



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/1
10 August 2007

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON TRADE

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Sixty-third session
Geneva, 5-9 November 2007

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The official meeting of the Working Party will start at 10:00 on Tuesday, 6 November and finish at 13:00 on Thursday, 8. Monday, 5, Thursday afternoon, 8, and Friday, 9 are reserved for informal sessions of working groups¹.

Preliminary timetable		
Monday, 5 November	10:00 – 18:00	Working groups
Tuesday, 6 November	10:00 – 13:00	Items 1, 2a, 2b-c (introduction only), 2d, 3
	15:00 – 18:00	Items 4, 5, 6
Wednesday, 7 November	10:00 – 13:00	Items 7, 8, 9
	15:00 – 18:00	Items 2b-c (substantive discussion and decisions), 10, 11, 12
Thursday, 8 November	10:00 – 13:00	Item 13
	14:00 – 18:00	Working groups
Friday, 9 November	10:00 – 18:00	Working groups

¹ Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations should complete the registration form, downloadable from <http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/meetings/registr.htm> and transmit it to the secretariat either by e-mail (alissa.mayor@unece.org) or by fax ((41) 22 917 06 29). Prior to the meeting, delegates are requested to present themselves with a valid identification card/passport at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny gate to obtain a security badge to enter the Palais (in case of a problem, please call 022 917 12 65). Documents for the meeting are available on the website at <http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/meetings/2007.htm>. Additional information for visitors is available at: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>.

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Matters of interest since the last session
 - (a) Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of working parties within UNECE
 - (b) Concentrating agricultural quality standards work within UNECE
 - (c) Revised terms of reference and working procedures
 - (d) Recent developments in other organizations
3. Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes
4. Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
 - (a) Revised Standard Layout for UNECE standards on fresh fruit and vegetables
 - (b) Texts for adoption as new/revised UNECE standards
 - (i) Cherries
 - (ii) Table grapes
 - (iii) Ceps
 - (iv) Apples
 - (c) Texts for adoption as UNECE recommendations
 - (i) Apricots
 - (ii) Cucumbers
 - (iii) Peaches and nectarines
 - (d) Initiation of work on new UNECE standards
5. Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce
 - (a) Revised Standard Layout for UNECE standards on dry and dried produce
 - (b) Texts for adoption as new/revised UNECE standards
 - (i) Inshell almonds
 - (ii) Dried tomatoes
 - (iii) Inshell hazelnuts
 - (c) Texts for adoption/extension as UNECE recommendations
 - (i) Pistachios
 - (ii) Hazelnut kernels
 - (iii) Inshell walnuts
 - (iv) Blanched almond kernels
 - (v) Dried peaches
 - (d) Initiation of work on new UNECE standards
 - (e) Suspension of work
6. Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat
 - (a) Texts for adoption as new/revised UNECE standards
 - (i) Bovine meat
 - (ii) Caprine meat
 - (iii) Turkey meat
 - (b) Initiation of work on new UNECE standards

7. Interpretation of UNECE standards
 - (a) Colour gauge for walnut kernels
 - (b) Brochures on sweet peppers and on inshell walnuts and walnut kernels
8. General questions
 - (a) Questionnaire on the use of UNECE standards
 - (b) UNECE website
 - (c) Lists of authorities
 - (d) OECD Scheme work on sampling
9. Capacity-building activities
10. Other business
11. Future work
12. Election of officers
13. Adoption of the report

II. ANNOTATIONS

Item 1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Working Party will adopt the agenda.

Documentation: Annotated provisional agenda (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/1)

Item 2. Matters of interest since the last session

Items 2b and 2c will be introduced on Tuesday morning, a more in-depth discussion will take place on Wednesday afternoon and then, after this discussion, the Working Party will make its decisions.

(a) Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of working parties within UNECE

The secretariat will present the above Guidelines, which were approved by the UNECE Executive Committee in July 2006.

Documentation: The Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of working parties within UNECE (ECE/EX/1)

(b) Concentrating agricultural quality standards work within UNECE

The UNECE cooperation task force, the OECD exploratory task force and the UNECE secretariat will report on the progress made in implementing the recommendation in the UNECE reform plan (E/ECE/1434/Rev.1) to concentrate the agricultural quality standards activities within the UNECE.

Documentation: Progress report on the concentration of work on agricultural quality standards within UNECE (ECE/TRADE/C/2007/6)

(c) Revised terms of reference and working procedures

The delegations will discuss revised terms of reference and working procedures for the Working Party which are for approval.

Documentation: Draft terms of reference (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/12)
Working procedures (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/13)

(d) Recent developments in other organizations

The delegations will be informed about the activities of other organizations active in the area of agricultural quality standards.

At its May 2006 session, the Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables asked the UNECE transition task force and the UNECE and Codex secretariats to suggest ways of cooperating and of avoiding duplication of work. The Working Party will be informed about the progress made in this respect.

Items 3 – 6

The Chairpersons of the specialized sections will present their work since the 2006 meeting of the Working Party, at which they were requested to use PowerPoint for reporting. The Working Party will decide on the proposed texts and on other issues concerning its work.

Item 3. Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes

The Specialized Section submitted the amended Standard and the List of diseases and pests for approval by the Working Party.

