



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/TRADE/C/2006/14
24 March 2006

Original: English

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON TRADE

First session
Geneva, 21-23 June 2006
Items 5.3 and 8 of the provisional agenda

COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURAL QUALITY STANDARDS

CHANGES TO PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2006-2007

Submitted by the Bureau of the Committee for approval

1. The ECE reform plan envisages the allocation of one additional P-4 post as of 1 April 2006, to support the programme of work of the Committee on Trade in the area of agricultural quality standards. It also requests that “consultations be initiated with the OECD in order to concentrate the activities [on agricultural quality standards] of the two organizations within the ECE”. One of the principal responsibilities of the new staff member in agricultural quality standards should be overseeing the “new” activities.

2. However, while discussions are being undertaken with the OECD and the members of the OECD scheme on fresh fruit and vegetables, these additional activities are still not part of the Committee’s programme of work. During this interim period the person on the new P-4 post will undertake the following activities:

- Contribute to setting up the new cooperative arrangements with OECD
- Undertake fundraising to support the development and implementation of agricultural quality standards and capacity building activities in less developed countries of the region
- Organize capacity-building seminars in the CIS and south-east European countries

- Conduct research related to the use and implementation of commercial agricultural quality standards.
3. The Bureau suggests that the above tasks be approved by the Committee and included in the programme of work for 2006-2007.