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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON TRADE

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

Fifty-fifth session
Geneva, 4-8 May 2009

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION¹

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
from 4 to 8 May 2009

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Matters of interest since the last session
 - (a) UNECE and subsidiary bodies
 - (b) Other organizations
 - (c) Concentration of agricultural quality standards work in UNECE
3. Revision of the Standard Layout

¹ Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations should complete the registration form, downloadable from <http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/welcome.htm> and transmit it to the secretariat either by e-mail (alissa.mayor@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22 917 0629). Prior to the meeting, delegates are requested to present themselves with a valid identification card/passport at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny entrance to obtain a security badge to enter the Palais (in case of a problem, please call 022 917 12 65). Documents for the meeting and information for Geneva visitors are also available on the website.

4. Revision of UNECE standards
 - (a) Apples
 - (b) Mushrooms
 - (c) Avocados
 - (d) Citrus Fruit
 - (e) Tomatoes
 - (f) Sweet peppers
 - (g) Other standards

5. Review of UNECE recommendations
 - (a) Apricots
 - (b) Pears
 - (c) Peaches and nectarines

6. New UNECE standards
 - (a) Fresh chilli peppers
 - (b) Chanterelles
 - (c) Shallots
 - (d) Berries
 - (e) Root vegetables
 - (f) Leafy vegetables
 - (g) Stalk vegetables
 - (h) Lambs lettuce (*Valerianella locusta*)

7. UNECE explanatory brochure for sweet peppers

8. Promotion of standards and capacity-building activities

9. Future work

10. Other business

11. Election of officers

12. Adoption of the report

II. ANNOTATIONS

1. Adoption of the agenda

The delegations will adopt the agenda.

Documentation: Annotated provisional agenda (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2009/1)

2. Matters of interest since the last session

(a) UNECE and subsidiary bodies

The secretariat will present the decisions taken by the 2009 session of the Committee on Trade and by the 2008 session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards having an impact on the work of the Specialized Section.

Documentation: Report of the Committee on Trade (ECE/TRADE/C/2009/12)
Report of the Working Party (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2008/25)

(b) Other organizations

Representatives of other organizations and country delegates will inform the Specialized Section about activities taking place in their agencies that are of relevance to the work of the Section. The participants may wish to discuss consequences for UNECE of the new EC regulation on the Common Market organization for fruit and vegetables.

(c) Concentration of agricultural quality standards work in UNECE

UNECE and OECD will report on the progress made in discussions on the concentration of the OECD and UNECE activities in agricultural quality standards within UNECE. The questions relating to the transfer of work can be considered within a broader discussion on how to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Working Party activities.

Documentation: Terms of reference (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2008/23)
Working procedures (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2008/24)
June 2008 amendments by United States to terms of reference and working procedures
Proposals on restructuring the Working Party (INF.1, Informal document)

3. Revision of the Standard Layout

The delegations will consider the proposal from the United Kingdom on quality tolerances that could be taken into account in the Standard Layout as well as in some standards.

Documentation: Proposal by United Kingdom on quality tolerances (INF.2, Informal document)

4. Revision of UNECE standards

(a) Apples

The Specialized Section will discuss the figures on uniformity by diameter in the section on provisions concerning sizing.

Documentation: The Standard (FFV-50: Apples)
Proposals on the list of apple varieties (INF.3, Informal document)
Proposal by United Kingdom on quality tolerances (INF.2, Informal document)
Proposal by OECD Working Group (INF.4, Informal document)

(b) Mushrooms

The Specialized Section will decide on the proposal to amend the provision on how mushrooms should be cut. The delegations were to consult their industry.

Documentation: The Standard (FFV-24: Cultivated mushrooms)

(c) Avocados

The delegation of the United States will suggest how to incorporate large-fruited Antillean varieties into the Standard.

Documentation: The Standard (FFV-42: Avocados)
Proposals by United States (INF.5, Informal document)

(d) Citrus fruit

The delegation of Israel will summarize and present proposals collected from countries on how to update the Standard.

Documentation: Summary of suggestions by countries (INF.6, Informal document)
Proposals by Israel on the Standard for citrus fruit (INF.7, Informal document)
The Standard (FFV-14: Citrus fruit)

(e) Tomatoes

The Specialized Section will discuss uniformity of tomatoes by weight and count.

