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COMMITTEE ON TRADE

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

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CONCENTRATING AGRICULTURAL QUALITY STANDARDS

WORK IN THE UNECE:

PRELIMINARY DRAFT TRANSITION PLAN

Submitted by the secretariat for discussion

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2005, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) launched an external evaluation of its work. As a result of extensive consultations with member States to review UNECE activities and set new priorities, a Work Plan on ECE Reform was adopted on 2 December 2005. In the plan member States decided that UNECE work in agricultural quality standards should be strengthened and that “Consultations should be initiated with the OECD in order to concentrate the activities of the two organizations within the ECE.”<sup>1</sup>

In the UNECE, the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7) develops commercial quality standards for fruit and vegetables, as well as other agricultural produce. The OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables (“OECD Scheme”) adopts the UNECE standards and develops explanatory material to interpret them. It also works with national inspection agencies on conformity inspection based on these standards.

Many of the same experts work on the same material in both bodies, attending two or more sets of meetings in different countries. Exchanging information between the two organizations entails delays and some loss of knowledge in the detailed work. While both organizations are currently doing good work in their respective areas, a clear possibility for synergy still exists in bringing together their activities.

To initiate the consultations requested under the Work Plan for ECE Reform, the Director of the UNECE Trade and Timber Division visited the OECD in January 2006. It was agreed that the UNECE would submit to the OECD a transition plan, for the countries participating in the OECD Scheme to decide whether or not they wanted to accept all or part of the plan or modify it. The UNECE and OECD would then draft a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the cooperation required for implementing the decisions.

As a result, the UNECE secretariat, in consultation with interested parties, has developed the present draft transition plan for discussion. The plan proposes that all the OECD work on fresh fruit and vegetables standards and related training and conformity inspection be transferred to the UNECE, because this should provide the highest level of benefit to participants in the work and to member States, but that this need not be the only option.

The UNECE can undertake all of the existing OECD Scheme activities (provided that travel expenses for any meetings held outside Geneva are covered by extrabudgetary funds or contributions in kind). There are also some additional activities, not currently undertaken by the OECD, that would enhance the work, but these would have to be analyzed on an individual basis to see what could be covered by the regular budget and what would need to be covered by extrabudgetary resources.

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<sup>1</sup> E/ECE/1434/Rev.1, para. 56.

To ensure a smooth transition it is proposed that an OECD/UNECE task force be set up. An equal number of task force members would be elected by WP.7 and the OECD Scheme with the chair being appointed by the Bureau of the UNECE Committee on Trade, the parent body of WP.7. This group would be serviced by the UNECE secretariat, and representatives from both the UNECE and OECD secretariats would be invited to participate.

The task force should be established as soon as possible, and no later than early 2007. It would then:

- (a) Draw up a realistic timetable, including the dates of joint meetings
- (b) Ensure continuity in the work during the transition
- (c) Agree upon the text of a revised Geneva Protocol, as the underlying legal document for the work
- (d) Decide upon the format of the electronic and printed versions of the brochures and, if a format is selected that requires extrabudgetary resources (see Annex III), identify that funding
- (e) Recommend the necessary modalities for implementing the transferred activities
- (f) Draft a detailed programme of work for transferred activities

It is also proposed that a joint OECD Scheme/UNECE WP.7 meeting take place in the fourth quarter of 2007 in Geneva to review the progress made on the transition as well as explanatory brochures, conformity inspections, peer reviews and capacity-building.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

1. Each of the nine sections contains recommendations and suggests action to be undertaken by UNECE, OECD and member States, as appropriate. Annex I indicates the membership in the OECD Scheme, with an estimate of the contributions paid by countries. It also shows the participation in the UNECE WP.7. Annex II summarizes the additional activities to be covered by the UNECE as a result of the consolidation, and their financial implications. It also provides estimates for possible additional costs. Annex III provides information about the cost of different publication formats and annex IV about other UNECE activities of possible interest to WP.7 and OECD Scheme participants.

