

Unclassified

TAD/CA/FVS/M(2009)1/REV1

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

21-Feb-2011

English - Or. English

Trade and Agriculture Directorate
Committee for Agriculture

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

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 68TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE OECD FRUIT AND VEGETABLES SCHEME

9-11 December 2009

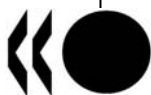
This document was approved at the 69th Plenary Meeting of the Fruit and Vegetables Scheme.

This final version includes the summary of the discussion on the Draft Report of the OECD Exploratory Task Force (item 18), as the Confidential Annex to the Summary Record [TAD/CA/FVS/ACS/M(2009)1] was declassified in the course of 2010.

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JT03296805

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 68TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE OECD FRUIT AND VEGETABLES SCHEME

1. Opening remarks by the Secretariat

Mr. Raed Safadi, Deputy Director of the Directorate for Trade and Agriculture (TAD) welcomed the delegates and opened the meeting. He gave an overview on how the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme fits into the structure and the work programme of the OECD and TAD.

Mr. Michael Ryan, Head of the OECD Codes and Schemes Unit, welcomed the delegations, especially the representatives of Kenya and Serbia, the two new Member countries of the Scheme.

2. Election of Officers

Mr. Michael Ryan thanked Mrs. Viera Baricicova (Slovak Republic) for her excellent work as she stepped down from the Bureau after six years. He welcomed the new member of the Bureau, Mr. Istvan Ecsedi (Hungary), who was elected as vice-chair at the 67th Plenary Meeting.

Mr. Ryan thanked Mr. Pierre Schauenberg (Switzerland) for his chairing of the Plenary Meeting for the last two years. Mr. Schauenberg will remain vice-chair of the Plenary Meeting for a further 2 years period. Mr. Ryan welcomed Mr. Ran Ben David (Israel) who took over as Chair of the Plenary Meeting for the next two years.

3. Adoption of the agenda [TAD/CA/FVS/A(2009)1/REV1]

The draft Agenda and the timetable for the discussion were adopted. Delegates noted that the document [TAD/CA/FVS/RD(2009)6] was not circulated and was replaced by a PowerPoint presentation.

4. Approval of the Draft Summary Record of the 67th Session of the Plenary Meeting [TAD/CA/FVS/M(2008)1/REV1]

The Plenary Meeting approved the Summary Record of the 67th Session.

5. Draft Summary Record of the 14th Meeting of the Heads of National Inspection Services [TAD/CA/FVS/HS/M(2009)1]

The OECD Secretariat thanked Finland for the good organisation of the 14th OECD Meeting of the Heads of National Inspection Services. The Secretariat summarized the event and informed the delegations that several proposals from this meeting are on the Agenda for the Plenary Meeting.

The OECD Secretariat introduced and handed out the Proceeding of the Meeting. It contains all presentations and the outcome of the Meeting.

6. Report on the 2009 International Training Course sponsored by the OECD in Slovakia [TAD/CA/FVS/RD(2009)1]

Mrs. Baricicova presented the report of the OECD sponsored 2009 International Training Course (ITC). She informed Delegates that the next ITC will take place in Mojmirovce, Slovakia in **mid September 2010**. The Agenda is still open and inputs to the programme are welcome.

7. Participating countries, other interested countries [TAD/CA/FVS(2009)1]

The OECD Secretariat informed Delegates that two new countries, Serbia and Kenya joined the Scheme in early 2009. Therefore, the number of Scheme's Member countries increased to 25.

It was also mentioned that several countries expressed interest in joining the Scheme in the near future, but are awaiting the decision on the future of the Scheme.

8. Secretariat's Activity and Budget Report [TAD/CA/FVS/RD(2009)2]

The OECD Secretariat informed delegates on the Scheme's activities since the 67th Plenary Meeting and on the budget of the Scheme. In 2009, the OECD published the explanatory brochures on early and ware potatoes, pears, inshell hazelnuts (electronic version) and citrus fruits (electronic version). The photo galleries were stamped with OECD logo and are available on the EDG together with the PowerPoint presentations. The Slovak Peer Review Report and the Proceedings of the 14th Meeting of the Heads of National Inspection Services were also published. It was mentioned that in 2009 there was no new tenders for technical assistance. However, Germany, Spain and Israel worked on brochures according to their contract. The Secretariat or OECD representatives participated in 6 missions during 2009. The participations were partly financed by grants or by the host country. The Secretariat also gave information on the total budget of the Scheme, as well as Member Countries' contributions and arrears.

