizations and the private sector to avoid any duplication and to promote application of the standards
- Organizing and participating in capacity-building activities.

## **2. Work on standards and publications**

2. In 2004, one new standard was adopted and seven updated. Eight recommendations were adopted for a trial period. All have been published on the UNECE website at: [http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/standard/stand\\_e.htm](http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/standard/stand_e.htm)

3. The standard for bovine meat was published in English, French and Russian. The standards for ovine and chicken meat have been finalized and printed versions should be available by May 2005.

New UNECE Standard adopted for:

Llama/Alpaca Meat

Revised UNECE Standards adopted for:

Cultivated Mushrooms

Kiwi Fruit

Peaches and Nectarines

Watermelons

Citrus Fruit

Inshell Pistachio Nuts

Seed Potatoes

UNECE Recommendations adopted for:

Bilberries and Blueberries

Early and Ware Potatoes

Cherries

Peaches and Nectarines

Truffles

Plums

Inshell Almonds

Pistachio Kernels and Peeled Pistachio Kernels

## **3. Cooperation**

4. The UNECE secretariat works closely with the European Community to maintain the complete harmonization of 36 EC marketing standards with UNECE standards.

5. The Working Party's adoption of the revised UNECE Standard for Citrus Fruit, harmonized with the relevant Codex standards, is evidence of the successful cooperation with the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.

6. The Working Party contributed to the promotion of the WHO strategy on diet, physical activity and health (a series of 12 postcards was published in cooperation with WHO, OECD and the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme; and the UNECE secretariat was invited to participate in an expert meeting in Japan).

## **4. Capacity building**

7. Together with the Government of the Republic of Moldova, the Working Party organized a Workshop on the development of Moldovan trade in agricultural products (Chisinau, 28-30 April 2004), with around 60 participants.

8. The Working Party organized with the Government of the Lithuania, a seminar on the implementation of UNECE standards for meat (Vilnius, 29 October 2004), with around 70 participants.

9. An expert meeting on pork was organized in Warsaw and expert meetings on seed potatoes in Dublin and in Grand Forks, United States. The secretariat participated in a seminar on poultry meat in Moscow.

**5. Meetings of specialized sections and the Working Party to be held in 2005**

Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (GE.1)	7 - 11 March
Meat (GE.11)	11 - 15 April
Seed Potatoes (GE.6)	2 - 4 May
Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit) (GE.2)	13 - 17 June
Working Party (WP.7)	17 - 20 October

**6. Other activities planning for 2005**

10. In addition to the regular updating of standards, the Working Party will look at aligning the control certificate for agricultural products with the UN Layout Key. Plans are also going forward for a Roundtable on the tracing and tracking of agricultural products for the autumn of 2005.

11. Capacity-building events are planned for Azerbaijan and Georgia, subject to funding, as well as follow-up activities to the Workshop in the Republic of Moldova.

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