



**Economic and
Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2006/1
1 February 2006

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON TRADE

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes
(Thirty-sixth session, Geneva, 20 - 22 March 2006)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION*

to be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
commencing at 10.00 hrs on Monday, 20 March 2006

1.	Adoption of the agenda	ECE/TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2006/1
2.	Matters of interest since the last session	ECE/TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2006/2
3.	Information on the results of the meetings of the bureau	ECE/TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2006/3 (Report Rostock)
4.	Review of the UNECE Standard for Seed Potatoes	The present version (2005) of the standard is available on the Internet at: http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/standard/potatoes/pot_e.htm INF.1 (Standard containing the proposed changes)

* The present document has been submitted after the official documentation deadline by the Trade and Timber Division due to resource constraints.

	(a)	Reference to the UNECE standard on the label	ECE/TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2006/4
	(b)	Further development of Annex VIII: Images for common scab/netted scab	ECE/TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2006/5 (Germany)
	(c)	Proposed amendments to Section E and Annex VI (comparative tests)	ECE/TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2006/6
5.		Arbitration rules/dispute settlement	ECE/TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2006/7 (France and Netherlands)
6.		Exchange of practices for taking samples for tuber inspection	ECE/TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2006/8 (Netherlands and USA)
7.		The concept of Living Modified Organisms (LMO) in the Standard	ECE/TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2006/9 (Russian Federation and Italy)
8.		Superficial necrosis caused by virus (PTNRD)	ECE/TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2006/10 (France)
9.		Paper on distribution of tomato spotted wilt virus	ECE/TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2006/11 (United Kingdom)
10.		Further development of the pest list and mentioning of standard test methods	ECE/TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2006/12
11.		Homogeneity/size of the lot	See annotations
12.		Information collected by the secretariat on National Catalogues of varieties and Designated Authorities	
13.		Next meetings and future work	
14.		Preparation of the next session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards	
15.		Other business	
16.		Election of officers	
17.		Adoption of the report	

Proposed timetable

Monday, 20 March 2006	10.00-13.00	Items 1 – 4
	15.00-18.00	Item 4
Tuesday, 21 March 2006	10.00-13.00	Items 4 – 7
	15.00-18.00	Items 8 – 16
Wednesday, 22 March 2006	10.00-13.00	Item 17

Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

ECE/TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2006/1

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

2. Matters of interest since the last session

ECE/TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2006/2

The Specialized Section will be informed on the work of the:

- Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards
- Committee on Trade
- European Union
- OECD, FAO, NAPPO, EPPO

3. Information on the results of the meetings of the bureau

ECE/TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2006/3 (Report Rostock)

This document contains summaries of the extended bureau meeting held in Rostock, Germany (24 to 26 October 2005). The report from Rostock meeting contains many of the proposals for amendments to the UNECE standard and will be referred to under different agenda items.

4. Review of the UNECE Standard for Seed Potatoes

The updated version of the standard is available on the Internet at:

http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/standard/potatoes/pot_e.htm

The standard including the changes proposed at this session is contained in INF.1.

(a) Reference to the UNECE standard on the label

ECE/TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2006/4

Although this reference is considered as useful, it should be avoided so as to keep information simple and effective. Suggestion is made to make reference to UNECE Standard within the additional information of the phyto-sanitary certificate. The proposal aims at clarifying this issue in the standard.

(b) Further development of Annex VIII: Images for common scab/ netted scab

ECE/TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2006/5

New images for common scab were developed to replace the existing ones (see 2005/4). New images for netted scab will be proposed by Germany.

(c) Proposed amendments to Section E and Annex VI (comparative tests)

ECE/TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2006/6

The document is proposed to the Specialized Section to amend Section E and Annex VI of the Standard.

5. Arbitration rules/dispute settlement

ECE/TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2006/7

The working group (France and The Netherlands) have prepared a document that defines rules and procedures to solve disputes using the structure already in use for perishable produces.

6. Exchange of practices for taking samples for tuber inspection

ECE/TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2006/8

The working group (The Netherlands and the United States of America) will propose a document to complement Annex III of the standard with descriptions of generally used sampling methods in different countries.

7. The concept of Living Modified Organisms (LMO) in the Standard

ECE/TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2006/9

At the last specialized section meeting the concept of the variety has been reinforced. On the other hand an agreement on the introduction of a reference to novel traits for varieties was not reached. A previous attempt to refer to Genetically Modified varieties also failed. The Chairman proposes the study of the terminology used in the Cartagena protocol on biodiversity (LMO – living modified organisms) to find ways to solve this problem.

8. Superficial necrosis caused by virus (PTNRD) Mop Top and Tobacco Rattle

ECE/TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2006/10 (France)

France will prepare a paper to address the constraints identified in previous papers.

9. Paper on distribution of tomato spotted wilt virus

ECE/TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2006/11 (United Kingdom)

When reviewing the list of pests and diseases it had been found that there were agents included in other regulations but not in the UNECE standard. The bureau proposes to include the tomato spotted wilt virus in the standard. The United Kingdom has prepared a background paper on this subject.

10. Further development of the pest list and mentioning of standard test methods

ECE/TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2006/12

Several amendments are proposed to the list of pests and diseases.

11. Homogeneity/size of the lot

The extended bureau discussed this subject at its meeting in Rostock. The aim was to improve the standard, specifically for the Annex III, Minimum Quality Conditions for Lots of Seed Potatoes. Different examples were brought to discussions to consider that individual samples shall not have more than double the tolerance specified.

12. Information collected by the secretariat on National Catalogues and Designated Authorities

Any information received at the secretariat will be distributed at the meeting through document INF.2.

13. Next meetings and future work

The Specialized Section will be informed about plans for meetings of the extended bureau. The next meeting of the Specialized Section has been scheduled tentatively to take place in March 2007.

14. Preparation of the next session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

The Specialized Section is invited to decide which decisions/information should be transmitted to the annual session of the Working Party.

15. Other business

Any other questions of interest can be discussed under this agenda item.

16. Election of officers

According to the Commission's Rules of Procedure and established practice, the Specialized Section is expected to elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman. At its thirty-fifth session the group elected Mr. P.G. Bianchi (Italy) as its Chairman and Mr. Willem Schrage (United States of America) as its Vice-Chairman.

17. Adoption of the report

The Specialized Section will adopt the report of the 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/CD-ROM by mail to:

**Agricultural Standards Unit
UNECE Trade and Timber 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

Documentation for meeting is available on our homepage:

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