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COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat

13th Session, 19 - 22 April 2004, Geneva

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

MATTERS OF INTEREST ARISING SINCE THE TWELFTH SESSION

Note by the secretariat

This document sums up the relevant outcome of the seventh session of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development and the fifty-ninth session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards.

1. SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

The following excerpt is taken from the report of the Committee (ECE/TRADE/306, paragraphs 33 to 40):

Item 8 – Agricultural quality standards

Documentation:

TRADE/2003/6

Recent developments under the Working Party on Perishable Produce and Quality Development (WP.7)

TRADE/WP.7/2002/9

Report of the 58th session of the Working Party Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7)

33. In the absence of the Chairman of the Working Party, Mr. David Priester (United States), who could not attend the session, the Secretary of the Working Party presented documents TRADE/WP.7/2002/9 and TRADE/2003/6, in which the Working Party asked the Committee to approve the decision to change its name from “Working Party on Perishable Produce and Quality Development” to “Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards”.

34. At the last Committee session, some delegations had raised the issue of cooperation with the OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables and the secretariat was pleased to report that this cooperation continued to function very well. He assured the Committee that within the existing resources of both the UNECE and the OECD, everything was being done to ensure a speedy completion of the standards and their explanatory brochures. Further ideas for closer cooperation would be discussed between the secretariats and in the relevant Specialized Sections in the near future.

35. He said that the secretariat was currently more involved in capacity-building work, such as training courses. Upcoming activities in this area included the organization of two events in Moscow, co-organized with the Russian Federation (one on implementation of the UNECE bovine standard and one on the draft UNECE standard for chicken meat), from 22-26 September 2003. A request had also been received from Lithuania for a training course on implementation of the UNECE bovine standard. Cooperation had also been initiated with the other United Nations regional commissions and EAN International, as well as with the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC).

36. The delegation of the European Community noted what had been said by the secretariat regarding cooperation with the OECD. Both the delegations of the European Community and the Russian Federation stressed the importance of this work and called for resources in this work area to be increased

37. The Chairman noted that the Bureau of the Committee was open to discussing well-documented requests for additional resources in order to determine what follow-up, if any, could be undertaken.

Further information about the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/welcome.htm>

Decisions taken

38. The Committee endorsed the report (TRADE/WP.7/2002/9) of the fifty-eighth session of the Working Party on Perishable Produce and Quality Development.

39. The Committee noted document TRADE/2003/6 for information.

40. The Committee approved the change of name from the “Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development” to the “Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards”.

2. FIFTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY

The following excerpt is taken from the report of the Working Party (TRADE/WP.7/2003/6, paragraphs 105 – 111):

Item 7: Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat

Document: *TRADE/WP.7/GE.11/2003/12 (Report of the 12th session)*

105. The secretariat introduced the report of the 12th session held in Geneva from 6 to 9 March 2003 (see. TRADE/WP.7/GE.11/2003/12). The meeting was attended by 14 delegations. At the meeting the standards for bovine and ovine meat had been aligned with the layout used in the standard for chicken meat and prepared for publication. Work on the standard for chicken meat had been almost finalized with a couple of reservations remaining in the text. Work had begun on the development of a new UNECE standard for llama meat and the revision of the porcine standard.

Item 7 (a) New UNECE Standard for Chicken Meat - Carcasses and Parts

Document: *TRADE/WP.7/GE.11/2003/12/Add.1*

106. The secretariat informed the Working Party that at the meeting of rapporteurs on chicken meat (held in Moscow from 15 to 17 September) a consensus had been found on all major open items and all reservations had been lifted. Consequently, the Chairman of the Specialized Section, in accordance with para. 98 of the report, had recommended the adoption of the standard (as contained in document TRADE/WP.7/GE.11/2003/12/Add.1 and Add.2 and amended in Moscow).

107. Adoption of the standard at the current Working Party session would enable countries to start using the text and the secretariat to proceed with the publication of the standard for next year in the early summer.

108. The Working Party adopted the text as a new UNECE Standard for Chicken Meat – Carcasses and Parts.

Item 7 (b) Meetings of rapporteurs/ seminar on implementation of the bovine standard

109. The delegation of the Russian Federation informed about the meetings held in Moscow in September.

110. They thanked the secretariat for assisting in organizing the meetings and the participants for their contributions. They said that both meetings had been successful: the meeting of rapporteurs on chicken meat had achieved the goal of finalizing the standard and the seminar on implementation of the beef standard had given the impetus for the introduction of the standard in the Russian Federation. The event had been well attended by high-level professionals in the meat industry.

111. The secretariat thanked the delegation of the Russian Federation for organizing these meetings and asked that their appreciation also be transmitted to the colleagues working in the Poultry Institute and the Meat Institute. The secretariat also thanked the V.B. Bobkov St. Petersburg branch of the Russian Customs Academy for the excellent organization of the meeting of rapporteurs on the revision of the porcine standard.