

For Official Use

AGR/CA/FVS/M(2000)2



Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Economiques  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

OLIS : 18-Jul-2000  
Dist. : 20-Jul-2000

PARIS

DIRECTORATE FOR FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES  
COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE

Or. Fre.

AGR/CA/FVS/M(2000)2  
For Official Use

**OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables**

**DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 59TH PLENARY MEETING OF  
NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES RESPONSIBLE  
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OECD SCHEME HELD IN PARIS,  
15-17 MAY 2000**

*This document is transmitted to Members for CONSIDERATION and to  
national Delegations for INFORMATION.*

93891

Document complet disponible sur OLIS dans son format d'origine  
Complete document available on OLIS in its original format

Or. Fre.

**DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 59<sup>TH</sup> PLENARY MEETING OF NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OECD SCHEME HELD IN PARIS, 15-17 MAY 2000**

**1. Election of Officers**

1. Mrs. U. Bickelmann (Germany) was re-elected as Chairwoman. Mr. P. Schauenberg (Switzerland) and Mrs. V. Baricicova (Slovak Republic) were elected as Vice-Chairs.

**1. Adoption of the Agenda [AGR/CA/FVS/A (2000)1]**

The draft agenda was adopted.

**3. Approval of the Draft Summary Record of the 58<sup>th</sup> session of the Plenary Meeting [AGR/CA/FVS/M (98)2]**

The Plenary Meeting approved the Summary Record of this meeting. It also approved document AGR/CA/FVS(93)6/REV7 (Guidance Document for Drafting Explanatory Brochures) without amendment.

**4. Statement by the Secretariat on activities of possible interest to the Scheme since the 58th Plenary Meeting**

See Annex II.

**5. Future work by the Scheme for facilitating the implementation and harmonisation of international grade standard activities [AGR/CA/FVS(2000)2]**

Document AGR/CA/FVS(2000)2 presented a programme of work for the Scheme on the basis of current activities and of proposals made at different levels and different times in the framework of the Scheme.

The Delegates discussed the programme of work, particularly point II.1.1 “General concept on harmonisation of control including grade, phytosanitary and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) aspects” of document AGR/CA/FVS(2000)2. Some Delegates took the view that food quality and safety were closely linked and that the Scheme could not ignore the food safety aspect, while others were of the opinion that no change should be made to the Scheme’s current mandate in this regard. With respect to HACCP aspects, some delegates thought that the Scheme should address them because the fresh fruit and vegetables sector was a special case in that its problems differed from those encountered in the agro-food sector in general. Others pointed out that the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene was working on the HACCP concept. In contrast, all of the Delegates thought that all the inspections carried out on fruit and vegetables should be consolidated in order to facilitate trade. Lastly, it was decided that point II.1.1, referred to above, would be amended and that Scheme work activities on this issue would be defined as “the interface between quality assurance and quality control and other food inspection systems”.

After discussion, document AGR/CA/FVS(2000)2 was revised in the course of the session and the revised version AGR/CA/FVS(2000)2/REV1 served as a basis for establishing the priorities adopted by the Plenary Meeting for the Scheme's programme of work (see table 1 for detailed country responses). The priority setting exercise established that the Scheme's various work activities should focus on the following three main priority groups (see document AGR/CA/FVS(2000)2/REV1 for further details on each activity).

Priority Group 1: Explanatory material for standards

Priority Group 2: Quality concept, operation of inspection and harmonisation meetings (these three types of activity all received virtually the same priority ranking)

Priority Group 3: Guidelines on issues related to quality assurance

**Table 1. Priority ranking of Scheme work activities adopted at the 59<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting.**

Country/pays Activity/Activité	1	2	3	4	5
	Explanatory material - Matériel interprétatif	Operation of inspection - Mise en oeuvre du contrôle	Quality concept - Concept de qualité	Guidelines on issues related to quality assurance - Guides sur des questions relatives à l'assurance qualité	Harmonisation meetings - Réunions d'harmonisation
Belgium/Belgique	1	4	2	3	5
Finland/Finlande	1	2	5	4	3
France/France	1	4	2	5	3
Germany/Allemagne	1	2	5	4	3
Greece/Grece	1	2	5	3	4
Israel/Israël	1	3	4	5	2
Italy/Italie	4	3	1	2	5
New Zealand/Nouvelle Zélande	1	4	5	2	3
Poland/Pologne	5	3	2	4	1
Portugal/Portugal	4	3	1	2	5
Slovak Republic/République Slovaque	2	5	4	3	1
South Africa/Afrique du Sud	1	3	2	4	5
Spain/Espagne	1	4	3	5	2
Switzerland/Suisse	1	2	4	5	2
The Netherlands/Pays bas	1	5	3	4	2
Turkey/Turquie	1	2	3	4	5
European Commission/Commission européenne	1	3	2	3	3
Total	28	54	53	62	54
Priority/priorité	1	3	2	4	3

As regards the quality concept, it was decided that work on internal quality should begin. A questionnaire would be circulated by the Secretariat in which each Delegation should set out its own definition of internal quality and update the data in document AGR/CA/FVS(91)4/REV7. It was decided that Delegations' replies should not be confined to the methods used by inspection services, they should also cover methods used by the private sector.

