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**Economic Commission for Europe**

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

**Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards**

**Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables**

**Sixty-seventh session**

Geneva, 15-17 June 2020

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

**Specialized Section on Standardization**

**of Dry and Dried Produce**

 Sampling plan

 Comments by the delegation from Turkey

General evaluations regarding a single sampling plan;

Due to the nature of dry and dried products, they are of different sizes and the amount of sugar they contain varies. In addition, many chemicals that are not used in dry products can be used in dried fruit production. Considering that there can be so many differences between the products, both our inspectors and manufacturers have reservations about whether it is feasible to use a single sampling plan for all dry and liberated products.

The primary criticism received from the sector regarding the subject is the operation of the same sampling process for all products of different sizes. In the studies carried out in our universities for the European Union, it was found that the standard deviation determined in the evaluation increased as the amount of product per kg decreased. (In small products such as raisins, doubling the amount of samples taken does not affect the result so much, but the same cannot be said for dried apricots.) In this case, it shows that the size of the product (unit) is important in determining the amount of the final sample to be used for conformity assessment.

At this point, it is considered that a distinction must be made in the sampling procedure to be used for very small and large products.

Similarly, the discussion of whether the expressions and generalizations in explanatory text and sampling plan are interpreted in the same way by the inspectors in the recipient countries and the inspectors in the vendor countries is important in terms of not harming the current trade. The same should be considered for buyers and sellers. Uniformity should be a priority in conformity assessment practices.

For this reason, the importance of discussing the sampling plan in a workshop where inspectors, buyers and producers will be implemented together becomes increasingly important.

Due to the Covid-19 outbreak, the study planned to be carried out in İzmir has been canceled. However, the effects of the covid-19 outbreak on the production and distribution channels are still unclear. This increases the importance of addressing the above concerns regarding the sampling plan.

At this point, it is considered that it would be healthier to support the studies on sampling plan with a workshop to be held after the normalization processes of covid-19 outbreak measures have matured at the global level.