9. In-depth Evaluation of the OECD Agricultural Codes and Schemes for International Trade [C(2008)95, C(2008)95/CORR1]

The OECD Secretariat informed Delegates that the OECD carried out an in-depth evaluation of Part II Programmes of the Trade and Agriculture Directorate, including the Agricultural Codes and Schemes for International Trade. The result of the evaluation was very positive (Relevance: high; Efficiency: high; Effectiveness: high) for the four programme including the Fruit and Vegetables Scheme.

The OECD Secretariat informed Delegates that an ad-hoc Working Group was established in 2009 with the participation of one member of each Bureau of the 4 programmes and the OECD Secretariat. The mandate of the Working Group is to follow-up on the recommendations of the In-depth Evaluation. The ad-hoc Working Group will prepare a report which will be circulated to delegates.

10. Harmonisation of the national export quality inspection system with the Scheme's Rules in new Member countries

a) Progress report by Serbia [TAD/CA/FVS/RD(2009)3]

Serbia gave an overview on their harmonisation process with the OECD Scheme's rules in 2009. Serbia adopted the Food Safety Law and the National Program for 2009-11 which include the revision of the Rules for the Fruit Quality Standard and the Rules of the Vegetables Quality Standard. As a result, the Serbian national standards will be fully harmonised with the OECD/UNECE standards. Serbia organised or participated in several international training courses on fruit and vegetables quality and inspection. As a future task, Serbia needs to improve the equipments of the inspectors.

Mr. Ben David mentioned that Serbia developed a good working programme and made good progress in the inspection and capacity-building. Serbia will provide a progress report on the harmonisation process for an additional 2 years to the Plenary Meeting.

b) Progress report by Kenya [TAD/CA/FVS/RD(2009)4]

His Excellency Elkanah Odembo, Ambassador of Kenya gave an overview on the Kenyan economy and agriculture. He mentioned that the economy strongly relies on agriculture, as it is the case in all Sub-Saharan countries. This sector provides 24% of the national GDP and employs 80 % of the workforce. Kenya has already benefited from its membership in the OECD Scheme as they have access to inspection methods, guidelines and explanatory materials and can participate in their development.

Mrs. Ntoyai showed a short video clip on the Kenyan fruit and vegetables inspection system. It was mentioned that Kenya made progress in the legal provision which had been tightened in 2009. The KEPHIS achieved the ISO 9001:2008 certification and operates according to it. Kenya also revised the national standards according to OECD/UNECE standards and organised training courses on the application of international standards. The industry and public institutions such as HCDA and KEPHIS improved the registration, vetting and control systems. The local supermarkets use the OECD/UNECE standards. Mrs. Ntoyai also mentioned that they would like to organise more training courses and workshops in the future and they would welcome any support from the OECD Scheme's Member countries.

The Chair thanked His Excellency Elkanah Odembo for his participation at the Plenary Meeting and the Delegation of Kenya for the presentation. He also mentioned that this was the first year when Kenya reported on the progress and progress report will be given for an additional 2 years.

11. Peer Review [TAD/CA/FVS(2009)2]

a) Publication of the Slovak Peer Review

The OECD Secretariat informed Delegates that the Slovak Republic agreed on the declassification and the publication of the Slovak Peer Review which was undertaken in 2008. The OECD Secretariat distributed the publication at the Plenary Meeting.

b) Draft Peer Review of Morocco

The OECD Secretariat thanked Morocco for volunteering to undertake an OECD Peer Review on their fruit and vegetables quality inspection system. The OECD Secretariat also thanked Mr. Jose Luis Lopez Carmona (Spain) and Mr. Emre Kiricioglu (Turkey) for accepting the OECD invitation to participate in the Peer Review Team.

Morocco gave a broad overview of the Moroccan fruit and vegetables inspection system, mentioning the latest development in the Quality Control and Export Co-ordination Office (EACCE) and the launch of the Internal Control Plan (PCI II.).

Mr. Lopez Carmona, on behalf of the Peer Review Team, introduced the result of the Moroccan Peer Review. He mentioned that the EACCE has a well organised network in the country. They also have professional staff and effective human resource and financial policy. The EACCE also operates an effective information system, including economic monitoring system which is also available for the fruit and vegetables industry. He also mentioned that Morocco may improve the export quality inspection system by introducing a risk analysis based inspection, by developing a request's register and by changing the document management system which should be performed exclusively by the inspectors.