## 6. Draft explanatory brochures

### a) Broccoli [AGR/CA/FVS(94)2/REV11 ]

It was decided that the explanatory brochure on the standard for broccoli should be published after incorporation of the amendments adopted by the Plenary Meeting and incorporated in AGR/CA/FVS(94)2/REV12.

The Plenary Meeting thanked the co-rapporteurs (Italy and Germany) for their work in drafting the brochure.

*b) Asparagus [AGR/CA/FVS(93)5/REV9]*

It was decided that the explanatory brochure on the standard for asparagus should be published after incorporation of the amendments adopted by the Plenary Meeting and incorporated in AGR/CA/FVS(93)5/REV10. Photos 25, 34, 35, 43 and 44 being missing, the Asparagus brochure would be published without these photos.

The Plenary Session thanked the rapporteur (the Netherlands) for its work in drafting the brochure.

*c) Evaluation of the work of the Produce Working Groups since the last session of the Plenary Meeting*

- Working Group on Apples and Pears

After an initial meeting in 1998 when it was determined that the standard for apples and pears should first be revised, the Working Group would now continue with its explanatory activities. Discussions on the draft brochure would mainly be via the Scheme's Electronic Discussion Group: <http://www.olis.oecd.org/agr/fruitscheme.nsf>.

- Working Group on Citrus Fruit

The Working Group on Citrus Fruit, which Italy had joined, would begin its explanatory activities at the end of 2000, although it was expected that certain issues relating to the official text of the standard, such as green oranges and internal quality, would still be under discussion at that time.

- Working Group on Cucumbers

After a first review of the draft brochure work was continuing, the objective being to submit the final draft for adoption and publication at the next session of the Plenary Meeting.

- Working Group on Beans

Explanatory activities were to start afresh. Germany and France were designated as co-rapporteurs and Spain as a member of the Working Group.

- Working Group on Plums

Explanatory activities were to start afresh. Germany and France were designated as co-rapporteurs and Italy as a member of the Working Group.

- Working Group on Table Grapes

The Working Group hoped to be able to take the missing photos and submit the final draft for approval and publication at the next Plenary Meeting.

- Working Group on Strawberries

The Working Group hoped to be able to take the missing photos and submit the final draft for approval and publication at the next Plenary Meeting.

- Working Group on Tomatoes

Some photos were still needed and the official text of the standard might also require revision.

#### **7. Operation of the Scheme [AGR/CA/FVS(98)2/REV1]**

Document AGR/CA/FVS(98)2/REV1 was drafted as a reference document for participating members and observers to the Scheme (especially new participants) to provide guidance on the way the Scheme operates. The outcome of the discussions on this item during the Plenary Meeting would be reflected in AGR/CA/FVS(98)2/REV2.

#### **8. Activities of other International Organisations involved in the international standardisation of fruit and vegetables**

Annexes III and IV give a broad outline of the recent activities of other international organisations involved in the international standardisation of fruit and vegetables.

#### **9. Promotion of the establishment of one single international grade standard setting body [AGR/CA/FVS(2000)3 and AGR/CA/FVS (2000)3/ADD1]**

The conclusions reached by the Working Party on the Future of the Scheme, presented in Section 2 of document AGR/CA/FVS(2000)3 were not approved by the Plenary Meeting. Several Delegations thought that it was unwise to consider the establishment of a single international grade standard-setting body as the only possible solution to duplication of effort between the OECD, the UN/ECE and the FAO/WHO, as this precluded other solutions to reduce or eliminate duplication that could be more swiftly implemented.

The possible concept for achieving the first of the main objectives of the Scheme (“promotion of the establishment of one single international grade standard setting body”) as set forth in Section 3 of document AGR/CA/FVS(2000)3 was rejected by the Plenary Meeting.

Lastly, the Plenary Meeting gave the Chairwoman and the Secretariat a mandate to initiate informal contacts with the UN/ECE and the FAO/WHO in order to obtain from those organisations their recognition and commitment to the following:

- i) Recognition of the duplication of the work inputs that exists between the three Organisations currently involved in grade standards development;
- ii) Identifying an agreed course of action to minimise duplication of work inputs.

#### **10. Meetings of Heads of National Inspection Services [AGR/CA/FVS/M(2000)1]**

The Israeli Delegation gave a brief account of the discussions and technical field trips that took place within the framework of this meeting.

On behalf of the Plenary Meeting, the Chairwoman thanked the Israeli Delegation for an excellently organised meeting, which had most certainly helped to improve co-operation between the inspection services in exporting and importing countries.

The Slovak Delegation proposed that a comparative analysis of training systems for inspection service staff be put on the agenda for the next meeting of heads of national inspection services of countries participating in the Scheme, with a view to harmonising them.

