

# UNECE

## Agricultural Quality Standards

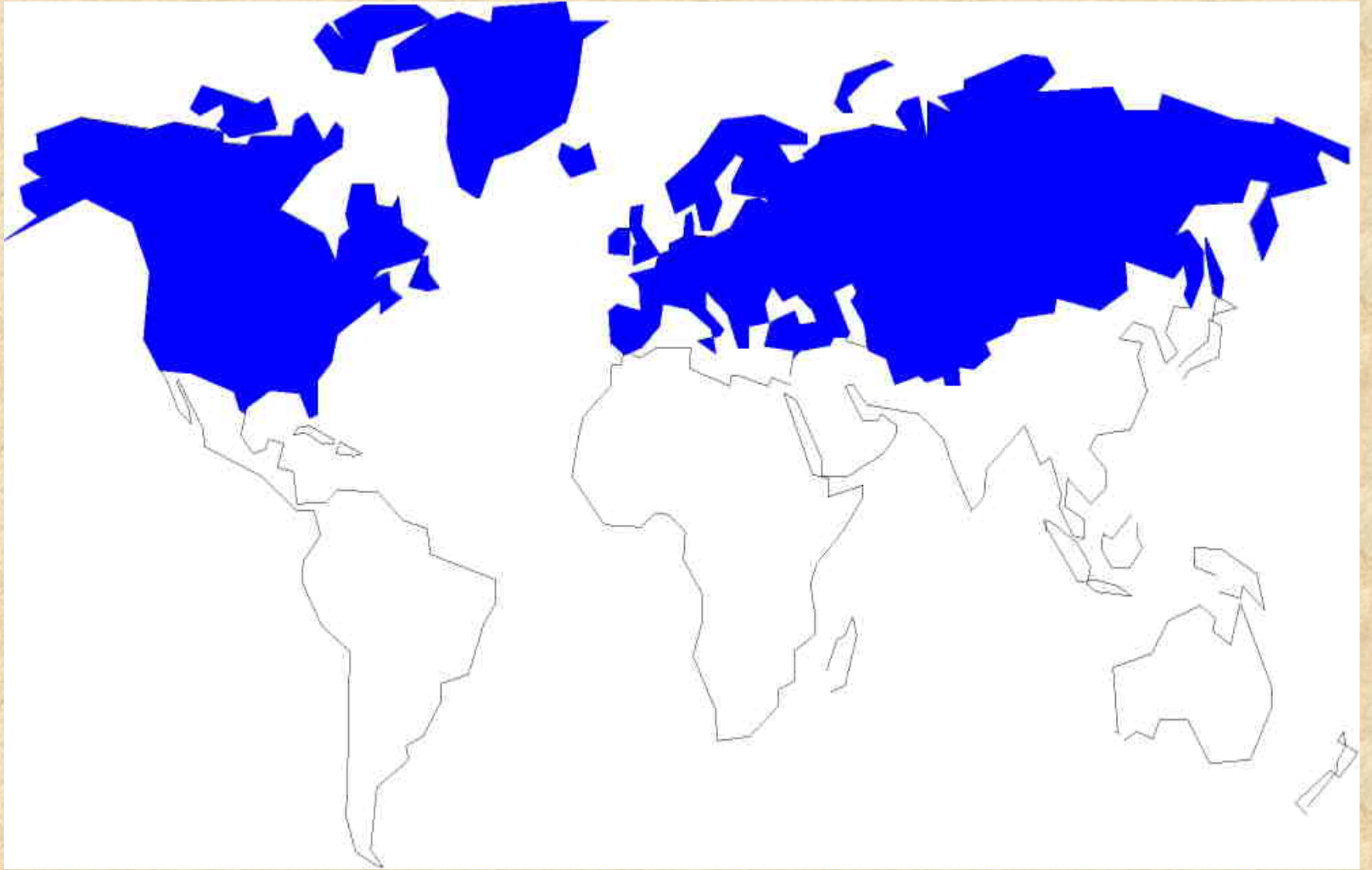
Serguei Malanitchev

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe



- UNECE
- Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards
- How we develop standards and for which products
- How we could better work together