During the discussion of the Peer Review Report, it was mentioned that as Morocco is planning to introduce a self inspection system, the traders should be allowed to handle the certificates. The Peer Review Team mentioned that they made this recommendation as the present practice is not the self-inspection in Morocco. However, in case of self-inspection, an appropriate system could be established to control the use of the official certificates.

Morocco agreed on the declassification and publication of the Peer Review report with the original recommendations mentioned in the document.

12. Harmonisation of quality inspection between Scheme's Member countries in light of the new EU inspection rules.

a) Presentation by the European Commission

Mrs. Sandrine Valentin, representative of the EC made a presentation on the latest development in the implementation of the new EU rules on fruit and vegetables. She mentioned that the EU has 11 standards. Ten are on specific products which cover 75% of the value of fruit and vegetables market. The general marketing standard has to be used for all fruit and vegetables products not covered by specific marketing standards. However if the product is in line with the OECD/UNECE standards it is considered as conforming with the general standard. Mrs. Valentin gave an overview on the different possible implementations of the EU rules. She mentioned that in January 2010 the Commission will start a study on the application of marketing standard. The objective is to assess the validity of the arguments against and for the repealing of the specific marketing standards.

b) Presentation by the Netherlands

Mrs. Ingeborg van Tilborg, representative of the Netherland introduced the Dutch fruit and vegetables quality inspection system. They check the products according to the specific marketing standards and the general marketing standard. The Netherland does not apply the UNECE standards as the goal of the new regulation was to simplify the inspection procedure. The KCB, which is the inspection authority in the Netherland, control 100% of products covered by specific marketing standard. They use the risk analysis system for the inspection of products subject to the general marketing standard. As a rule, all products which are covered by EU marketing standards according to the previous system has to be announced to the KCB.

c) Presentation by France

Mrs. Annie Ortet, Representative of France introduced the French fruit and vegetables quality inspection system. The DGCCRF is the exclusive authority which dealing with the task of fruit and vegetables inspection. The authority implements this task with the cooperation of regional technical inspectors (ITR) and of specialists in the departments. The DGCCRF task is also the maintenance of a trader database. She explained that fruit and vegetables subject to the general marketing standards are inspected according to the UNECE standards if they are classified. If the product is not graded the inspector applies the general marketing standard. The fruit and vegetables subject to the specific standards are inspected according to them. France kept the national standards on yellow bananas according to Commission Regulation n° 2257/94 of 16/09/1994 laying down quality standards for bananas and shallots for label. The quality inspection in France is based on risk analysis.

d) Discussion

During the discussion it was mentioned that the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme's main objective is to harmonise the quality inspection systems between its Member Countries. After the new EU rules the

implementation of the quality inspection has been diversified within the EU and also in non-EU member countries. They need to better understand the new EU requirements, such as the application of the General Marketing Standard. Therefore, a debate should be started between the Scheme's members how their inspection systems can be harmonised again.

Mr. Ian Hewett informed the Plenary Meeting that they will organise a harmonisation meeting on 10-12 March 2010, which will focus on the application of the General Marketing Standard.

The Plenary Meeting agreed that in 2010 one or two joint OECD-EU Workshop should be organised on the harmonisation of the fruit and vegetables quality inspection system. One would be in spring and the other could be held jointly with the OECD sponsored International Training Course in Slovakia in mid-September. The OECD Secretariat will discuss this proposal with the European Commission and inform the Scheme's Members on the outcome.

13. Draft proposal for introduction of an integrated quality inspection system [TAD/CA/FVS/RD(2009)5]

Mr. Ecsedi introduced the Hungarian draft proposal for the introduction of an integrated quality inspection system. He mentioned that the integration would simplify the present inspection practice and that all aspects of the introduction need to be carefully examined. He proposed to establish a working group which would undertake a survey and propose a model for the integration. During the discussion it was mentioned that the proposal is very ambitious but it has to be carefully examined and should not go beyond the mandate of the Scheme.

A Working Group was established on this issue with the participation of Hungary (rapporteur), Austria Slovakia, and Serbia. It was agreed that the Working Group would report on each step to the Plenary Meeting.

