

## INF.18 (Secretariat)

**Excerpt from the report of the Working Party (TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/10 paras. 27-37):**

### **ITEM 3: Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables**

27. The Chairman of the Specialized Section, Mr. David Holliday (United Kingdom), provided information on the outcome of the fiftieth session of the Specialized Section. He said that, in addition to the work on standards, a representative of WHO had informed the meeting about the WHO Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, in which the inadequate intake of fruit and vegetables was seen as one of the risk factors for non-communicable diseases (such as cancer, heart disease and diabetes). He said that according to the Strategy, international standards could include steps to promote fruit and vegetable consumption.

#### **3(a) Texts recommended for adoption as revised standards**

28. The Working Party adopted the following texts as revised standards, as proposed by the Specialized Section:

- Cultivated Mushrooms (TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/25/Add.2)
- Kiwi Fruit (TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/25/Add.3)
- Peaches and Nectarines (TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/25/Add.4(Part I))
- Watermelons (TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/25/Add.6)
- Citrus Fruit (TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/25/Add.7)

29. The Working Party adopted the text for Bilberries and Blueberries (TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/25/Add.5) (proposed for adoption as a revised standard) as a UNECE recommendation for a one-year trial period, because it felt that some research was needed to ensure the correct marking of the names “Bilberries” or “Blueberries” in different languages. The delegation of France would enquire as to the correct denomination from different producer countries and submit a proposal to the Specialized Section at its next session.

30. The Working Party also adopted the joint standard for Early and Ware Potatoes (TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/7) (proposed as a revised standard) as a UNECE recommendation for a one-year trial period to allow for comments from interested parties. The trade organization EUROPATAT had indicated to the secretariat that some of their members were not in favour of a joint standard, but to date no written justification for this had been submitted.

31. The Working Party took note of additions to the list of varieties of Plums and Pears.

#### **3(b) Texts recommended for adoption as UNECE recommendations**

32. The Working Party adopted the text for Cherries (TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/25/Add.1) as a UNECE recommendation for a two-year trial period, with two corrections in the quality tolerances.

33. It also adopted the text for Peaches and Nectarines (TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/25/Add.4 (Part II)) as a UNECE recommendation for a two-year trial period. The question of whether the firmness test should be done with or without skin

would be discussed following the trial period.

34. It further adopted the text for Truffles (TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/2004/25/Add.8) as a new UNECE recommendation for a two-year trial period, with a correction made to the annex on varieties in the French version.

35. The Working Party extended for one further year the trial period for the inter-specific hybrids in the UNECE Recommendation for Plums. The hybrid “Aprium” was removed from the recommendation because the product is considered to be closer to apricots. In the opinion of several delegations, the hybrids did not cause problems in trade, had a low market volume and could be treated either as plums or as apricots. It was proposed that if no further information was available on the variety names at the next session of the Specialized Section, the hybrids should be deleted from the recommendation.

36. The Working Party took note of the provisional inclusion of new varieties in the standard for Apples until the end of the trial period in 2005. It stressed that all applicants must demonstrate that the varieties applied for were new and traded internationally. The Working Party also took note of a letter from COPA-COGECA concerning their position on the minimum sizes for apples (INF.8).

37. The Working Party clarified that in the UNECE standards no changes to the minimum sizes for apples were currently envisaged but that in the context of aligning with UNECE Standards, the European legislation schedules that the minimum sizes for apples in the EU will be aligned with those of UNECE as of 1 August 2005. The Working Party also stressed that any proposal based on scientific data as well as any productive dialogue would be welcome at the Specialized Section session in March.