## Working Party + Specialized Sections

- Fresh fruit and vegetables
- Dry and dried produce
- Seed potatoes
- Meat

Equal rights for all UN Member States

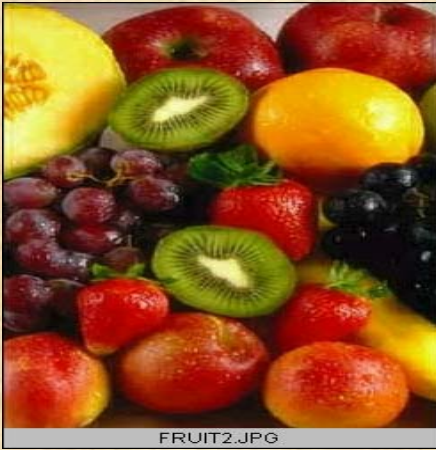


# 1949

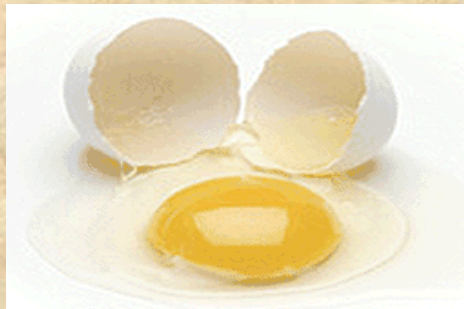
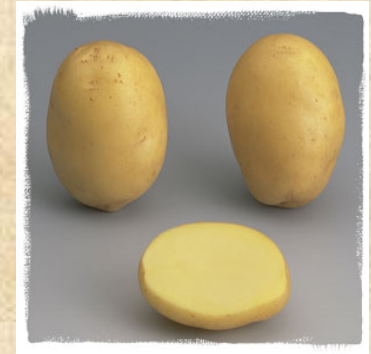
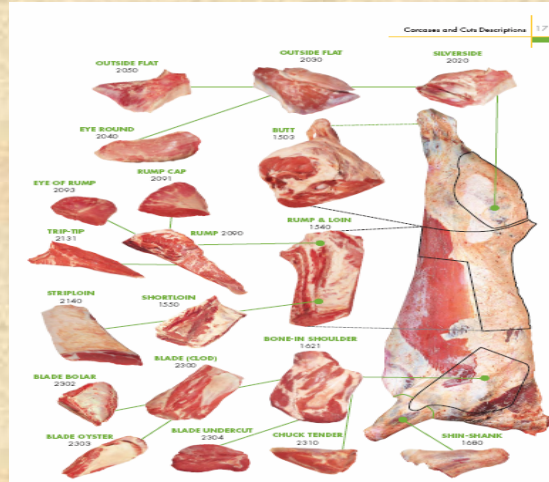
## Tasks

- Determine common standards
- Suggest international mechanism for adoption and practical application control





FRUIT2.JPG



# 2010

- Adopted revised Standard Layout
- Aligned/revised 50 standards
- 2 sessions that year
- Published explanatory brochure

**Flexible, efficient, effective**



# 1952

## First standards

Apples and pears

Seed and ware potatoes

“General provisions” by France and Italy  
basis of today’s Standard Layout





# 1953

## Origins of Geneva Protocol

More binding character to recommendations

Formal acceptance by countries

“General provisions” as centrepiece

Last revised **1985**



1985 —————> 2011

1. General provisions

————> Standard layouts (FFV and DDP)

2. Responsibilities of Working Party

————> Terms of reference, working procedures

3. Control certificate

————> Conformity certificate

“Geneva Protocol” to refer to Working Party activities



# Geneva Agreement

Replaces Geneva Protocol

Offers framework for standards  
development

Not regional

Easy adherence

Encourages international cooperation



# UNECE and E(E)C

**1962** 21 UNECE standards obligatory  
for intra-community trade

**2011** 10 UNECE standards in  
EC regulations

EC Regulation 1580/2007  
recognizes our standards



# General Marketing Standard

(Minimum quality requirements)

- Intact
- Sound; products affected by rotting are excluded
- Clean
- Free from pests
- Free from damage caused by pest
- Free of abnormal external moisture
- Free of any foreign smell and/or taste



Sainsbury's  
basics

# Peppers

mixed bag, all colours and sizes



Weight: 500 gram

Un-sized

DISPLAY UNTIL  
29 OCT  
BEST BEFORE  
31 OCT  
GROWN IN

796 3  
T0191A

W Sussex, UK

Class II

**5**  
a-day

Peppers are high in vitamin C and half an average pepper provides one portion of your 5 a day.

At home, refrigerate for freshness. Wash before use.

Nutrition info

Typical values
Energy
Protein
Carbohydrate
of which sugars
of which starch
Fat
of which sat
Fibre
Sodium



# UNECE and OECD Scheme

Interpreting UNECE standards  
since 1962

Drawing up standards  
until 1996

Working on inspection methods



# OECD Explanatory Brochures

“In all classes, subject to the special provisions for each class and the tolerances allowed, the tomatoes must be:

- intact”

Tomatoes must not have any mutilation or injury spoiling the integrity of the produce.