14. Draft proposal to amend the OECD provision on sampling [TAD/CA/FVS(2009)3]

Mrs. Bickelmann introduced the German proposal to amend the OECD provision on sampling. She mentioned that the size of the packaging has changed in recent years. The sampling procedure therefore needs to be adapted to the different package sizes, especially small boxes. Comments were received from France, Poland, Romania South Africa and the UK and all were included in this proposal. During the meeting in Tuesday, the working group had developed the proposal to make it workable for all package sizes.

During the discussion it was considered necessary that the new method will be checked for its statistical security before the adoption. It was also proposed that the sampling method should ensure that the inspector take the samples randomly. It was agreed that the random sampling would be explained in the OECD Guidelines on Inspection.

Several delegates proposed that the revised sampling method should include the sampling for maturity checks. However it was explained that these rules are already laid down in the OECD Guidelines on Objective Tests to Determine Quality of Fruit and Vegetables, Dry and Dried Produce.

It was agreed that Germany will draft the final proposal which will be discussed at the 2010 Plenary Meeting with the view to adoption. In the meantime the new method will be checked if it is statistically correct with France and other Members.

15. Draft Explanatory Materials

a) Evaluation of the work by the Steering Committee

Mr. Ecsedi, Chair of the Steering Committee gave an update on the status of work on OECD explanatory materials.

During the discussion it was mentioned that the electronic versions of all brochures should be revised in accordance with the UNECE standards in their version aligned with the Standard Layout 2009. Moreover, the electronic versions should be technically improved by hyper linking photos and text. It was also mentioned that an IT system should be developed for the training of inspectors.

The Plenary Meeting adopted the provisional list of priorities for the work on explanatory brochures:

- Melons (ongoing work)
- Hazelnut kernels (ongoing work)
- Onions
- Watermelons
- Garlic

The work on these new brochures will start in 2010.

b) Draft brochure on apples

The Plenary Meeting adopted the draft explanatory brochure on apples. The text of the brochure was finalised and is available in English and French. The set of photos is also complete except 3 ones which have to be reproduced. Germany will deliver these three missing photographs by the 29 January and will be uploaded to EDG with a view to adoption by 15 February. The publication is planned for mid April 2010.

c) Draft brochure on citrus fruits

The Plenary Meeting adopted the draft explanatory brochure on citrus fruits. However the classification of three illustrations on windscars, melanose and greasy spots need to be adopted by 20 January 2010 via EDG. By this date, the brochure will be ready for publication. The draft citrus fruit brochure follows the 2004 version of the OECD/UNECE standard. It was agreed that the final version of the brochure should be published with the new standard text. The next UNECE GE1 meeting will be held in May 2010 where the standard may be finalised. In the meantime, the OECD Secretariat will publish a limited series of the citrus brochure with the 2004 text. On the cover page it would be highlighted that the brochure follows the 2004 citrus standard and the revision is underway.

It was agreed that about 500 copies of citrus brochure – version 2009 – will be published. The high quality electronic version will be published on USB key and will be available separately or together with the hard copies as a package.

It was agreed that the citrus brochure should be promoted in professional newspapers and websites. The OECD Secretariat should send promotional letters with attached electronic brochures to professional

organisations. CLAM and Member countries were also invited to promote the application of the explanatory brochures among their producers and traders.

d) Draft brochure on Melons

The work on the explanatory brochure on melons was suspended last year. The delegate from France informed the OECD Secretariat that they will relaunch the work on the brochure in 2010.

e) Draft brochure on Hazelnuts

Turkey informed the delegations that the PowerPoint Presentation of the explanatory brochure on hazelnut kernels will be uploaded to EDG for comments. The photos will also be discussed during 2010 in international meetings.

f) Draft brochure on Apricots

The Plenary Meeting adopted the draft explanatory brochure on apricots. The text of the brochure was finalised and is available in English and French. The set of photos is complete with the exception of two photos showing russeting. It was agreed that the brochure will be published with the illustrations on russeting only if the US deliver these two photos by 20 January 2010. Two photos showing cracks need to be corrected electronically. The missing and corrected photographs will be uploaded to EDG. Delegations will be invited to adopt them by mid February. The publication is planned for end of March 2010.

g) Draft brochure on Peaches and Nectarines

The Plenary Meeting adopted the draft explanatory brochure on peaches and nectarines. However three photographs need to be received from South Africa (2) and the United States (1). Some photos need to be digitally corrected before the publication. The text of the brochure has to follow the new UNECE standard which was adopted in November 2009. The three missing photographs will be uploaded to EDG by the end of January with a view to adoption by mid February. The publication is expected by mid May 2010.

