

3. Proposals to revise UN/ECE standards
 - (a) Apples and Pears (including list of varieties)
 - Text of the standard [TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1999/3]
 - List of varieties [TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1999/4]
 - (b) Asparagus
 - Decisions taken at the CCFFV TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1999/5 (Secretariat)
 - Other proposals concerning Asparagus [TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1999/6]
 - (c) Citrus Fruit
 - Text of the standard in force TRADE/WP.7/1998/9/Add.1 (Secretariat)
 - Position paper TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1999/7 (Greece)
 - Comparison with the decisions taken at the CCFFV TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1999/8 (Secretariat)
 - Other proposals concerning Citrus Fruit [TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1999/9]
 - (d) Cultivated Mushrooms [TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1999/10]
 - (e) Kiwifruit TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1999/11 (New Zealand)
 - (f) Peaches and Nectarines
 - (g) Plums
 - Text of the standard in force TRADE/WP.7/1998/9/Add.7 (Secretariat)
 - List of varieties TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1999/12 (Germany)
 - (h) Table Grapes [TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1999/13 (United States)]
4. Consideration to elaborate a UN/ECE Draft Standard for Pineapples TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1999/14 (Cameroun)
5. Proposal to include provisions for miniature fruit and vegetables in UN/ECE Standards AGRI/WP.1/GE.1/R.146 (Secretariat, Germany, United Kingdom)
6. Establishment of a list of countries using code marks
7. Exchange of information on non-conformity cases
8. Circular letter to increase participation
9. Acceptances

10. Assistance to southern european countries and countries in transition
11. Other business
12. Preparation of the next session
 - (a) Future work/ Action list
 - (b) Date and place
 - (c) Preparation of the 55th session of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development
13. Election of officers
14. Adoption of the report

Proposed timetable

Monday, 25	October	10.00 - 13.00	Informal Working Groups (English only): Apples and Pears, Kiwifruit
		15.00 - 18.00	Informal Working Groups (English only): Citrus Fruit, Cultivated Mushrooms
Tuesday, 26	October	10.00 - 13.00	Items 1 - 3
		15.00 - 18.00	Item 3
Wednesday, 27	October	10.00 - 13.00	Item 3
		15.00 - 18.00	Item 3
Thursday, 28	October	10.00 - 13.00	Items 4 - 13
Friday, 29	October	10.00 - 13.00	Item 14

ANNOTATIONS

Item 1 Adoption of the agenda

According to the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda.

Item 2 Matters of interest arising since the forty-fourth session

Document TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1999/2 sums up the relevant outcome of the third session of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development and the fifty-fourth session of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development.

Item 3 Proposals to revise UN/ECE standards

(a) Apples and Pears (including list of varieties)

Discussion at the last session: see TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1998/17 paras. 61-67

Document for this session: [TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1999/3
TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1999/4]

Background: Several amendments were adopted at the last session as proposed by the joint UN/ECE/OECD working group. The group had also proposed to include provisions for weight sizing in the standard. No consensus on this question was reached and countries were invited to send comments to the working group. The working group also proposed a simplified version of the list of varieties which was agreed in principle. Delegations were invited to send comments to the working group.

(b) Asparagus

Discussion at the last session: see TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1998/17 paras. 57-60

Documents for this session: TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1999/5 (Secretariat)
[TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1999/6]

Background: The problem is how to include provisions on asparagus grown under certain climatic conditions in the standard. At the last session a number of principles were adopted and on the basis of these the Codex and UN/ECE secretariats had prepared a joined proposal for the 8th CCFFV. At the 8th CCFFV a new text for the sizing table was drafted by an ad-hoc working group. This text was adopted and the standard moved to step 5.

(c) Citrus Fruit

Discussion at the last session: see TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1998/17 paras. 25-55

Documents for this session: TRADE/WP.7/1998/9/Add.1 (Secretariat)
TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1999/7 (Greece)
TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1999/8 (Secretariat)
[TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1999/9]

Background: At the last session a revision of the standard was adopted by the Specialized Section which was subsequently adopted by the Working Party. No consensus was found on the question of maturity requirements and the inclusion of provisions for green skinned oranges. Delegations were invited to send comments to the rapporteurs Israel and Germany. At the 8th CCFFV a document on oranges combining the UN/ECE and Codex text was presented and several parts of the Codex text were harmonised with the UN/ECE text. The standard was advanced to step 5. The provisions on sizing remain in square brackets.

(d) Cultivated Mushrooms

Discussion at the last session: see TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1998/17 para. 56

Documents for this session: [TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1999/10]

Background: An informal working group composed of France, Ireland, Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Germany as rapporteur met in the Netherlands earlier this year to draw up a consolidated proposal based on documents presented at the last session.

