

**DIRECTORATE FOR FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES
COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE**

OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables

**DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE ORGANISATION FOR
ECONOMIC COOPERATION (OECD) AND THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE (UNECE) ON THE COOPERATION FOR STANDARD DEVELOPMENT AND
INTERPRETATION ASSOCIATED WITH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES INTERNATIONAL
MARKETING STANDARDS**

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This document is submitted for DISCUSSION at the 63rd Session of the Plenary Meeting.

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Note by the Secretariat

This document has been prepared by the Secretariat of the OECD and the Bureau of the Plenary Meeting for the “Scheme” as a follow-up to the decision made at the 62nd Session of the Plenary Meeting to adopt an Action Plan for the Reform of the Scheme [see AGR/CA/FVS(2004)3/REV1, action B.2.1, “Reinforce and formalize cooperation with UNECE”].

DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

THE ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (OECD)

And

THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (UNECE)

On

THE COOPERATION FOR STANDARD DEVELOPMENT AND INTERPRETATION ASSOCIATED
WITH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE INTERNATIONAL MARKETING STANDARDS

This memorandum of understanding is made and entered into by and between OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation & Development) and UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) relating to the cooperation between *the OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables* (hereinafter called the “OECD Scheme”) and *the UNECE Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards* (hereinafter called the “UNECE Working Party”) in the development and interpretation of international marketing standards for fruit and vegetables (hereinafter called the “standards”).

WHEREAS, international standard elaboration and standard interpretation constitute both parts of one single work aiming at providing a common language and avoiding conflicts in the field of marketing quality;

WHEREAS, with increasing worldwide trade of fruit and vegetables, it is increasingly important to have common standards and common standard interpretation available to ensure technical barriers to trade are not set up;

WHEREAS the UNECE Working Party is responsible for the elaboration of standards related to fresh fruits and vegetables as well as dry and dried produce applied at the export stage under the UNECE Geneva Protocol;

WHEREAS the OECD Scheme is responsible for the development of explanatory brochures and other interpretative material related to the standards, and plays a unique role in the standard harmonised interpretation and their uniform implementation;

HAVING REGARD TO the OECD Council Decision C(99)10/FINAL according to which standards adopted by the UNECE, once approved by the OECD, shall be applied under the OECD Scheme to fruit and vegetables, at the export stage, when these products enter into international trade between countries participating in the Scheme;

Considering that in this respect, OECD and UNECE have, over the past years, acquired experience in successful cooperation, and that in particular:

- UNECE standards are adopted by the OECD and applied under the OECD Scheme.

- The OECD benefits from adopting UNECE standards that are widely used in international trade, thereby enhancing the OECD Scheme authority.
- The UNECE benefits from the OECD explanatory brochures/material which are well received in trade and national inspection services who use them as a basis for interpretation of UNECE standards and thus, enhance the understanding of UNECE standards and increase their visibility.
- The OECD Guide on implementation of quality control and its model control certificate are adopted by the UNECE.
- The OECD Document to facilitate exchange of information between national inspection services of exporting and importing countries on non-conformity of fruit and vegetables is adopted by the UNECE.

Therefore, OECD and UNECE hereby agree to recognise and reinforce their cooperation by establishing new modalities for their collaboration.

1. General provisions

OECD and UNECE mutually recognise the outputs of each Organisation as described in the preamble and underline their reciprocal confidence.

They will intensify their cooperation and better promote the work of both Organisations, in particular through the implementation of the provisions detailed in article 2.

2. Modes of cooperation

The UNECE standards, once adopted by the OECD, shall become official OECD standards.

The OECD will inform the UNECE of any difficulties encountered by its Members in the use of the standards above.

The OECD explanatory brochures and other interpretative material, once adopted by the UNECE Working Party, shall become the official interpretation of the UNECE standards.

The UNECE will inform the OECD of any difficulties encountered by its Members in the use of the explanatory material above.

In order to enhance the authority of both Organisations and improve their visibility, the standards, explanatory brochures and other interpretative material will demonstrate more visibly the existing cooperation by branding the relevant material with the logos of both Organisations accompanied with the quotation “adopted by UNECE and OECD”.

Based on this Memorandum of Understanding, future joint work such as joint seminars for improved promotion and dissemination of the work of both Organisations shall be explored.

3. Intellectual property

The parties recognize the importance of protecting and respecting intellectual property rights. All legal rights that may arise from the explanatory brochures and other interpretative material shall vest in the OECD who will control the dissemination and the proper use of the published material. The income from the sales of the publications on standard explanatory material will belong to the OECD.

4. Date of effect - Termination

This Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect upon the date of its signature and may be terminated by either party at its sole discretion with 60 days prior notice in writing.

Date of signature

For the OCDE
Deputy Secretary-General

For the UNECE
