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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Standardization of
Perishable Produce and Quality Development

Specialized Section on Standardization of
Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit)

Forty-eighth session, 18 to 21 June 2001, Geneva

Item 2 of the Provisional Agenda

MATTERS OF INTEREST ARISING SINCE THE FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Note by the secretariat

This document sums up the relevant outcome of the fourth session of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development and the fifty-sixth session of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development.

FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

The following excerpt is taken from the report of the Committee (ECE/TRADE/262, paragraphs 32 to 39):

Item 6 - Agricultural quality standards

32. The secretariat introduced the activities of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development (WP.7) and gave an overview of the work carried out since the last session of the Committee. The Vice-Chairman of WP.7, Mr. David Priester, gave an in-depth explanation of the background and discussions in WP.7 on the elaboration of explanatory material.

33. At the third session of the Committee, the European Community had requested that the secretariat prepare a study on the modalities of preparing explanatory brochures for UN/ECE standards within the framework of WP.7 and its specialized sections. This request had been supported by the United States and agreed by the Committee.

34. The results of this study had shown that the work could be integrated without significantly increasing the number of meeting days but not without increasing existing resources. Specifically, an additional staff member would need to be employed. Because of the 0% growth budget of the UN/ECE this could only be achieved either through the creation of a trust fund with voluntary contributions from countries or through a reallocation of resources within the secretariat.

35. At its last session WP.7 decided to create an ad hoc group to look into this question, while stressing that there should be no duplication of work, i.e. WP.7 would be prepared to take on the preparation of explanatory material only if this work ceased to be done at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

36. Both the delegation of the European Community and that of the United States indicated their interest in seeing this work transferred to the UN/ECE provided that work on explanatory material is discontinued at the OECD and the problem of funding the work at the UN/ECE is solved.

37. The delegation of the European Community stated that while it had taken note of the possibility of funding this activity *via* a trust fund, priority should be given to solving this problem by reallocating resources within the Trade Division. The Committee then **requested** that the secretariat report on possibilities for doing this and provide feedback to the Working Party at its next session in November 2000.

38. The delegation of the Russian Federation said that it placed high priority on the work of WP.7 and its specialized sections, especially Meat and Seed Potatoes. It welcomed the fact that the latter group would discuss genetically modified organisms in the future but requested that work already done by other bodies be taken into account in order to avoid any duplication of work.

39. The Committee then **noted** documents TRADE/2000/5 and TRADE/WP.7/1999/7, which contain further details of the work done by WP.7 during this period.

FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY

The following excerpt is taken from the report of the Working Party (TRADE/WP.7/2000/11, paragraphs 43 to 55):

Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit)

Document for this session: TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2000/17 (Report of the forty-seventh session)

43. The Vice-Chairman of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit) Mr. M. Sciannella (Italy), informed the Working Party of the outcome of the forty-seventh session of the Specialized Section.

Inshell Hazelnuts, Hazelnut Kernels

Documents for this session: TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2000/17/Add.1
TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2000/17/Add.2

44. Both UN/ECE Recommendations for Hazelnuts complete their trial period this year. After being reviewed, they were recommended for adoption as revised UN/ECE Standards by the Specialized Section.

45. The delegation of Turkey, who had served as rapporteur for these standards, thanked all delegations for the progress made and the compromises reached. They said that the revised standard would help producers and consumers and facilitate trade.

46. The Chairman asked whether some reservations still contained in the standard could be lifted but this was not agreed by the relevant countries.

47. The delegation of Turkey stated that they would maintain their reservation in the standard for Hazelnut Kernels which requests the crop year to be marked. They said that they, as producer country, agreed with the importing countries that the crop year was an important piece of quality information.

48. The Working Party adopted the texts as revised UN/ECE standards. They will be published as addenda to this report as follows:

- Addendum 17: Inshell Hazelnuts
- Addendum 18: Hazelnut Kernels

Main text of the standard layout for dry and dried fruit

Document for this session: TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/2000/17/Add.3

49. The Working Party adopted the text as main text of the revised standard layout for dry and dried produce (fruit). The text will be published as addendum 19 to this report.

50. The annexes to the main text of the standard layout are still under discussion in the Specialized Section.

Revision of the UN/ECE Standards for Sweet Almonds

51. The Working Party authorized the Specialized Section to review the UN/ECE standards for sweet almonds.

Extension of the trial period for the UN/ECE Recommendation for Walnut Kernels

52. No consensus was reached by the Specialized Section to recommend this text for adoption as a UN/ECE standard. An informal working group was formed to discuss open questions. The group proposed to extend the trial period for one further year.

53. The proposal was accepted by the Working Party.

Explanatory brochure for Inshell Hazelnuts

54. In its report, the Specialized Section submitted to the Working Party its opinion that an updated explanatory brochure for Inshell Hazelnuts would be useful for international trade.

55. The Working Party decided to request the Plenary Meeting of the OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables to examine the possibility of preparing an explanatory brochure on the UN/ECE Standard for Inshell Hazelnuts. The Working Party further decided to request the OECD Plenary to inform the Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit) about the progress of this request.