Documentation: The Standard (FFV-36: Tomatoes)

(f) Sweet peppers

The delegations will review the Standard together with the draft UNECE explanatory brochure for Sweet Peppers under item 7.

Documentation: The Standard (FFV-28: Sweet peppers)
Draft revised Standard (INF.8, Informal document)

(g) Other standards

The Specialized Section may wish to revise other standards provided that interested countries have submitted written proposals. The delegations may also wish to decide on the list of standards that should be aligned with the new Standard Layout.

5. Review of UNECE recommendations

The delegations will review the following recommendations recently adopted by the Working Party for trial use until 2009.

(a) Apricots

The Working Group (Hungary and the technical assistant for the OECD brochure on apricots) will present proposals on minimum size and maturity characteristics for inclusion in the Standard. The delegations will also consider amendments proposed by the United Kingdom.

Documentation: The Recommendation (FFV-02: Apricots)
Working Group proposals (INF.9, Informal document)
Proposals by the United Kingdom (INF.10, Informal document)

(b) Pears

The Working Group (Switzerland and the technical assistant for the OECD brochure on pears) will present proposals to revise the provisions on defects in colouring)

Documentation: The Recommendation (FFV-51: Pears)
Working Group proposals (INF.11, Informal document)

(c) Peaches and nectarines

The Specialized Section will review the text of the Recommendation.

Documentation: The Recommendation (FFV-26: Peaches and nectarines)

6. New UNECE standards

(a) Chanterelles

The delegation of France will present a revised draft Standard for Chanterelles, which will take into account comments made by the participants at the 2008 session of the Specialized Section (document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2008/3).

Documentation: Draft Standard for Chanterelles (INF.12, Informal document)

(b) Fresh chilli peppers

The delegation of Mexico will present, in cooperation with other producing and exporting countries, a revised draft Standard for Fresh Chilli Peppers, taking into account the comments by delegations (document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2008/4) made at the 2008 session of the Specialized Section.

Documentation: Draft Standard for Fresh Chilli Peppers (INF.13, Informal document)

(c) Shallots

The delegation of France will present a draft Standard for Shallots.

Documentation: Draft Standard for Shallots (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2009/2)

(d) - (h) New Standards for berries, leafy vegetables, root vegetables, stalk vegetables, lambs lettuce (*Valerianella locusta*)

The delegation of Germany will present a set of draft standards. These proposals are made in the light of the new EC regulation implementing a general standard for fruit and vegetables and allowing this standard for the produce in question to be replaced by the UNECE standard. As the number of UNECE standards is limited for produce of only national or regional importance, German producers and traders propose to establish new UNECE standards for produce groups such as berries, leafy vegetables, root vegetables and stalk vegetables, and eventually integrate existing standards for special produce.

Documentation: Justifications and proposals (INF.14-18, Informal documents)

7. UNECE explanatory brochure for sweet peppers

The Specialized Section is expected to finalize the brochure on the basis of proposals collected from countries. The delegations will decide if the draft brochure and the Standard could be recommended to the Working Party for adoption.

Documentation: Draft brochure (INF.19, Informal document)

8. Promotion of standards and capacity-building activities

The secretariat and the delegations will share information on promotional and capacity-building activities that are either planned or have already taken place.

9. Future work

The Specialized Section will discuss its future work.

10. Other business

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

11. Election of officers

The Specialized Section will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. At its fifty-fourth session the group elected Ms. Ulrike Bickelmann (Germany) as Chair and Ms. Kristina Mattsson (Sweden) as Vice-Chair.

12. Adoption of the report

The Specialized Section will adopt the report of the session.

III. TENTATIVE TIMETABLE

Preliminary timetable		
Monday, 4 May	15:00 - 18:00	Items 1, 2, 3
Tuesday, 5 May	10:00 - 13:00	Item 4
	15:00 - 18:00	Items 4 (cont'd), 5, 6
Wednesday, 6 May	10:00 - 13:00	Items 6 (cont'd), 8
	15:00 - 18:00	Items 4(g) and 7
Thursday, 7 May	10:00 - 13:00	Items 9, 10, 11
	14:30 - 17:00	Working groups
Friday, 8 May	08:30 - 11:00	Working groups
	11:00 - 13:00	Item 12