### **1. PARTICIPATION**

2. Participation in WP.7 and its specialized sections is open, at no cost, to any Member State of the United Nations. Participation in the OECD Scheme is open to all Member States of the United Nations that agree to contribute financially to the Scheme and that meet the requirements laid out in Annex II of the OECD Scheme agreement. Eighteen OECD members and five non-member countries currently participate in the Scheme. In recent years, 32 UNECE member and 8 non-member countries have taken part in the work of WP.7 and its Specialized Sections on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables and on Dry and Dried Produce.

3. Should it be decided to concentrate the OECD Scheme activities in the UNECE, the UNECE recommends that participation be as open as possible to maximize input to the development of standards and explanatory brochures. This would reinforce both their credibility and their implementation. In concrete terms this would mean making participation open to any United Nations Member State wishing to take part in the work on the standards, explanatory brochures and conformity inspection that is willing to recognize the standards-setting process and report on implementation (without implementation being mandatory). Recruitment of new participants should become a priority. The exact rules for participation would be set out in a modified Geneva Protocol, as described in section 2 below.

4. The UNECE believes that open participation and a reinforced programme of peer reviews would support the objectives of increased participation, improved quality in conformity inspection and support for mutual recognition.

### **2. UNDERLYING LEGAL DOCUMENTS**

5. The UNECE Geneva Protocol on Agricultural Quality Standards and the agreement on the OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables are the two legal documents underlying the work on, respectively, the development of internationally agreed commercial quality standards for agriculture and their application.

6. Overall recommendations:

- (a) The work transferred to the UNECE should be carried out under a revised Geneva Protocol.

- (b) Once the decision has been made as to which, if any, activities should be transferred, the joint UNECE/OECD transition task force should agree upon the changes to the Geneva Protocol to be recommended to WP.7.
- (c) Two years after the revision of the Geneva Protocol, a joint session of the OECD Agricultural Committee and the UNECE WP.7 should review the implementation of the revised Geneva Protocol, particularly those areas previously covered by the OECD Scheme.
- (d) The UNECE secretariat should consult with the UN Office of Legal Affairs and suggest the procedure that countries should follow for adopting the Protocol.<sup>2</sup>

**A. *Suggested modifications to the Geneva Protocol***

7. The recommendations set out below for modifying the text of the Geneva Protocol are based on the assumption of a complete transfer of activities, but other options are possible.

8. The transition task force, in consultation with the UN Office of Legal Affairs, should agree upon the modifications to be presented for approval to WP.7 and the UNECE Executive Committee. The Group may wish to take the following suggestions into account:

- (a) Encourage the widest possible participation by stating that the Protocol is open to any United Nations Member State that accepts the standards-setting process (as set out in the terms of reference and working procedures of WP.7) and agrees to inform the secretariat annually about its application of the standards<sup>3</sup>.
- (b) Open the work on explanatory brochures to all countries.
- (c) Open the work on conformity inspection to all countries. However, if the task force decides to limit participation to those countries, which meet agreed upon requirements (such as those found in Annex II to the OECD Scheme), this could be done through an annex to the Protocol, which would outline the requirements and would be signed separately by countries.

The UNECE believes that more benefits could be provided to a wider range of countries if resources were concentrated on carrying out peer reviews, rather than on reviews for qualifying to become a participant. The contents of peer reviews could be drafted to include an evaluation of many, or most, of the requirements in Annex II of the OECD

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<sup>2</sup> At its sixty-first session, WP.7 asked the secretariat to clarify the process for adopting the Geneva Protocol and “explore the best way of doing it” (document TRADE/WP.7/2005/9, para. 98).

<sup>3</sup> The Working Group (European Community, Germany, United Kingdom, United States and the UNECE secretariat), formed to review the Geneva Protocol, made this proposal to WP.7 (document TRADE/WP.7/2005/9Add.1).

Scheme. Recommendations could also be drawn up on how these peer reviews could best be used to support bilateral or multilateral mutual recognition agreements.