16. Guidelines

a) Guidelines on Inspector's training [TAD/CA/FVS(2009)4]

Mrs. Baricicova introduced the draft Guidelines on Inspector's training. She mentioned that they drafted the document according to the Slovak experience in inspector's training. However, some parts of the document were based on the German proposal which was discussed at the 2007 Plenary Meeting [TAD/CA/FVS/RD(2007)4].

Delegations thanked to Mrs. Baricicova for the excellent work on the guidelines. Several countries mentioned that the educational background required for the inspectors should be less strict as the inspectors do not have university degrees in many countries. It was also mentioned that the length of the initial and the annual trainings should not be specified only the goals which should be achieved. This would give more flexibility to the countries in the implementation of the training programmes.

It was agreed that delegates will send their written comments to Mrs. Baricicova in the coming months. She will incorporate them into the text. The revised proposal will be circulated to delegates in the first quarter of 2010 in the view of adoption by written procedure.

b) Guidelines on Quality Inspection

The document on the draft Guidelines on Quality Inspection [TAD/CA/FVS/RD(2009)6] was not available at the Plenary Meeting. However, the PowerPoint presentation from Germany to show the already developed part of the draft guidelines was not presented at the Plenary Meeting because of lack of time. The work on this brochure will be continued and intensified in 2010. It was agreed that a revised version of the presentation will be circulated to delegates for comments in the first quarter of 2010.

17. Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) of the Scheme

a) PWB 2009/10 [TAD/CA/FVS/RD(2009)7]; b) Proposal for PWB 2011/12

The OECD Secretariat informed delegates on the Programme of Work and Budget for 2009/2010 biennium. Delegates were invited to submit proposals for the 2011/12 PWB by 15 February 2009.

18. Report of the OECD Exploratory Task Force [TAD/CA/FVS(2009)6]

Mr. Ken Ash, Director of TAD, opened the discussion and indicated that, from the viewpoint of the Directorate, the work of the Scheme is relevant and gives added value to Member Countries. He informed the delegates that the independent in-depth evaluation conducted by the Secretary General's Office in 2008 showed high relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the programme. He invited participants to carefully examine all the aspect of a possible transfer of activities from the OECD Fruit and Vegetable Scheme to UNECE as the final decision is the responsibility of Member countries.

Mrs. Lucie Buxtorf, OECD Legal Directorate, presented an overview on the legal procedures and implications of a possible transfer. She explained that a recommendation from the Plenary Meeting to transfer the OECD activities to UNECE would require approval by the Committee for Agriculture (CoAg), and by the OECD Executive Committee, prior to being submitted to OECD Council for final approval. Only the OECD Council has the authority to make the final decision, on behalf of the OECD, on this proposal. Mrs Buxtorf also explained that as regards governance, this issue which would entail the suppression of an OECD programme is a fundamental case, which therefore requires a consensus among OECD members. Moreover, the OECD and UNECE would need to have an agreement in particular on intellectual property rights taking into account the large number of OECD explanatory brochures, guidelines, as well as the rules and methods. OECD administrative staff would need to be involved in the implementation of any possible transfer and this could have important budget implications. Finally, it was noted that OECD Scheme's Member countries should check if they had the same rights at UNECE.

Mr. Michael Ryan presented an overview of the OECD Scheme's fifty year history. The OECD undertook a comprehensive and independent review of the Fruit & Vegetables Scheme in 2003-04. The outcome of the Review recommended that the Scheme should be further developed and expanded within the OECD. As a result, a comprehensive action plan was developed and adopted by the Plenary Meeting in 2004, and is being implemented through the Programme of Work from 2005 to 2009.

Mrs. Nicolette Quaedvlieg, chair of the OECD Task Force introduced the joint Task Force Report [TAD/CA/FVS(2009)1]. She explained that the OECD and the UNECE Task Forces worked together over 2.5 years to explore the feasibility of a possible transfer of all activities of the OECD Scheme to the UNECE. It was emphasised that there is no overlap in the work of the OECD Scheme and the UNECE. However, developing standards in parallel with explanatory brochures may have some savings and may extend participation. The Report concluded with a recommendation to transfer all activities of the OECD Scheme to UNECE with a one year transition period to resolve any technical and legal issues.

