

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON TRADE

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes

Meeting of the Extended Bureau
Belgium, Luxembourg, 19 - 21 October 2009

INFORMATION ON THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU

Note by the Chairman of the Specialized Section

This document summarizes the discussions at the Extended Bureau meeting held in Belgium and Luxembourg on 19 - 21 October 2009.

1. The Extended Bureau held its meeting on 19 - 21 October 2009 in Belgium and Luxembourg. Representatives of the following countries attended the meeting: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.
2. The delegations visited the cooperative of seed potato producers „E'slecker Setzgromperengenossenschaft“ (Synplants) in Clerf, Luxembourg, and the Libramont Agricultural Research Centre and Binst Breeding and Selection Company in Belgium.
3. The Extended Bureau expressed its gratitude to the Ministry of Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development of Luxembourg and to the Ministry of Agriculture of Belgium for hosting the meeting.
4. Below is a summary of the discussions and decisions taken at the meeting. The revised texts of the documents discussed and agreed upon by the delegations, as well as presentations made at the meeting, can be found on the UNECE website at: www.unece.org/trade/agr/meetings/ge.06/2009-in-session.htm.

A. List of diseases and pests

Documentation: www.unece.org/trade/agr/standard/potatoes/PestPicturesE.htm

5. The participants decided to include in the list, under “Blackleg”, two pictures of soft (also called wet) rot that were submitted by the delegation of the United Kingdom, and the picture of *Dickeya chrysanthemi* submitted by the delegation of Germany. The pictures were meant to illustrate the symptoms, not the causal organisms of soft rot.
6. The delegations of the Netherlands, United Kingdom and United States have volunteered to draw up definitions of soft and dry rots for annex VII of the Standard for the March 2010 session of the Specialized Section.

B. Tuber moth

Documentation: Tuber moth (GE.6/BUR(2)/2009/2)

7. All countries have zero tolerance for living tuber moth larvae for imported seed. However, the UNECE Standard, as well as the EU marketing directive, does not have provisions on the basis of which a lot damaged by tuber moth could be rejected.
8. The Extended Bureau asked the Working Group composed of the delegations of Belgium (rapporteur), France, Germany, Netherlands and United States to propose how to address internal defects, including tuber moth damage, in the Standard. First, a definition of internal defects should be agreed upon, taking into consideration the results of the discussion on internal rust spot and spraing, blue or black spot bruise, and glassiness - whether these defects should be covered by the definition.

9. The delegation of France has agreed to prepare a short note to explain its proposal to add a point on defects caused by insects to annex III of the Standard.

C. Non-compliance at destination

Documentation: Non-compliance at destination (GE.6/BUR(2)/2009/3)

10. The Extended Bureau reviewed the note prepared by the delegation of the United Kingdom and recommended to the Specialized Section to include it in the Standard as a new annex on international dispute settlement.

D. Crop inspection practices

Documentation: Crop inspection practices (GE.6/BUR(2)/2009/4)

11. The delegation of the United Kingdom presented a reviewed proposal on crop inspection practices. The Extended Bureau discussed and revised the text. It recommended its inclusion in the Standard as a new annex on field inspection practices. The Specialized Section will decide on the place of this annex in the sequence of the existing ones.

E. Post-harvest tests

Documentation: Post-harvest tests (GE.6/BUR(2)/2009/5)

12. The Extended Bureau amended the text on post-harvest evaluation presented by the delegation of the United States. Annexes IV and VII of the Standard should be reviewed to incorporate new provisions on post-harvest evaluation. The Specialized Section will finalize the text at its annual session in March 2010.

13. The delegations of Denmark (rapporteur), Netherlands and the United Kingdom have offered to propose text on the importance of ensuring statistical comparability of the evaluation results to be included in annex IX of the Standard.

F. Varietal identity

Documentation: Varietal purity (GE.6/BUR(2)/2009/6)

14. The Specialized Section will finalize the draft questionnaire on varietal identity and purity at its March 2010 session and will decide on sending it out.

G. Electronic certification

15. The delegation of Canada informed the meeting on the NAPPO Electronic Phytosanitary Certification Workshop held in Ottawa from 19 to 21 May 2009. The report and other information about the workshop can be found on: www.nappo.org.

H. Comparative trials

16. The Extended Bureau agreed that the main purpose of comparative trials, which should probably be called “demonstration” trials, is to harmonize the application of the Standard, to show how to carry out crop inspection and how to keep records. The trials are not meant to compare varieties. Demonstration fields could be sown using local seeds and could be visited as part of promotional workshops.

17. The delegation of Russia has offered to host a demonstration trial in 2011. This activity would help the national producers understand better how the Standard is used in practice. The demonstration trials are also a good tool for sharing experience and for training inspectors.

18. The delegations of Denmark, France (rapporteur), Russian Federation, Switzerland and the United Kingdom have volunteered to prepare a technical protocol for demonstration trials for the next meeting of the Specialized Section. Several countries have offered to visit their national demonstration fields.

I. Promotion of the Standard

19. The Extended Bureau has accepted the offer by Indonesia to host a regional workshop in this country in October 2010. The provisional dates of the workshop (18-22 October) are to be confirmed. The Steering Group, composed of the delegations of Canada, France, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States, the Chairman and the secretariat, will prepare the workshop.

J. Other business

20. The Specialized Section meeting was provisionally planned for 15-17 March 2010 in Geneva.