**11. Observer status application by Bulgaria [AGR/CA/FVS(2000)1]**

At Bulgaria's request, the Plenary Meeting reviewed that country's application for observer status in the Scheme. Co-operation between the countries participating in the Scheme and Bulgaria would be beneficial as it would enable harmonisation of inspection services and facilitate trade in fruit and vegetables between these two groups of countries. The Plenary Meeting therefore recommended that Bulgaria be granted observer status at the next session of the Plenary Meeting and at all the other Scheme meetings between now and then (Working Group meetings, Meetings of Heads of National Inspection Services and the Scheme's electronic discussion group). At the same time, it also recommended that Bulgaria be informed of the possibility for this country to become a fully-fledged participant in the Scheme. Co-operation with Bulgaria would again be reviewed at the next session of the Plenary Meeting in the light of the relations developed between Bulgaria and the Scheme between the 59th and 60<sup>th</sup> sessions of the Plenary Meeting.

**12. Acceptance of standards by participating countries [AGR/CA/FVS(2000)4]**

Delegations which had not yet notified the Secretariat of the standards currently in force in their country were requested to do so, so that the latter could finalise document AGR/CA/FVS(2000)4.

**13. Other business**

*a) Training sessions*

Delegates were invited to take part in the next international training session, which would be held on 26-28 June 2000 in the Slovak Republic.

The German Delegation also invited delegates to take part in the next session at Geisenheim on 12-15 February 2001.

*b) Publications*

The Secretariat would consult with the Publications Service on the feasibility of electronic publication of the brochures recently issued in paper form (kiwifruit, witloof chicory, mangoes, avocados and lettuces).

*c) Working Party on the Future of the Scheme*

The Plenary Meeting gave the Working Party, of which Belgium, Greece and the European Commission are now members, a mandate to submit proposals for the purposes of evaluating the relevance of the work of the Scheme from the standpoint of its objective of facilitating trade in fruit and vegetables.

**ANNEXE I/ANNEX I**

**REGIME DE L'OCDE POUR L'APPLICATION DES NORMES INTERNATIONALES AUX  
FRUITS ET LEGUMES/  
OECD SCHEME FOR THE APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR FRUIT  
AND VEGETABLES**

**59 EME REUNION PLENIERE / 59<sup>th</sup> PLENARY MEETING (15-17 mai/May 2000)**

OECD/OCDE,  
Château de la Muette, Paris

**LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS/  
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**AFRIQUE DU SUD/SOUTH AFRICA**

Mr. Cyril A. JULIUS  
Assistant Director : Perishable Products and  
Flowers  
Directorate Plant Health and Quality  
National Department of Agriculture  
Private Bag X 258  
PRETORIA 0001

Tel: 27-12-319 6023  
Fax: 27-12-319 6055  
E-mail: [cyrilj@nda.agric.za](mailto:cyrilj@nda.agric.za)

**ALLEMAGNE/GERMANY**

Mrs Ulrike BICKELMANN  
Head of Division  
Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft  
und Ernährung  
Postfach 180203  
D-60083 FRANKFURT/MAIN

Tel: 49 69 1564 357  
Fax: 49 69 1564 945  
E-mail: [U32304@ffm.ble.bund400.de](mailto:U32304@ffm.ble.bund400.de)

Mr Erik SCHNEIDER  
Inspector  
German Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food  
60322 Frankfurt/Main  
AdickesAllee 40

Tel: 49 69 1564 429  
Fax: 49 69 1564 945  
E-mail: [U32304@ffm.ble.bund400.de](mailto:U32304@ffm.ble.bund400.de)

**BELGIQUE/BELGIUM**

M. Guy LAMBRECHTS  
Directeur principal  
Produits de végétaux –Politique Agricole-  
Ministère des Classes Moyennes et de l'Agriculture  
Avenue Simon Bolivar, LAAN 30  
B-1000 BRUXELLES

Tel : 32-2-208 49 07  
Fax : 32-2 208 49 25  
E-mail : [guy.lambrechts@cmlag.fgov.be](mailto:guy.lambrechts@cmlag.fgov.be)

**ESPAGNE/SPAIN**

M. Miguel VILCHEZ-BARROS  
National Coordinator of Standardization  
Certification and Conformity Assessment  
M°Economia Sec. Gen. Comercio Exterior  
SOIVRE  
C/Recogidas, 12-2º dcha  
18071 Granada

Tel : 34 958 25 45 69  
Fax 34 958 25 71 09  
E-mail:  
[Miguel.Vilchez@CATICE.GRANADA.MCX.es](mailto:Miguel.Vilchez@CATICE.GRANADA.MCX.es)

**FINLANDE/FINLAND**

Ms Outi PARIKKA  
Senior Inspector  
Plant Protection Inspection Centre  
PB 42, 00501 Helsinki

Tel : 358 9 5765 2728  
Fax : 358 9 5765 2732  
GSM : (040) 732 6998  
E-mail : [outi.parikka@kttk.fi](mailto:outi.parikka@kttk.fi)  
Internet : [www.kttk.fi](http://www.kttk.fi)

Mrs. Niina KAUAJARVI  
Senior Adviser  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
PL 30 –00023 Valtioneuvosto  
Finland

