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COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of
Seed Potatoes

Thirty-fifth session, 2-4 May 2005, Geneva

Item 2 of the Provisional Agenda

MATTERS OF INTEREST ARISING SINCE THE LAST SESSION*

Note by the secretariat: This document contains the discussion on the work of the Specialized Section in the sixtieth session of the Working Party.

*This document was submitted after the deadline due to missing secretariat resources.

Excerpt from the report of the Working Party (TRADE/WP.7/2004/10, paras. 47 to 49)

ITEM 5: Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes

47. The Chairman of the Specialized Section, Mr. Pier Giacomo Bianchi, informed the Working Party on the outcome of the thirty-fourth session of the Specialized Section and the work done by the extended bureau since then:

- Proposals to amend the Standard.
- Overview of the other issues which are under discussion for possible future amendments.
- Other initiatives of the Specialized Section.
- Extended bureau meetings of 2004 and the programme of activities for 2005.

5 (a) Text recommended for adoption as revised UNECE Standard

48. The Working Party adopted the text contained in TRADE/WP.7/2004/3 and TRADE/WP.7/2004/3/Add.1 as the revised UNECE Standard for Seed Potatoes. These documents incorporate changes in the following areas:

- Addition of a text on the International Plant Protection Convention to the introduction
- Introduction of provisions for shrivelled tubers.
- Completion of the list of pests/diseases from which seed potatoes are required to be free.
- Definition of viruses in the glossary.
- Consistent use of the term “national designated authority”.
- Sizing provisions.
- Consequential amendments to the summary table of tolerances.

5 (b) Information on meetings of the extended bureau:

49. The Extended Bureau met in Dublin, Ireland (5 to 7 July 2004) and in East Grand Forks – Minnesota, United States (4 to 6 October 2004). The Chairman thanked the authorities of these countries for organizing these events. At the meetings, a number of issues were discussed which will lead to the further development of the standard. Other subjects discussed included:

- Development of a two-day prototype seminar to be offered to countries wishing to improve their seed potato production or to importing countries wishing to be better informed about ordering seed from other countries
- Further development of a list of pests of concern for seed potatoes
- Establishment of a recognizable UNECE label for the standard.