- (d) Include any activities transferred from the OECD in the programme of work of WP.7. This should include the notification procedure for approved standards contained in the revised OECD Scheme <sup>4</sup>. In 2005, the Scheme covered 65 standards, 34 with explanatory brochures. This list should be expanded to cover all UNECE standards, currently 97. Through the notification procedure, countries could meet their requirements under the Geneva Protocol to report on implementation of the standards.
  - (e) Indicate OECD and Codex Alimentarius as partners and provide them with a special status.
  - (f) Include an annex listing all UNECE standards and indicating those with explanatory brochures (UNECE also prepares brochures for its meat standards).
  - (g) Allow all signatories to the Geneva Protocol to participate in the work on an equal footing with UNECE members. Inform all United Nations Member States that they are entitled to participate under article 11 of the UNECE Terms of Reference <sup>5</sup> (as observers in a consensus process), even if they are not signatories to the Geneva Protocol and are not UNECE member States.
9. Action by UNECE:
- (a) Revise the Geneva Protocol
  - (b) Support joint meetings with OECD
10. Action by OECD:
- (a) Modify the OECD Scheme, as necessary
  - (b) Support joint meetings with UNECE

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<sup>4</sup> Paragraphs 4-6 of documents C(99)10/FINAL and AGR/CA/FVS(2004)6/REV1 (Draft Revision of Council Decision C(99)10/FINAL).

<sup>5</sup> “The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that non-member.”

### 3. STANDARDS

11. Recommendations:

- (a) All United Nations Member States should be entitled to participate in the development of standards, as described above under the Geneva Protocol.

12. Actions by UNECE:

- (a) Develop the standards as in the past.

13. Actions by OECD:

- (a) Decide on a mechanism, if the OECD wishes to do so, for continuing to adopt UNECE standards.

### 4. EXPLANATORY BROCHURES

14. Recommendations:

- (a) UNECE should prepare explanatory brochures for the standards and publish them jointly with the OECD (under the same arrangements as agreed upon for the walnut kernel charts published in 2006).
- (b) UNECE should continue to prepare explanatory brochures for its other quality standards, which are not published jointly with OECD (for example, its meat quality standards).
- (c) The transition task force, in consultation with the UNECE secretariat, should, during 2007, define the format for the printed and electronic brochures to be produced in the future. This work should draw on the proposals for a new electronic format developed by the OECD Scheme <sup>6</sup>. It should also take into account costs and available funding for the proposed formats. Two to three publications per year in an A4 or A5 bound format could be covered by the UN regular budget. Other formats, such as binders, would require extra-budgetary funding. (The UNECE secretariat is in the process of obtaining approximate quotes for these formats and those that are available can be found in Annex III.)

15. Actions by UNECE:

- (a) Approve/revise existing explanatory brochures.
- (b) Develop new explanatory brochures.
- (c) Support meetings for defining the content of the brochures.

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<sup>6</sup> Proposal for a new electronic format for explanatory brochures: example of the brochure on the standard for beans (document AGR/CA/FVS(2005)4).

- (d) Translate new and revised brochures into French and Russian.
- (e) Publish new and revised brochures in English, French, Russian and Spanish.
- (f) Publish the electronic versions of the brochures on the UNECE website.
- (g) Provide an Electronic Discussion Group facility to review and discuss brochure contents.
- (h) If the OECD so wishes, develop an agreement with the United Nations publications service for the sale of the explanatory brochures by the OECD as well as by the United Nations.
- (i) Arrange for the brochures to be translated into Spanish with those who are currently doing this for the OECD as a contribution in kind.

16. Actions by OECD:

- (a) Give legal permission to the UNECE to revise existing brochures and provide the electronic versions so as to facilitate their updating.
- (b) If the OECD so wishes, continue sales of all brochures, including new brochures, based on an agreement with the United Nations office responsible for publication sales and make electronic versions of brochures available on the OECD web site.
- (c) Draw up an agreement with the UNECE to allow the United Nations to sell the brochures developed by the OECD that have not been revised.
- (d) Provide the UNECE with the information on the organizations contributing in kind for translating the brochures into languages other than English and French.

17. Actions by participating member States:

- (a) Transfer to UNECE the contribution in kind for translating the explanatory brochures into Spanish.