Tel : 358 9-160 42 74  
Fax : 358 9 160 34 00  
E-mail : [niina.kauhajarvi@mmm.fi](mailto:niina.kauhajarvi@mmm.fi)

**FRANCE**

M. Bruno CAUQUIL  
Control officer  
DGCCRF  
Ministère des Finances  
59 Boulevard Vincent Auriol  
Teledoc 251  
75703 Paris Cedex 13 / France

Tel : 33 1 44 97 31 43  
Fax : 33 1 44 97 05 27  
E-mail : [bruno.cauquil@dgccrf.finances.gouv.fr](mailto:bruno.cauquil@dgccrf.finances.gouv.fr)



**GRECE/GREECE**

Mrs Chrysoula PAPADIMITRIOU  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Direction of Processing, Standardization and  
Quality Control  
Arnon Str 2  
Athens 10176

Tel : 00 30 1 5243752  
Fax : 0030 1 5238337  
E-mail: 007\_agr@minagr.gr

Mrs MARKOMICHELAKI  
Counsellor  
Délégation permanente auprès de l'OCDE  
15 Villa Saïd  
75116 Paris

Tel : 01 45 02 24 06  
Fax : 01 45 00 71 55  
E-mail : 001\_DELEG/GRC/OECD/FR@OLIS.OECD.ORG

**ISRAEL**

Mr. Igal SCHULMAN  
Deputy Director - PPIS  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Plant Protection and Inspection Services (PPIS)  
P.O. Box 78  
BET-DAGAN 50280, Israel

Tel: 972 3-96 81 520  
Fax: 972-3-96 81 579  
E-mail: [schulman@netvision.net.il](mailto:schulman@netvision.net.il)

**ITALIE/ITALY**

M. Mario SCIANNELLA  
Responsable du Bureau de Normalisation de l'ICE  
(Institut Italien pour le Commerce Extérieur)  
Via Liszt 21  
00144 ROME

Tel : 39 6 5992 9466  
Fax : 39 6 5992 6968  
E-mail: [normative@ice.it](mailto:normative@ice.it)

M. Enzo GIGLIO  
Ministero delle Politiche Agricole  
Via 20 Settembre, 20  
00187 Rome

Tel : 0396 4665 4008  
Fax : 039 64132  
E-mail : [politiche.agricole@it](mailto:politiche.agricole@it)

**NOUVELLE ZELANDE/NEW ZEALAND**

Mr Tim KNOX  
Director, Dairy and Plant Products  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
Food Assurance Authority  
P.O. Box 2526  
Wellington, New Zealand

Tel : 64 4 474 4191  
Fax : 64 4 474 4240  
E-mail: [knoxt@maf.govt.nz](mailto:knoxt@maf.govt.nz)

Ms Joanna KEMPKERS  
Permanent Delegation to the OECD  
7ter rue Léonard-de-Vinci,  
75116 Paris  
First Secretary  
Agriculture, Environment

Tel : 01 45 00 24 11  
Fax : 01 45 01 26 39

**PAYS-BAS/NETHERLANDS**

Ms Monique MENTJOX  
Staff member  
Productboard for Horticulture  
Postbus 280  
2700 AG ZOETERMEER

Tel : 31 79 347 06 05  
Fax : 31 79 347 0600  
E-mail: [m.mentjox@tuinbouw.nl](mailto:m.mentjox@tuinbouw.nl)

**POLOGNE/POLAND**

Ms Marzena WODKA  
Civil Servant of European Integration and Foreign  
Co-operation Department  
Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection (CIS)  
32/34 Zurawia ST  
00 515 WARSAW

Tel : 48 22 621 64 21 / 48 22 621 48 58  
Fax : 48 22 629 48 16  
E-mail : [integracjajcis@zigzag.pl](mailto:integracjajcis@zigzag.pl)

**PORTUGAL**

M. Luis CAIANO  
Chef de Division des Fruits, de l'Horticulture et des  
Fleurs  
Cabinet de Planification et Politique Agro-  
Alimentaire (GPPAA)  
Rua Padre Antonio Vieira, n°1  
1099 073 Lisboa Codex

Tel : 351 21 381 93 96  
Fax : 351 21 386 09 52  
E-mail : [LCaiano@gppaa.min-agricultura.pt](mailto:LCaiano@gppaa.min-agricultura.pt)

**REPUBLIQUE SLOVAQUE/SLOVAK  
REPUBLIC**

Mrs Viera BARICICOVA  
Head of Fruit and Vegetables Quality Department  
Slovak Agricultural and Food Inspection  
Krizna 52  
815 49 Bratislava

Fax : 00 421 7 554 24 731  
Mobil : 00 421 903 239 219  
Fax :  
E-mail: [baricicova@sppi.sk](mailto:baricicova@sppi.sk)

**SUISSE/SWITZERLAND**

Mr. P. SCHAUBENBERG  
Chef de Section  
Office fédéral de l'agriculture  
Division principale Production et Affaires  
internationales  
Section Cultures spéciales et économie viticole  
Mattenhofstrasse 5  
3003 BERNE