There was a lively discussion of the report. Delegates carefully examined all aspects of a possible transfer including the UNECE's mandate, its capacity to develop explanatory brochures, its ability to provide a framework for export quality inspection systems and the development of inspection rules and certification. Delegates discussed the structure and necessary numbers and length of international meetings on fruits and vegetables standardisation and inspection.

Following a comprehensive and intense discussion of the Report there was no consensus among Members to transfer the OECD Fruit & Vegetable Scheme to the UNECE. The proposal was not adopted. It was also agreed that the outcome of the discussion would be transmitted to CoAG. The OECD Secretariat will continue to implement the Fruit & Vegetables Scheme's activities and develop the biennium Programme of Work for 2011/12.

19. Update on the pilot project to develop distance learning tools with FAO [TAD/CA/FVS/RD(2009)8]

The OECD Secretariat informed delegates that the preliminary draft proposal on a joint project between the OECD and the FAO was prepared as a follow-up on the presentation of the FAO Secretariat at the 2008 Plenary Meeting. The project would be the interpretation and implementation of fruit and vegetables quality control rules through the use of e-learning tools. The focus would be on educating quality inspectors in the public and the private sector. This preliminary draft proposal was first presented at the 14th Meeting of the Heads of National Inspection Services in June 2009. This meeting recommended that the project should start when the Guidelines on Quality Inspection is ready. This would be one of the main input to this project from the Scheme's side. The OECD Secretariat will discuss this preliminary draft proposal with the FAO Secretariat further in 2010 and will report on the progress to the 2010 Plenary Meeting.

20. Economic evaluation of the market situation for apples

Mr. Frédéric Rosseneu from the FRESHFEL on behalf of the World Apple and Pears Association (WAPA) gave a presentation on the apple market situation for 2008 and a forecast for the 2009 season. It was mentioned that the dominating varieties are the Golden, Jonagold and the Gala. The apple acreage continued to decline. However, among new varieties, the traditional ones become more and more important. The increase in the world apple crop is estimated to 3% in 2009. The 2009 apple season started with heavy competition with summer fruits. It was also problems with the last year crop which was cleared out only in October. The price was very low for apples for processing. Russia becomes more and more important export destination. The apple crop was lower in the Southern Hemisphere which also means an export possibility for the producing countries in the northern hemisphere for the 2009/10 season.

21. Statements by International Organisations on recent development

a) European Commission

The newest development in the European Union is detailed in item 12a of this report.

b) Codex Alimentarius

Mrs. Gracia Brisco from the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables informed the meeting that the last session was held in Mexico in late October 2009. They discussed the standards on bitter cassava, apples, avocados and tree tomatoes. These standards will be forwarded to the Commission for adoption in 2010. The standard on chilli peppers will be revised for the next session of the Committee. The new proposed Layout for Codex Standards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables will be discussed again at

the next Session of the Committee. The Committee requested the Commission to approve new work on a Standard for Pomegranate. In addition, the Committee requested the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe to consider the need for converting the Codex Standard for Fresh Fungus “Chanterelle” into a worldwide Codex standard so that the Committee could take up this work at its next session. The Committee also agreed to request the Codex Secretariat to explore the implications of the decision of the UNECE Working Party to change the reference “UNECE” to “UN” standards and to also inform the Commission, through the Executive Committee, of this situation in order to obtain guidance on appropriate follow-up on this matter.

c) UNECE

Mrs Virginia Cram-Martos informed the Plenary Meeting that the UNECE Working Party 7 adopted revised standard layouts for standards on fresh fruit and vegetables and on dry and dried produces. It adopted revised/new standards for apples, avocados, citrus fruit, sweet peppers, apricots, chanterelles, lettuces, peaches and nectarines, tomatoes, pears, potatoes, blanched almond kernels. It also adopted the revised texts for dates, inshell macadamia nuts and macadamia kernels as recommendations for trial use until the end of 2010. It returned to the Specialized Section the standards for pistachio kernels and peeled pistachio kernels, and for hazelnut kernels. The UNECE decided to suspend its decision to remove “United Nations Economic Commission for Europe” from the cover page of its standards and asked the secretariat to approach the United Nations Legal Office at Headquarters for advice on this issue. They will start the work on revising the Geneva Protocol in 2010.