## 5. CONFORMITY INSPECTION

18. Countries participating in the Scheme consider that “the Scheme should lean towards enforcing a greater degree of mutual recognition of inspections while taking into account the legitimate objectives put forward by importing countries to protect their consumers”<sup>7</sup>. A newly created Specialized Section for Heads of National Inspection Services would undertake the work in this area. The work will include developing peer review programmes “to help countries to

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<sup>7</sup> Document AGR/CA/FVS(2004)3/REV1, Section B.4.1.

establish an inspection service, to restructure an existing inspection service, to prepare a mutual recognition process or to improve the exchange of information”<sup>8</sup>.

**A. *Specialized Section for Heads of National Inspection Services***

19. Recommendations:

- (a) A Specialized Section for Heads of National Inspection Services should be established under UNECE WP.7. The Section would take over the activities currently carried out by the OECD Meeting of Heads of National Inspection Services, i.e. organizing meetings of national heads of inspection services, capacity-building, developing training tools and guidelines for the application of quality control systems, reinforcing frameworks to facilitate mutual recognition, and conducting peer reviews. Annex IV describes the existing UNECE work, which might also be of interest to the Section.
- (b) Participation should be open to all United Nations Member States, but the transition task force might decide to recommend that participation be limited to either those fulfilling certain requirements, such as those now found in Annex II to the OECD Scheme agreement, or to signatories to the Geneva Protocol.

20. Actions by UNECE:

- (a) Obtain approval from the UNECE Executive Committee for setting up a Specialized Section for Heads of National Inspection Services as a subsidiary body to WP.7.
- (b) Organize a joint meeting in 2007 with the OECD Meeting of Heads of National Inspection Services to ensure a smooth transfer of activities.
- (c) Support the meetings of the Specialized Section for Heads of National Inspection Services (meeting facilities, documentation, interpretation, etc).

21. Actions by OECD:

- (a) Organize the above-mentioned joint meeting with UNECE in 2007.

**B. *Peer reviews***

22. Recommendations:

- (a) Proposals for peer reviews should be discussed in the Specialized Section for Heads of National Inspection Services.
- (b) The Specialized Section should continue the work on peer reviews done so far by the OECD<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>8</sup> Document AGR/CA/FVS(2004)3/REV1, Section B.4.2.

- (c) All United Nations Member States should be invited to participate in peer reviews, subject to the availability of funding for their implementation.
  - (d) Members of the evaluation teams (or their countries/organizations) would cover the costs of their participation in the team. The country being evaluated would bear the cost of the UNECE secretariat's participation in the evaluation as well as the meeting room, interpretation and other logistical costs. The UNECE will undertake to translate the final report into English, French and Russian.
23. Actions by UNECE:
- (a) Review work done by the OECD to advance peer reviews and advise the Specialized Section on the work to be completed before peer reviews start.
  - (b) Organize peer reviews based on agreed procedures.
24. Actions by the OECD:
- (a) Provide information to the UNECE on the plans for the organizing peer reviews.
25. Actions by member States:
- (a) Finance the peer reviews as recommended above.
- C. *Guidelines on interpretation and inspection***
26. Recommendations:
- (a) The Specialized Section for Heads of National Inspection Services should set priorities for drafting "guidance material on the interpretation of standards and the application of inspection methods that could be used by interested parties to offer a training programme for new inspectors or other trainees"<sup>10</sup>. The Specialized Section for Heads of National Inspection Services would also be responsible for the content of these guidelines and would decide upon the format to be used. The format options and associated costs would be the same as those for the explanatory brochures as found in Annex III.
27. Actions by UNECE:
- (a) Publish the guidelines on the website.

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<sup>9</sup> Implementation of peer reviews (document AGR/CA/FVS(2005)5 and paragraph 13 of AGR/CA/FVS/M(2005)1).

<sup>10</sup> Document AGR/CA/FVS(2004)3/REV1, Section A.3.1.

- (b) Produce printed copies, CD-ROMs and electronic distance-learning versions, if extra-budgetary funding can be obtained.

## **6. CAPACITY-BUILDING**

### 28. Recommendations:

- (a) UNECE should establish a capacity-building trust fund to promote agricultural commercial quality standards and to help countries implement them. The funds should be used to support the following main activities:
  - (i) One to three workshops per year (see table below for sample costs)
  - (ii) Peer reviews
  - (iii) Participation of experts from less developed countries in expert group meetings and training sessions
  - (iv) Publication of standards and explanatory brochures in languages other than the three official languages of UNECE (English, French and Russian).