Tel : 41 31-324 84 21  
Fax : 41 31-323 05 55  
E-mail: [pierre.schaubenberg@blw.admin.ch](mailto:pierre.schaubenberg@blw.admin.ch)

**TURQUIE/TURKEY**

Mrs Belkis GURSEL AKSOY  
Engineer  
Undersecretariat for Foreign Trade/Dis Ticaret  
Mustesarligi, Dis Ticaret Standardizasyon Genei  
Mudurlugu  
Inonu Bulvari, Emek  
06510 Ankara

Tel : 90 312 212 8800/2039 (ext)  
Fax : 90 312 212 8768  
E-mail : [aksoyb@foreigntrade.gov.tr](mailto:aksoyb@foreigntrade.gov.tr)

Mrs OZLEM  
Turkish Delegation to the OECD  
Economic Counsellor  
9, rue Alfred Dehodencq  
75116 Paris

Tel : 01 42 88 50 02  
Fax : 01 45 27 28 24

**COMMISSION EUROPEENNE/EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

M. Fabien SANTINI  
Administrateur  
Commission Européenne (AGRI.E.1)  
200, rue de la Loi  
B-1049 BRUXELLES

Tel : 32-2- 29 53 211  
Fax : 32-2- 29 53 709  
E-mail: [fabien.santini@cec.eu.int](mailto:fabien.santini@cec.eu.int)

**Observateurs/Observers**

**CEE/ONU –UN/ECE**

Mr. Tom HEILANDT  
Economic Affairs Officer  
UN/ECE  
Palais des Nations  
Office 432  
1211 GENEVE 10

Tel : 41 22 - 917 2450  
Fax : 41 22 - 917 0041  
E-mail: [tom.heilandt@unece.org](mailto:tom.heilandt@unece.org)

**COLEACP**

M. Pierre GERBAUD  
Chargé d'études  
COLEACP  
5, rue de la Corderie  
Centra 342  
94586 RUNGIS CEDEX

Tel : 33 1 41 80 02 10  
Fax : 33 1 41 80 02 19  
E-mail : [Pierre.Gerbaud@coleacp.org](mailto:Pierre.Gerbaud@coleacp.org)  
E-mail : [coleacp@coleacp.org](mailto:coleacp@coleacp.org) (général)

**EUCOFEL**

M. Jean-Claude AUREL  
Délégué  
EUCOFEL  
29, rue Jenneval  
B-1040 BRUXELLES

Tel : 32 2 736 1584  
Fax : 32 2 732 1747  
E-mail : [eucofel.fruitrade.org@skynet.be](mailto:eucofel.fruitrade.org@skynet.be)

**MEXIQUE/MEXICO**

M. Arturo CALDERON

Attaché agricole

Ministère de l'Agriculture, l'élevage et le  
développement rural. Mission du Mexique auprès  
de la C.E

94, avenue Franklin Roosevelt  
1050 BRUXELLES

Tel : (32 2) 644 13 00

Fax : (32 2) 644 28 35

E-mail : [icoafb@pophost.eunet.be](mailto:icoafb@pophost.eunet.be)

**Secrétariat**

**M. Gérard VIATTE**

Directeur

Direction de l'Alimentation, de l'Agriculture et des Pêcheries

Director

Directorate for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries

**M. Loek BOONEKAMP**

Chef de Division

Division des Echanges et Marchés Agricoles

Direction de l'Alimentation, de l'Agriculture et des Pêcheries

Head of Division

Agricultural Trade & Markets Division

Directorate for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries

**Mme Sylvie PORET**

Administrateur

Division des Echanges et Marchés Agricoles

Direction de l'Alimentation, de l'Agriculture et des Pêcheries

Administrator

Agricultural Trade & Markets Division

Directorate for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries

E-mail: [Sylvie.PORET@oecd.org](mailto:Sylvie.PORET@oecd.org)

Tel no. : 33 1 45 24 95 53

Fax no.: 33-1- 44 30 61 17

**ANNEX II**  
**STATEMENT OF THE SECRETARIAT ON**  
**ACTIVITIES OF POSSIBLE INTEREST TO THE SCHEME**  
**SINCE THE 58<sup>TH</sup> SESSION**

**New Council Decision**

Council Decision C(99)10/FINAL revising the Scheme was adopted by the Council of the OECD on 8 April 1999. This Decision revises the roles and operational framework of the Scheme. The main changes it makes are as follows.

- The objective of the scheme is to promote the establishment of one single international grade standard setting body.
- The extension of the Scheme to non-OECD Member countries has now been opened up to member countries of the World Trade Organisation.
- After joining the Scheme, new participating countries have 3 years in which to set up an export quality control system.
- The scale of contributions has been amended so that the same method of calculation will apply to Members and non-Members. There is no longer any difference between Member and non-Member countries participating in the scheme.
- The Scheme may establish Produce Working Groups, which are subsidiary bodies of the Plenary Meeting.
- Sessions of the Plenary Meeting and the Produce Working Groups may take place in any participating country of the Scheme.

