



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/1999/2
26 March 1999

ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Standardization of
Perishable Produce and Quality Development

Specialized Section on Standardization of
Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit)

7-10 June 1999, Geneva

Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda

MATTERS OF INTEREST ARISING SINCE THE FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Note by the secretariat

This document summarizes the outcome of the second session of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development and the fifty-fourth session of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development.

Second session of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development

Discussion of the work of the Working Party

The following excerpt is taken from the report of the Committee (ECE/TRADE/222, paragraphs 27 to 32):

“27. The Chairman of the Working Party (WP.7), Mr. M. Vilchez-Barros (Spain), informed the Committee that the Working Party had not met since the last session of the Committee in December. Several meetings of rapporteurs and experts had been held but their decisions would still have to be endorsed by WP.7 at its next session (2-4 November 1998).

28. The Chairman of the Working Party and other delegations expressed their satisfaction with the fact that the post dealing with agricultural standards had now been filled on a permanent basis and also thanked Ms. L. Annovazzi Jakab who had been acting as Secretary to WP.7 and its Meetings of Experts for her excellent work and support during the past years.

29. The Chairman of the Working Party gave a presentation on commercial quality standards for perishable produce and the role of UN/ECE and other international organizations (OECD Scheme, European Union, Codex Committee on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables) in the development of these standards. He also explained the efforts undertaken to harmonize the work of the different bodies.

30. The delegation of the European Community confirmed its continued support for the work of UN/ECE in this area. It noted that EU legislation and UN/ECE standards were already well harmonized and that the European Community advocated that all activities by other international bodies in this area should reinforce UN/ECE standards.

31. The EU representative asked further, if, in view of the uncertainty surrounding the continuation of the OECD scheme for the application of international standards for fruit and vegetables, the Committee could request the Working Party on Perishable Produce and Quality Development to consider if some of the OECD work should be transferred to UN/ECE. The delegation of Turkey said that if additional tasks were taken on by WP.7, additional resources would also be required. In an answer to these remarks, the Director of the Trade Division said that until more information was received from OECD, and before the next session of WP.7, it would be premature for the Committee to discuss this subject in depth. When more information was available, this would be reported to the Committee at its next session in June 1999, which could then, through a reassignment of priorities, decide on the allocation of resources to this work area.

32. The delegate from the Russian Federation announced that he would submit a proposal for a standard on marking of food products to the November session of WP.7.”

Prioritization of the work of the Working Party

At the Committee session the work of WP.7 was given an overall “HIGHER” priority and its individual tasks were prioritized as follows (ECE/TRADE/222, annex II, programme activity 04, B.):

- “Higher:** Setting of new standards and revisions, enlarging participation of both public and private sectors.
- Broadening the application of UN/ECE standards and recommendations and the implementation of controls at private and public levels.
- Disseminating the texts of UN/ECE standards and recommendations for perishable produce among supplying countries to UN/ECE markets and diffusion among users at different levels: producers, traders, control services, consumers.
- Medium:** Interpretation and harmonization of standards and control procedures among UN/ECE member countries.
- Lower:** Cooperation with other international standardization organizations.”

Fifty-fourth session of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development

Excerpt taken from the report TRADE/WP.7/1998/9, paras. 8-20:

“Meeting of Experts on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit)

Document: TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/1998/14

8. The chairman of the group Mr. W. Staub (Germany) presented the report on the forty-sixth session of the Meeting of Experts. He thanked the French authorities for hosting the meeting in Grenoble, for the excellent organization and interesting excursions. He also thanked the rapporteur from Turkey for his work on Inshell Hazelnuts and Hazelnut Kernels.

Consideration to adopt the revised standard for Inshell Hazelnuts as a UN/ECE Recommendation

Document TRADE/WP.7/1998/3

9. The delegation of Poland entered a reservation to the table for quality tolerances in all classes to the figures for mouldy, rotten etc. as follows: “Reservation by Poland requesting 0.5% tolerance for mouldy. Any trace of damage by rodents is a disqualifying defect.” The reservation was noted and the chairman invited the delegation from Poland to participate in future sessions of the group.

10. The Working Party adopted the revision as a UN/ECE Recommendation on Inshell Hazelnuts for a two-year trial period. The recommendation will be published in an addendum to this report.

Consideration to adopt the revised standard for Hazelnut Kernels as a UN/ECE Recommendation

Document: TRADE/WP.7/1998/4

11. There were only minor changes to this standard. The delegation of Poland entered the same reservation as for Inshell Hazelnuts.

12. The Working Party adopted the revision as a UN/ECE Recommendation on Hazelnut Kernels for a two-year trial period. The recommendation will be published in an addendum to this report.

Consideration to adopt the revised Recommendation on Dried Apples as a new UN/ECE Standard

Document: TRADE/WP.7/1998/5

13. The Working Party adopted the revised recommendation as a new UN/ECE Standard on Dried Apples. The new standard will be published in an addendum to this report.

Consideration to extend the trial period for the UN/ECE Recommendation on Cashew Kernels for one year

14. Further discussion is necessary on this recommendation because no consensus could be found on the indication of the country of origin. Several countries import the raw material from different countries for processing where the kernels from different countries of origin are mixed.

15. The Working Party agreed to extend the trial period for the UN/ECE Recommendation on Cashew Kernels for one year.

Consideration of a request to review the UN/ECE Standards on Pistachio Nuts

16. The Meeting had requested permission to review the UN/ECE Standards on Pistachio Nuts because the present texts no longer reflect modern trade. The Working Party agreed to this request.

Consideration to extend the trial period for the UN/ECE Recommendation on Walnut Kernels for one year

17. Further discussion is necessary on this recommendation because no consensus could be found on the using of colour for classification, which is done in Europe but not in the United States. A small working group, composed of France, Germany and the United States had been created to draw up a harmonized proposal that reflects the interest of all growers. A delegation of France had visited California during the harvest season for information and further discussions on a new colour chart.

18. The Working Party agreed to extend the trial period for the UN/ECE Recommendation on Walnut Kernels for one year.

Other work

19. Mr. Staub informed the Working Party of other decisions of the group:

- Not to develop a standard on dried cherries, because the volume traded is too small.
- To revise the standard layout (rapporteur Germany) and its annexes (rapporteur Spain).

20. He also said that it had been decided to continue work on a multilingual dictionary of defects which had been created by Italy. This dictionary currently exists in 5 languages and it is envisaged to add other languages soon. “