d) COLEACP

Mr. Denis Felicite-Zulma from COLEACP introduced the association. He mentioned that ACP represents 312 members for 36 countries from which 27 are from Africa or the Caribbean region. Their main goal is to enhance horticulture trade competitiveness with particular attention to small farmers' integration into supply chains. They also encourage adoption of best practices in respect of food safety, human health and environmental protection. Mr. Felicite-Zulma introduced the PIP 2 programme which objectives are to improve the compliance of ACP horticultural exports to EU regulation and market requirements and to improve the capacity of all operators of the horticultural industry on a sustainable basis in order to be in line with the evolution of these requirements. Their other SPS programme aim is to establish risk-based food safety systems for export products in ACP countries in line with regional, international and EU SPS standards.

e) FRESHFEL

Mr. Frédéric Rosseneu introduced FRESHFEL which is a trade association for the EU fresh fruit and vegetables sector. They represent producers, traders, national associations and companies and service providers. Their task is interest representation with the European institutions and other international organisations in order to monitor and influence the European decision making process. He made a short overview on the recent trade policy issues in the European market, including the effect of the introduction of the new EU fruit and vegetables system. Mr. Rosseneu's presentation will be available at the EDG website.

22. Next Meeting

Delegations agreed that the 2010 Plenary Meeting will be held at the OECD Headquarter from **7-8 December 2010**. The Plenary Meeting would be 2 days long preceding by 1 day Working Group Meetings (6 December).

Several delegates proposed to change the date of the meeting from 2011 to a spring session. It would help to facilitate the cooperation between other international organisations. The OECD Secretariat will explore this possibility and report to the 2010 Plenary Meeting.

23. Other Business

There was no discussion under this item at the Plenary Meeting.

Appendix I.

Draft OECD Programme of Work for the Fruit and Vegetable Scheme 2010					
ACTIVITIES					
Explanatory Brochures	Task	Information on date and place			
		Meeting	Date	Place	Host
Apples	- 3 photographs has to be reproduced by Germany		By 29 January 2010		
	- adoption of the 3 photographs	Via Electronic Discussion Group (EDG)	By 15 February 2010		
	- Publication		By 15 April 2010		
Citrus fruits	- 3 illustrations has to be adopted	Via Electronic Discussion Group (EDG)	By 20 January 2010		
	- Publication, version 2009		By 15 March 2010		
Apricots	- US should deliver photos on russeting		By 20 January 2010		
	- 2 photos electronically corrected	Via Electronic Discussion Group (EDG)	By 15 February		
	Photos on russeting has to be adopted	Via Electronic Discussion Group (EDG)	By 15 February		
	- Publication		By 30 March 2010		
Peaches and nectarines	- 3 photographs has to be received by US and SA		By 29 January 2010		
	- adoption of the 3 photographs	Via Electronic Discussion Group (EDG)	By 15 February 2010		
	- Publication		By 15 May 2010		

Explanatory Brochures	Task	Information on date and place			
		Meeting	Date	Place	Host
Melons	- France continues the work on the brochure		2010		
	The draft brochure will be discussed at the WG meeting with the view of adoption	Working Group Meeting	7-8 December 2010	Paris	OECD
Hazelnut kernel	The draft brochure will be discussed via EDG		2010		
	The draft brochure will be discussed at the WG meeting with the view of adoption	Working Group Meeting	7-8 December 2010	Paris	OECD
Watermelon, onions and garlic	Tender for preparing the sets of photos for the explanatory brochures		2010		
Guidelines	Task	Information on date and place			
		Meeting	Date	Place	Host
Guidelines on inspector's training	Written comments have to be sent to Slovakia		1 March 2010		
	Adoption of the guidelines by written procedure		1 April 2010		
Guidelines for inspection	Germany will revise the draft guidelines which will be discuss at the 2010 Plenary Meeting with the view of adoption		7-8 December 2010,	Paris	OECD
Peer Review	Task	Information on date and place			
		Peer Review	Date		
Implementation of Peer Review	A Peer Review of a Member Country will be undertaken in 2010.	The country to be reviewed is currently under discussion	2010		

ANNEX I.
68th Plenary Meeting of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme

OECD Conference Centre

9-11 December 2009

List of Participants

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