**Participation of countries in the Scheme and contacts with non-participating countries**

***Withdrawal of the Czech Republic***

The Czech Republic has given notice of its intention to withdraw from the Scheme. Its withdrawal will take effect from 27 July 2000.

***Withdrawal of Portugal***

Portugal has given notice of its intention to withdraw from the Scheme with effect from 1 January 2001.

***Bulgaria's application for observer status***

Bulgaria has applied for observer status on a certain number of OECD bodies, including the Scheme. Its application is an item on the agenda.

***Mexico's request for information on the Scheme***

Mexico had expressed an interest in receiving information on the Scheme. The information has been supplied by the Secretariat.

**Budget for the Scheme**

The Scheme's budget for the year 2000 has been adopted by the OECD Council. It is based on zero volume growth on the 1999 budget.

For 2001, the draft programme of work and budget for the Scheme was discussed and adopted by the Committee for Agriculture at its meeting on 17 April 2000. It provides for administrative streamlining of the budget structure through the creation of an administrator's post and suppression of consultant expenses, with no increase in the total resources allocated to the Scheme.

**Publications**

The explanatory brochure on the standard for carrots has been published. It is available in both electronic and printed form. The electronic edition can be accessed by the national representatives responsible for implementation of the Scheme via the Scheme's electronic discussion group using a password that will be given to each individual delegation (one password per country). In accordance with the wishes expressed on several occasions by the Plenary Meeting, the print edition was published in loose-leaf format, with all the photographs at the end of the brochure to facilitate later revisions and translation into third languages. Moreover, this might be an appropriate time for the Plenary Meeting to consider the feasibility of publishing the brochures in languages other than the official languages (French and English).

The Secretariat has also secured the rights to reproduce the colour gauge for cauliflower from the CTIFL (Centre Technique Interprofessionnel des Fruits et Légumes) and has published it as an OECD gauge.

The Secretariat is also in contact with the Publications Service to ensure that the Scheme's publications will not be out of print as has happened too often in the past. The Marketing Section of the Publications Service is quite willing to do reprints systematically when the publications are out of stock and no revision has been scheduled.

### ANNEX III

#### **Work of the UN/ECE Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development**

##### **Specialized Section on Coordination of Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (44<sup>th</sup> session, 2 to 6 November 1998) (Report: TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1998/17)**

Revisions to the following standards were agreed: Beans, Carrots, Citrus Fruit, Garlic, Melons, Shelling Peas, Plums, Watermelons, Avocados and Broccoli.

##### **Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development (54<sup>th</sup> session 9 to 11 November 1998) (Report: TRADE/WP.7/1998/9)**

The Working Party adopted the report of the Specialized Section and the proposed revisions to the standards.

##### **Specialized Section on Coordination of Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (54<sup>th</sup> session, 25 to 29 October 1999) (Report: TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1999/15)**

Revisions to the following standards were agreed: Apples and Pears, Asparagus, Broccoli, Citrus Fruit, Plums, Table Grapes

Pineapples: It was decided to propose to the Working Party to create a UN/ECE standard for Pineapples. A working group coordinated by COLEACP will prepare a draft text.

##### **Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development (55<sup>th</sup> session 3 to 5 November 1999) (Report: TRADE/WP.7/1999/7)**

The Working Party adopted the report of the Specialized Section and the proposed revisions to the standards with the exception of the revision of the standard on Citrus Fruit because there was no consensus. The text was referred back to the Specialized Section.

**Elaboration of explanatory material to UN/ECE standards** (summary of the discussion held; for the full text see TRADE/WP.7/1999/7, paras. 59-79)

#### **Background**

At present, most of the work on the interpretation of UN/ECE standards is done in the framework of the OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables. Exceptions are the UN/ECE Standards on Meat (Poultry, Porc, Beef), Eggs and the colour chart for Walnut Kernels.

Because of uncertainties concerning the future of the OECD Scheme, the European Commission initiated a discussion on this question at the second session of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (CTIED). At the third session of the Committee, the European Commission requested the secretariat to prepare a study on the modalities of preparing explanatory brochures to UN/ECE standards in the framework of WP.7 and its Specialized Sections. This request was supported by the United States and agreed by the Committee.



**Main results of the study prepared by the secretariat**

Work on explanatory brochures can be integrated into the framework of the existing specialized sections without any significant extension of the number of formal meeting days;

It will not be possible to do the additional work with the existing staff. It will be necessary to recruit an additional staff member at the junior professional level. The additional costs including the new staff member, a contribution to travel costs, and printing of the brochures have been estimated as US\$150,000.

UN/ECE is working with a 0% growth budget in the next biennium (meaning in effect a 3% reduction of the budget), it will not be possible to include this amount into the regular budget of UN/ECE. This could be done only if member States decided to stop another activity taking place under the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development and to transfer the resources to the agricultural standards unit.

A possibility to fund additional work is to create a trust fund. This trust fund would be managed under strict United Nations procedures and with complete transparency. UN/ECE would launch an appeal for contributions and then every interested party (public or private) could decide to contribute. There would have to be the expectation of regular contributions because otherwise the recruitment of a staff member to be financed by the trust fund would not be authorized.