United Nations rules for trust funds allow donors to designate the specific activities for which their donations will be used (for example a peer review or a workshop in a given country). Donors can also request to be sent financial reports on how their money has been spent. Donations must include a percentage to cover overhead and management, but for large donations this percentage can sometimes be reduced.

- (b) UNECE should cooperate on capacity-building activities with OECD and Codex Alimentarius. Wherever possible, joint workshops should be organized. It may be useful for some countries to have information about the OECD Seed Scheme and about Codex phytosanitary standards, together with information about the UNECE agricultural commercial quality standards and their implementation.

### 29. Actions by UNECE:

- (b) Establish a trust fund and develop specific project proposals for external funding.
- (c) Manage the trust fund and related projects.

### 30. Actions by OECD:

- (b) Provide UNECE with information about past capacity-building workshops and contribute to future joint workshops.

31. Example of costs (excluding staff time) of a 4-day workshop in the Republic of Moldova:

<i>Expenditure item</i>	<i>Amount (US\$)</i>
Travel and per diem for 2 staff, Chisineau, 6 days (includes days for planning and meeting privately with organizers)	3 800
Travel and per diem, 6 Speakers, 4 days each	6 800
Travel and per diem for 12 participants from: the Republic of Moldova (4), Romania (4), Ukraine (4) *	18 000
Meeting Room and Interpretation for 4 days **	3 000
Estimated total	31 600

\* The number of sponsored participants depends upon available funds.

\*\* If the host Government provides facilities, this cost can be reduced.

## 7. ENSURING A SMOOTH TRANSITION

32. Recommendations:

- (a) An OECD/UNECE task force should be established to oversee the transition, as soon as possible, and not later than early 2007. An equal number of task force members would be elected by WP.7 and the OECD Scheme, with the chair being appointed by the Bureau of the UNECE Committee on Trade, the parent body of WP.7. This group would be serviced by the UNECE secretariat, and representatives from both the UNECE and OECD secretariats would be invited to participate. The task force would:
  - (i) Draw up a realistic timetable, including the dates of joint meetings
  - (ii) Ensure continuity in the work during the transition.
  - (iii) Agree upon the text of a revised Geneva Protocol, as the underlying legal document for the work.
  - (iv) Decide upon the format of the electronic and printed versions of the brochures and, if a format is selected that requires extrabudgetary resources (see Annex III), identify that funding.
  - (v) Recommend the necessary modalities for implementing the transferred activities.
  - (vi) Draft a detailed programme of work for transferred activities.
- (b) A joint meeting of the OECD Scheme and UNECE WP.7 should be held in the third quarter of 2007 to review the progress made on the transition and the activities involved, i.e. explanatory brochures, conformity inspections, peer reviews and capacity-building.

## 8. MEETINGS AFTER THE TRANSITION

### 33. Recommendations:

- (a) After 2007, the meetings to develop explanatory brochures should be organized in the following way:
  - (i) Extend by 1½ days the current 3½ day meetings of the Specialized Sections on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables and on Dry and Dried Produce to allow for parallel meetings of experts to take place to discuss the content of explanatory brochures.
  - (ii) Extend by 1-1½ days the current 3½ day meetings of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards to consider and approve explanatory brochures and standards.
- (b) Meetings of the Specialized Section for Heads of National Inspection Agencies should be organized to support the work described in sections 5 and 6.
- (c) Countries should be encouraged to volunteer to host meetings and combine them with capacity-building and training activities. The host country/organization should pay the expenses incurred by the United Nations in holding the meeting outside Geneva, including travel and accommodation for United Nations staff. Normally the meetings would take place in Geneva.

### 34. Actions by UNECE:

- (a) Prepare 12-15 meeting documents per year.
- (b) Provide meeting facilities and interpretation, and translate documents into English, French and Russian. (Interpretation and translation into additional languages would need to be covered by extrabudgetary funds.)