**Damaged tomato - Not allowed**

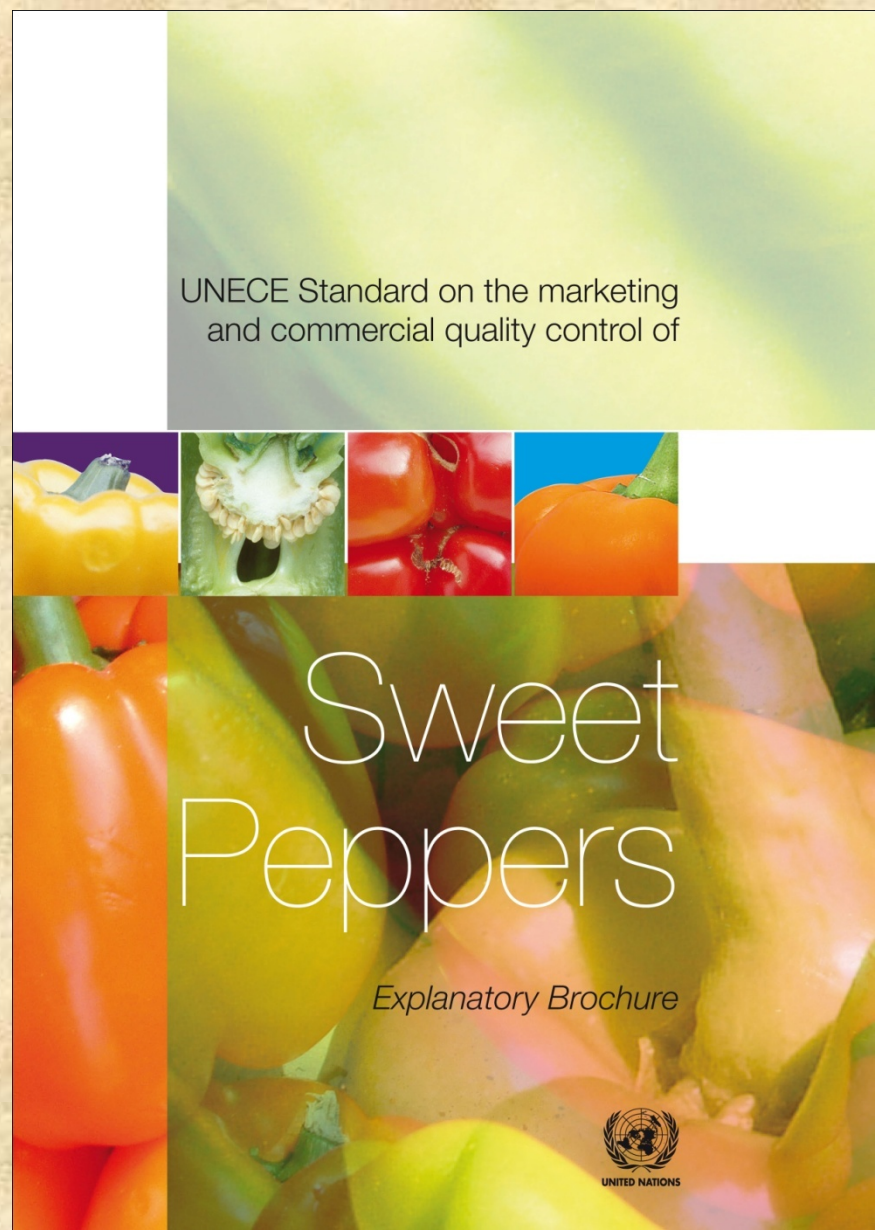




# UNECE Explanatory Brochures

- Help grading
- Reduce risk of rejection
- Resolve disputes

All countries can participate



UNECE Standard on the marketing  
and commercial quality control of

## Sweet Peppers

*Explanatory Brochure*



# UNECE and Codex *Alimentarius*

UNECE standards  
starting point for Codex standards

Regional UNECE vs. global Codex



# UNECE, OECD, Codex, EU

## How to work together on:

- Standards
- Explanatory material
- Inspection methods
- Promotion
- Capacity-building



# UNECE, OECD, Codex, EU

Could we set up a coordinating body

Could we have an integrated presentation of the programmes of work

- Goals
- Issues and problems
- Strategic mid-term objectives
- Outputs in the next two-three years
- Meetings



# Capacity-building

2009-10: Kenya, South Africa, Kyrgyzstan,  
Russia

2011:

- Chile (February)
- Tajikistan (August)
- Ghana (September)
- Moldova (October)
- Thailand (November)



**Now for your  
questions,  
comments, ideas!**