**Summary of results and future work**

The work could be done at the UN/ECE. The creation of a trust fund will be necessary for this (the detailed modalities for contributions to this fund need to be examined). It needs to be studied further how the work can be developed at the UN/ECE (organization, output, distribution)

There will be no duplication of work: the Working Party is prepared to take on this work only if the work at OECD (which is highly appreciated by WP.7 and its specialized sections) is disrupted and if the funding problem can be solved.

It was decided to create a working group to further discuss these questions. The delegations from the European Community, Poland, Romania, Switzerland and the United States will participate in that group. The secretariat and the Chairman of the Working Party will also participate.

**ANNEX IV**

**STATEMENT OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**

**ON ACTIVITIES OF POSSIBLE INTEREST TO THE SCHEME**

**SINCE THE 58<sup>TH</sup> SESSION**

Since the last Plenary Meeting, after consulting with the member states of the European Community, the European Commission adopted new marketing standards directly applicable in the European Community to all stages of marketing for nine products for which standards had been issued in the past: Carrots (EC Regulation No 730/1999), Plums (EC Regulation No 1168/1999), Peppers (EC Regulation No 1455/1999), Peaches and Nectarines (EC Regulation No 2335/1999), Asparagus (EC Regulation No 2377/1999), Peas (EC Regulation No 2561/1999), Table grapes (EC Regulation No 2789/1999), Tomatoes (EC Regulation No 790/2000) and Apricots (EC Regulation No 851/2000). Minor amendments to other standards – on avocados, melons, cauliflower and plums were also adopted.

With regard to future work, in the not too distant future the Commission will also probably adopt several new standards, primarily to incorporate amendments to the UN/ECE standards for the following products: walnuts, hazelnuts, almonds, apples and pears, citrus fruits, beans, lettuce, and some minor amendments for the following produce: peppers, peas, melons, kiwis, peaches and nectarines, table grapes, avocados and “baby” produce.

Lastly, the European Commission has entered into discussions with its member states on control procedures, which should result in the revision of EC Regulation No 225/92.

## ANNEX V

## GROUPE DE TRAVAIL SUR L'AVENIR DU RÉGIME

<b>PAYS/DELEGUE</b>	<b>FAX / E-MAIL</b>
<b>ALLEMAGNE/GERMANY</b>	
Dr. Ulrike BICKELMANN Chef de service de contrôle Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung - Referat 323 Adickesallee 40 D-60322 FRANKFURT/MAIN	Tel. 49-69-15 64 -357/-319 Fax 49-69-15 64 - 945/-940
<b>AUTRICHE/AUSTRIA</b>	
Mrs. Michaela SCHWAIGER Head of Department Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft Stubenring 1 A-1012 WIEN	Tel. 43-1-7 11 00 - 2760 Fax 43-1-7 11 00 - 2901/ 2891 E-mail: Michaela.Schwaiger@BMLF.gv.at
<b>BELGIQUE/BELGIUM</b>	
M. Guy LAMBRECHTS Directeur principal Produits de végétaux –Politique Agricole- Ministère des Classes Moyennes et de l'Agriculture Avenue Simon Bolivar, 30 B-1000 BRUXELLES	Tel : 32-2-208 49 07 Fax : 32-2 208 49 25 E-mail : <a href="mailto:guy.lambrechts@cmlag.fgov.be">guy.lambrechts@cmlag.fgov.be</a>
<b>GRECE/GREECE</b>	
Mr Ioannis TSIALTAS Chef de Division Ministry of Agriculture Direction of Processing, Standardization and Quality Control	Tel : 30 1 524 3752 Fax : 30 1 523 8337 E-mail: 007_agr@minagr.gr

**ISRAEL**

Mr. Igal SCHULMAN  
Head of Inspection Service  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Plant Protection and Inspection Services  
P.O. Box 78  
Bet-DAGAN 50250 / ISRAEL

Tel. 972-3-96 81 520  
Fax 972-3-96 81 507  
E-mail: [schulman@netvision.net.il](mailto:schulman@netvision.net.il)

**NOUVELLE ZELANDE/ NEW ZEALAND**

Mr. Tim KNOX  
Director, Dairy and Plant Products  
Ministry of Agriculture  
P.O. Box 2526  
WELLINGTON, New Zealand

Tel : 64 4 474 4191  
Fax : 64 4 474 4240  
E-mail: [knoxt@maf.govt.nz](mailto:knoxt@maf.govt.nz)

**PAYS BAS/NETHERLANDS**

Mr. Cees VAN LEEUWEN  
Head of Service  
Product Board Horticulture  
Postbus 90403  
2509 LK The Hague / Holland

Tel. 31-70-304 12 37  
Fax 31-70 347 81 81  
E-mail: [Cees.van.Leeuwen@Tuinbouw.nl](mailto:Cees.van.Leeuwen@Tuinbouw.nl).