### 35. Actions by member States:

- (a) Finance the costs of any meetings held outside of Geneva, including secretariat travel.

## 9. CONCLUSIONS

36. The UNECE can undertake all of the existing OECD Scheme activities (provided that travel expenses for any meetings held outside of Geneva are covered by extra-budgetary funds or contributions in kind). There are also some additional activities not currently undertaken by the OECD that would enhance the work, but these would have to be analyzed on an individual basis to see what might be covered by the regular budget and what would need to be covered by extra-budgetary resources.

37. Countries would benefit from the transfer of the OECD work to UNECE in the following ways:

- (a) Developing both, standards and explanatory brochures in one place, which would increase efficiency and create synergies.
- (b) Broader participation in the work on agricultural quality standards would give it higher international visibility
- (c) Standards and brochures would become available in Russian as well as in English, French and Spanish.
- (d) Countries would only provide financial contributions for additional activities and these would be on voluntary basis (i.e. it would no longer be a condition for participating).

## Annex I

### Countries participating in the OECD Scheme for Fruit and Vegetables and their 2006 estimated contributions

Countries	Scale of contributions (per cent) <sup>1</sup>	2006 contributions (Euros)	2006 contributions (US Dollars) 1 Euro=1.24 USD
<b>OECD Members</b>			
Austria	2.631	5 536	6 865
Belgium	3.275	6 891	8 545
Finland	1.659	3 491	4 329
France	18.262	38 423	47 645
Germany	24.975	52 547	65 158
Greece	1.727	3 634	4 506
Hungary	0.707	1 488	1 845
Ireland	1.333	2 805	3 478
Italy	14.717	30 965	38 397
Luxembourg	0.246	518	642
Netherlands	5.640	11 867	14 715
New Zealand	0.767	1 614	2 001
Poland	2.063	4 341	5 383
Slovakia	0.323	680	843
Spain	9.027	18 993	23 551
Sweden	3.027	6 369	7 898
Switzerland	3.989	8 393	10 407
Turkey	2.060	4 334	5 374
<b>Non-OECD Members</b>			
Bulgaria	0.165	347	430
Israel	1.136	2 390	2 964
Morocco	0.326	686	851
Romania	0.491	1 033	1 281
South Africa	1.454	3 059	3 793
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>210 400</b>	<b>260 901</b>

<sup>1</sup> OECD Document C(2006)31.

**Annex I (continued)**

**Countries participating in the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards and in its  
Specialized Sections on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables and on Dry and  
Dried Produce (since 2000)**

**UNECE Members**

Austria	Israel
Belarus	Italy
Belgium	Lithuania
Bulgaria	Netherlands
Canada	Poland
Czech Republic	Republic of Moldova
Cyprus	Romania
Denmark	Russian Federation
Estonia	Slovakia
Finland	Spain
France	Sweden
Georgia	Switzerland
Germany	Turkey
Greece	Ukraine
Hungary	United Kingdom
Ireland	United States

**Non-UNECE Members**

Australia  
Chile  
Cote d'Ivoire  
Ghana  
India  
Morocco  
New Zealand  
South Africa

**Annex II**  
**Summary of the additional activities and**  
**extrabudgetary (XB) financial implications for UNECE**

<i>Additional activity</i>	<i>Regular budget (RB) or extra-budgetary/in kind (XB)</i>	<i>Additional XB costs per year(US\$)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Revise the Geneva Protocol	RB	-	
Support joint meetings with OECD	RB	-	Travel to meetings in Paris
Prepare content of new and revise existing explanatory brochures	RB		
Support meetings for defining the content of the brochures	RB and XB	Depends on meeting location	RB staff time and meeting facilities in Geneva; XB travel and meeting facilities, if convened outside Geneva
Translate new and revised brochures into French and Russian	RB	-	
Publish new and revised brochures in English, French, Russian and Spanish	RB and XB	See Annex III	XB for above 2-3 additional publications per year in the programme
Make available the electronic versions of all brochures on the UNECE web site	RB	-	
Provide an Electronic Discussion Group facility to review and discuss brochure contents	RB	-	
Develop an agreement with the Sales section on the sale of brochures	RB	-	
Make an agreement with the OECD allowing them to sell the brochures (on a commission basis)	RB	-	
Arrange for the translation of the brochures into Spanish with those who are currently doing this for the OECD as a contribution in kind	XB	-	Contribution in kind
Organize a joint meeting in 2007 with the OECD Meeting of Heads of National Inspection Services to ensure a smooth transfer of activities	RB	-	

