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Committee on Trade

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

Sixty-first session

Geneva, 30 April to 3 May 2013

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

Coordination of work with other international organizations

Informal meeting on international coordination (Geneva, 7 November 2012)

1. The meeting was announced at the closing session of the Working Party on 6 November 2012 and was open to all interested parties. The following persons came to the informal meeting: Ian Hewett (UK), Kristina Mattsson (Sweden), Pier Giacomo Bianchi (Italy), Catherine Ballandras (France), Dorian LaFond (US), Gracia Brisco Lopez (Codex secretariat) and Serguei Malanitchev (UNECE secretariat).
2. The group discussed what practical steps could be taken to improve the coordination of work on standards by UNECE and CCFFV.
3. At its September 2012 session, CCFFV set up a Working Group, chaired by Japan, with the mandate to evaluate the CCFFV Terms of Reference, particularly with regard to the reference to UNECE standards. Recommendations of that Working Group will be submitted for consideration at the next session of CCFFV provisionally planned for February-March 2014.
4. The Working Group is open to all Codex Member States as well as to observers.
5. The persons present at the informal meeting agreed that it would be very helpful if the text of the Working Group document would contain a recommendation to set up a UNECE/Codex coordination mechanism and would actually recommend what such a mechanism could consist of.
6. At their 2013 sessions, the Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables and the Working Party should be able to discuss and put forward their proposals with regard to the content of the recommendations to be made by the Codex Working Group.