**REPUBLIQUE SLOVAQUE/SLOVAK  
REPUBLIC (Coordinateur/Co-ordinator)**

Dr. Viera BARICICOVA  
Head of Slovak Centre for Fruit and Vegetables  
Quality Control Centre  
Slovak Agricultural and Food Inspektion  
Mileticova 23  
815 49 BRATISLAVA/ Slovak Republic

Tel. 421-7-54 44 494  
Fax 421-7-54 44 280

**COMMISSION EUROPEENNE / EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION**

M. Fabien SANTINI  
Administrateur  
Commission Européenne (AGRI.E.1)  
200, rue de la Loi  
B-1049 BRUXELLES

Tel : 32-2- 29 53 211  
Fax : 32-2- 29 53 709  
E-mail: [fabien.santini@cec.eu.int](mailto:fabien.santini@cec.eu.int)

**SECRETARIAT**

Mme Sylvie PORET  
Administrateur  
Division des Echanges et Marchés Agricoles  
Direction de l'Alimentation, de l'Agriculture et des  
Pêcheries

Tel.: 33-1-45 24 95 53  
Fax.: 33-1-45 24 78 34  
E-mail: Sylvie.Poret@oecd.org

Administrator  
Agricultural Trade & Markets Division  
Directorate for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries

## ANNEX VI

Results of the Evaluation of the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Plenary Meeting

<b>PREPARATION OF MEETING</b>			
<i>Agenda</i>	<b>Too heavy/crowded</b>	<b>Correct balance of items</b> 16	<b>Too light</b>
<i>Preparatory work by Secretariat</i>	<b>Above average</b> 6	<b>About right</b> 10	<b>Inadequate</b>
<i>Meeting objectives</i>	<b>Totally clear</b> 6	<b>Partially clear</b> 10	<b>Not clear enough</b>
<i>Preparatory work by Bureau</i>	<b>Above average</b> 4	<b>About right</b> 9	<b>Inadequate</b>
<i>Issues at stake</i>	<b>Totally clear</b> 5	<b>Partially clear</b> 9	<b>Not clear enough</b>
<i>Prior networking</i>	<b>None</b> 1	<b>Electronic Discussion Group</b> 7	<b>Other (email, phone, etc.)</b> 9

<b>DOCUMENTATION</b>			
<i>Time received (English)</i>	<b>Too early</b>	<b>About right</b> 9	<b>Too late</b> 7
<i>Time received (French)</i>	<b>Too early</b>	<b>About right</b> 1	<b>Too late</b> 5
<i>Length of documents</i>	<b>Too long</b> 1	<b>About right</b> 15	<b>Too short</b>
<i>Quality of analysis</i>	<b>Good</b> 11	<b>Average</b> 5	<b>Poor</b>
<i>Quantity of documentation</i>	<b>Too much</b>	<b>About right</b> 16	<b>Insufficient</b>
<i>Relevance to meeting</i>	<b>Highly relevant</b> 13	<b>Average</b> 2	<b>Not directly relevant</b>

<b>CONDUCT AND MANAGEMENT OF MEETING</b>			
<i>Conduct of meeting by Chair</i>	<b>Animated and well-managed</b> 13	<b>Average</b> 2	<b>Meeting dull and/or confused</b>
<i>Meeting focus</i>	<b>Meeting on track</b> 10	<b>Average</b> 5	<b>Meeting lost focus</b>
<i>Duration of meeting</i>	<b>Too long</b> 3	<b>About right</b> 13	<b>Too short</b>
<i>Participation of Secretariat – amount</i>	<b>Too much</b> 1	<b>About right</b> 15	<b>Too little</b>
<i>Participation of Secretariat – quality</i>	<b>High</b> 10	<b>Average</b> 6	<b>Low</b>
<i>Participation of delegations – amount</i>	<b>Too much</b>	<b>About right</b> 10	<b>Too little</b> 7
<i>Participation of delegations – quality</i>	<b>High</b> 3	<b>Average</b> 13	<b>Low</b> 1

<b>CONCLUSIONS AND RESULTS OF MEETING</b>			
<i>Achievement of objectives</i>	<b>Fully met</b> 5	<b>Partially met</b> 10	<b>Not met</b>
<i>Relevance of conclusions</i>	<b>Very useful and relevant</b> 5	<b>Somewhat useful and relevant</b> 11	<b>Not relevant or useful</b>
<i>Clarity of results</i>	<b>Clear and specific</b> 12	<b>Further clarification required</b> 4	<b>Not at all clear or conclusive</b> 2
<b>OVERALL LEVEL OF SATISFACTION</b>	<b>Very satisfied</b> 3	<b>Generally satisfied</b> 13	<b>Not satisfied</b>

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING MEETING EFFICIENCY	
--	--

OTHER COMMENTS	
----------------	--

**Duration of the meeting**

Meeting could have been done in two days

**Participation of delegations**

Only certain Delegates participated actively. Insufficient debate on some issues.

**Working Groups**

Not sufficient time and are somewhat neglected by Delegates. Should have more participation.

**Secretariat**

Very helpful and willing to assist.