Documentation: Report of the thirty-seventh session (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.6/2007/8)
Standard on seed potatoes (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/2)
List of diseases and pests (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/3)

Item 4. Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

Documentation: Report of the fifty-third session (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2007/11)

(a) Revised Standard Layout for UNECE standards on fresh fruit and vegetables

The Specialized Section recommended that the Working Party adopt the revised text of the Standard Layout for a trial period of one year.

Documentation: Standard Layout (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/4)

(b) Texts for adoption as new/revised UNECE standards

The Specialized Section submitted the amended texts on cherries, table grapes, ceps and apples for adoption as new/revised UNECE standards.

Documentation: Cherries - revised (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/5)
Table grapes - revised (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/6)
Ceps - new (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/7)
Apples - revised (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/8)

(c) Texts for adoption as UNECE recommendations

The Specialized Section submitted the revised texts on apricots, cucumbers, and peaches and nectarines for adoption as recommendations for trial use until the end of 2008.

Documentation: Apricots - revised (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/9)
Cucumbers - revised (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/10)
Peaches and nectarines - revised (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/11)

(d) Initiation of work on new UNECE standards

The Specialized Section asked the Working Party to approve the initiation of work on two new UNECE standards for chanterelles and fresh chilli peppers, proposed by the delegations of France and Mexico, respectively.

Item 5. Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce

Documentation: Report of the fifty-fourth session (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2007/14)

(a) Revised Standard Layout for UNECE standards on dry and dried produce

The Specialized Section recommended that the Working Party adopt the revised text of the Standard Layout for a trial period of one year.

Documentation: Standard Layout (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/15)

(b) Texts for adoption as new/revised UNECE standards

The Specialized Section submitted the amended texts on inshell almonds, dried tomatoes and inshell hazelnuts for adoption as new/revised UNECE standards.

Documentation: Inshell almonds - new (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/16)
Dried tomatoes - new (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/18)
Inshell hazelnuts - revised (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/19)

(c) Texts for adoption/extension as UNECE recommendations

The Specialized Section submitted the revised texts on pistachio kernels and peeled pistachio kernels, dried peaches and inshell walnuts for adoption as recommendations for trial use until the end of 2008. It also asked to extend the trial period for one more year for the recommendations for hazelnut kernels and blanched almond kernels.

Documentation: Pistachios - new (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/17)
Hazelnut kernels - extension (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/20)
Inshell walnuts - new (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/21)
Blanched almond kernels - extension (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/22)
Dried peaches - new (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/23)

(d) Initiation of work on new UNECE standards

The Specialized Section asked the Working Party to approve the initiation of work on a new UNECE standard for dry chilli peppers, proposed by the delegation of Mexico.

(e) Suspension of work

The Specialized Section recommended that work on four standards - inshell pecans, pecan kernels, inshell peanuts and peanut kernels - be suspended.

Item 6. Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat

Documentation: Report of the sixteenth session (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.11/2007/6)

(a) Texts for adoption as new/revised UNECE standards

The Specialized Section submitted the amended texts on bovine, caprine and turkey meat for adoption as new/revised UNECE standards.

Documentation: Bovine meat - revised (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/24)
Caprine meat - new (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/25)
Turkey meat - revised (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/26)

(b) Initiation of work on new UNECE standards

The Specialized Section asked the Working Party to approve the initiation of work on a new UNECE standard for veal meat and on the revision of standards for eggs and egg products.

Item 7. Interpretation of UNECE Standards

(a) Colour gauge for walnut kernels

The delegation of the United States of America will present a revised colour gauge for walnut kernels for approval by the Working Party.

(b) Brochures on sweet peppers and on inshell walnuts and walnut kernels

At its May 2006 session, the Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables agreed that the UNECE secretariat should start work on brochures on sweet peppers and on inshell walnuts and walnut kernels. The Working Party will be asked to approve these initiatives.

Item 8. General questions**(a) Questionnaire on the use of UNECE standards**

The secretariat will present a draft questionnaire for approval by the Working Party. The questionnaire was drawn up by the secretariat following the decision by the Working Party at its November 2006 session. It reflects comments made by the specialized sections.

Documentation: Questionnaire (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2007/14)

(b) UNECE website

The secretariat will present a reorganized UNECE website on standards and Working Party activities.

(c) Lists of authorities

The secretariat will present updated lists of names and addresses of the national authorities for the inspection of the commercial quality of agricultural produce.

(d) OECD Scheme work on sampling

The OECD secretariat will provide information on this item.

Item 9. Capacity-building activities

The secretariat and delegations will exchange information on capacity-building, training, promotional and other activities that have taken place since the November 2006 session of the Working Party or are planned for the near future.

Item 10. Other business

Participants may wish to discuss any other issues of interest for the work of the Working Party.

Item 11. Future work

The Working Party will decide on its future work.

Item 12. Election of officers

The delegations will elect a Chairperson and vice-chairperson(s). At its 2006 session, the Working Party elected Ms. Viera Baričičová (Slovakia) as Chairperson and Ms. Niina Kauhajärvi (Finland) as Vice-Chairperson.

Item 13. Adoption of the Report

The Working Party will adopt its report.