(e) Kiwifruit

Discussion at the last session: see TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1998/17 paras. 28-31

Document for this session: TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1999/11 (New Zealand)

Background: An informal working group composed of Chile, Germany, Italy, the United States and New Zealand as rapporteur was charged with drawing up proposals for a revision of this standard.

(f) Peaches and Nectarines

Discussion at the last session: see TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1998/17 paras. 19-23

Background: The delegation of Italy will report on an experiment testing the possibility to ship peaches and nectarines packed in bulk.

(g) Plums

Discussion at the last session: see TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1998/17 paras. 16-18

Documents for this session: TRADE/WP.7/1998/9/Add.7 (Secretariat)
TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1999/12 (Germany)

Background: The standard was revised at the last session except for the list of large fruit varieties. The delegation of Germany offered to revise this list.

(h) Table Grapes

Documents for this session: [TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1999/13 (United States)]

Background: The delegation of the United States will present information on trade names for table grapes.

Item 4 Consideration to elaborate a UN/ECE Draft Standard for Pineapples

Documents for this session: TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1999/14 (Cameroun)

Background: At its fifty-third session, the Working Party decided to ask the Meeting of Experts to consider the elaboration of a Draft Standard for Pineapples taking into account the work undertaken by the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables. The request had been submitted by COLEACP and was initiated by the Ivory Coast and other West African countries.

Item 5 Proposal to include provisions for miniature fruit and vegetables in UN/ECE Standards

Document for this session: AGRI/WP.1/GE.1/R.146 (Secretariat, Germany, United Kingdom)

Background: At the forty-first session of the Meeting of Experts on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (paras 55 to 62 of the Report) it was decided that further discussion was needed on: definitions of these products (in use by the EU and other countries); which products should be covered; whether the criteria should be included in an annex to specific Standards or in the Standard Layout; and what the products should be called.

Document AGRI/WP.1/GE.1/R.146 which had been presented to the forty-second session of the Meeting of Experts presents a proposal by the secretariat on how the EU's "Gentlemen's Agreement" could be incorporated within ECE Standards. Furthermore, document AGRI/WP.1/GE.1/R.146 contains a proposal by Germany on the incorporation of miniature products in the Standard Layout and comments by the delegation of the United Kingdom.

Item 6 Establishment of a list of countries using code marks

Background: At the forty-second session it had been agreed to discuss the issue of establishing a list of countries using code marks (proposal by the Canadian delegation). This item has remained on the agenda for several sessions and not been discussed. Delegations are invited to consider whether it needs to be maintained.

Item 7 Exchange of information on non-conformity cases

Background: This item has remained on the agenda for several sessions and not been discussed. Delegations are invited to consider whether it needs to be maintained.

Item 8 Drafting of a circular letter to increase participation

Background: During the preparation of this session invitation letters have been sent by the secretariat to several South-American and African countries as well as to other regional commissions of the United Nations (ESCWA, ECLAC, ECA). Delegations are invited to make any further proposals to increase participation.

Item 9 Acceptances

Background: A general document on acceptances has been prepared which will be presented to the Working Party and distributed to all members of the Specialized Sections.

Item 10 Assistance to southern European countries and countries in transition

Background: UN/ECE already assists economies in transition in several areas and will also play a role in the reconstruction of the economies of the south eastern European countries. Delegations are invited to reflect on how the Specialized Section might contribute to this task.

Item 11 Other business

Item 12 Preparation of the next session

(a) Future work

Delegations are invited to make proposals for future work of the Specialized Section.

(b) Date and place of the next session

The forty-sixth session has been tentatively scheduled to take place in Geneva from 22 to 25 May 2000.

(c) Preparation of the 55th session of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development

Delegations are invited to mention any item that should be brought to the attention of the Working Party.

Item 13 Election of officers

According to the Commission's Rules of Procedure and established practice, the Specialized Section is expected to elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson. At its forty-fourth session the Group elected Mr. D. Priester (United States) as its Chairperson and Ms. U. Bickelmann (Germany) as its Vice-Chairperson.

Item 14 Adoption of the report

The Working Party will adopt the report of its forty-fifth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT:

Contributions should be sent to the secretariat either on diskette by mail to :

**Food Standards Officer
UN/ECE Trade Division
Palais des Nations
Office 432
1211 Geneva 10
Tel: (41) 22 917 2450 Fax: (41) 22 917 0041**

or by e-mail to:

agrstandards@unece.org

Meeting documentation will be available on our homepage:

<http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/welcome.htm>