Support the meetings of the Specialized Section for Heads of National Inspection Services (meeting facilities, documentation, interpretation, etc)	EB and XB	Depends on meeting location	RB staff time and meeting facilities in Geneva  XB travel and meeting facilities, if convened outside Geneva
Review what has been done by the OECD to advance peer reviews and advise the Specialized Section on the work to be completed before peer reviews could start	RB	-	
Organize peer reviews based on agreed procedures	XB	Depends on destination	Travel for secretariat staff and some experts plus meeting facilities
Publish Guidelines on inspection on the web	RB	-	
Produce printed copies of guidelines on inspection	RB and XB	See Annex III	XB for above 2 – 3 additional publications per year in the programme
Produce CD-ROMs and /or electronic distance learning versions	XB	10000-80000	Depends upon the technology selected
Establish a trust fund and develop specific project proposals for external funding	RB	-	
Manage the trust fund and related projects	RB	-	
Prepare meeting documentation, provide meeting facilities and interpretation	RB and XB	730	XB, interpretation into Spanish, per day

### Annex III

#### Publication printing option

<i>Option</i>	<i>Reason for expenditure</i>	<i>Amount per brochure</i>	<i>Source of funds</i>
A	1500 copies of an A4 glossy paper brochure of X pages with stapled binding	XXX	RB for 2-3 publications per year,
B	1500 copies of an A5 glossy paper brochure of X pages with a spine for printing the title	XXX	RB for 2-3 publications per year
C	1500 copies of current OECD non-standard size binder (X cm by X cm) with X glossy-paper, loose-leaf pages	XXX	XB
D	1500 copies of A4 size binder with X glossy-paper, loose-leaf pages	XXX	XB

Note: The UNECE expects that the regular budget would be able to cover 2-3 additional publications per year using the format options A or B. These could be explanatory brochures or guidelines as agreed by participating countries.

## **Annex IV**

### **Areas of UNECE work of potential interest to National Inspection Services**

#### **1. UN/CEFACT group on agriculture**

A new UN/CEFACT group (TBG18) has been recently formed to develop and maintain the relevant UN/CEFACT Business Process Models, Business Transaction Models, semantics and contents for the requirements of the agro-food communities in areas such as Phytosanitary e-Certificates and Animal Passports.

#### **2. UNeDocs**

Countries and companies are increasingly seeing paperless trade information exchange based on open and agreed standards as a means of enhancing their competitiveness and ensuring higher compliance with trade procedures. The UNeDocs standard simplifies international trade and increases security in the international supply chain through the exchange of fewer but better data that can be integrated with the latest Internet-based technologies. UNeDocs trade documents implement international standards and best business practice. Traders and administrations can use the documents both in paper and electronic format depending on their needs, capabilities and the regulatory framework.

#### **3. UNECE Recommendation “L” on Regulatory Harmonization**

The UNECE Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP.6) developed “An International Model for Technical Harmonization Based on Good Regulatory Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Technical Regulations via the Use of International Standards”. The Model provides a voluntary framework, which could contribute to facilitating market access through the establishment of sectoral agreements between interested countries.

#### **4. WP.6 work on conformity assessment**

A group of experts under WP.6 is working on recommendations to Governments on how to harmonize conformity assessment procedures and on confidence-building means regarding national implementation and use of regulations and standards. It also collects information on good practice in market surveillance.

#### **5. WP.6 work on market surveillance**

In most UNECE member States today, for enforcing regulations the emphasis has shifted from pre-market controls to the control of products already placed on the market, i.e. from certification to market surveillance. Effective market surveillance is an essential part of the implementation of modern regulatory frameworks. The Working Party is addressing market surveillance concepts, definitions and recommendations, which might be of interest to national inspection services.