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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON TRADE

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes
(Thirty-sixth session, 20 - 22 March 2006)
Item 2 of the Provisional Agenda

MATTERS OF INTEREST ARISING SINCE THE THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION*

Note by the secretariat

This document presents the relevant outcome of the sixty-first session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards, and reference to the document relevant to the ninth session of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development.

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

1. NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

The relevant paragraphs concerning Agricultural Quality Standards can be found in the report of the Committee (ECE/TRADE/360, paragraphs 33 to 35).

2. SIXTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY

Item 5: Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2005/11

67. The Chairman of the Specialized Section, Mr. Pier Giacomo Bianchi (Italy), provided information on the outcome of the thirty-fifth session of the Specialized Section.

- Proposals to amend the Standard
- Other activities of the Specialised Section
- Overview of other issues which are under discussion for possible future amendments
- Extended bureau meetings of 2005 and the programme of activity for 2006

5 (a) Text recommended for adoption as revised UNECE Standards

68. The Working Party adopted the text contained in TRADE/WP.7/2005/4 and TRADE/WP.7/2005/4/Add.1 as a revised UNECE Standard for Seed Potatoes. These documents incorporate changes in the following areas:

- Netted scab
- Destination tolerances
- Definition of Leaf Roll
- Size band
- Pests/Diseases from which seed potatoes are required to be free (Potato rot nematode *dytylencus destructor*)
- Units of presentation/container
- Provisions concerning presentation
- Visual inspection versus testing
- Traceability
- Improvement of annex IX (Sampling)
- Definition of designated authority
- Summary table of tolerances

69. The annex summarizing the requirements of the Standard has been consequently amended to facilitate the consultation and comparison with national standards.

5 (b) Information on meetings of the extended bureau

70. The Chairman said that following an invitation by the German authorities, an Extended Bureau meeting would be held in Rostock from 24 to 27 October 2005. The Chairman thanked the authorities of Germany for organizing this event. At the meeting, a number of issues would be discussed, which would lead to the further development of the standard. Included among these issues would be:

- Arbitration rules/dispute settlement
- The concept of Living Modified Organism (LMO) in the standard
- Images for common and netted scab
- Implementation of the standard (in light of regular changes)
- Reference to the UNECE standard on the label
- Concept of direct progeny
- Discussion on annex VI (comparative trials)
- Homogeneity and Size of the lot
- Exchange of practices of taking samples for tuber inspection
- Paper on PTNRD
- Paper on distribution of TSWV
- List of pest and diseases

71. A two-day prototype seminar has been developed. It will be offered countries wishing to improve their seed potato production or to importing countries wishing to be better informed about ordering seed from other countries.

72. The Chairman expressed his gratitude on behalf of the Specialized Section, to Mr Tom Heilandt. He also mentioned that former Vice-Chairman Mr. Pierre Miauton (Switzerland) had retired. At the last session, Mr. Willem Schrage (USA) was elected as the Vice-Chairman.

73. The next 36th Specialized Section is scheduled for 20 to 22 March 2006.