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COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS AND ON THE GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally
Harmonized System of Classification
and Labelling of Chemicals
(Seventh session, 14-16 July 2004,
agenda item 4 (b))

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GHS

Cooperation with International Organizations

Transmitted by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention

The secretariat reproduces herebelow part of the draft report of the 3rd session of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention (OEWG3, 26-30 April 2004). The text refers to a draft decision about the work on hazard characteristics of hazardous waste which are under revision, and for which the SCE GHS has proposed its cooperation (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2003/8 and letter to the Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention addressed by the Sub-Committee for the OEWG3 in February 2004). The draft decision of the OEWG3 will be brought to COP 7 for final decision (Geneva, 25-29 October 2004).

Background documentation submitted to OEWG3 on this issue can be found on the Basel Convention website, as follows:

- 1) Document UNEP/CHW/OEWG/3/17 which reflects the SCE GHS proposal (see page 4, para F): <http://www.basel.int/meetings/oewg/oewg3/i17e.pdf>.
- 2) Document UNEP/CHW/OEWG/3/12 on H11-Toxic (delayed or chronic): <http://www.basel.int/meetings/oewg/oewg3/i12e.pdf>.
- 3) Document UNEP/CHW/OEWG/3/13 on H14 (Capable by any means, after disposal, of yielding another hazardous material): <http://www.basel.int/meetings/oewg/oewg3/i13e.pdf>.

**DECISION BY THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP OF
THE BASEL CONVENTION**

OEWG-III/10: Work on hazard characteristics

The Open-ended Working Group,

Recalling decision VI/37 in so far as it refers to the work on hazard characteristics H6.2, H10, H11 and H13,

Noting that, by the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Open-ended Working Group to continue its work on hazard characteristics H6.2, H10, H11 and H13,

Noting also with appreciation the contribution made by the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America as lead countries in the preparation of the guidance papers on hazard characteristics H10, H6.2 and H11,

1. Invites Parties and others to submit comments on the guidance papers on hazard characteristics H6.2, H11, and H13 to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, respectively, with copies to the Secretariat, by 30 June 2004;
2. *Requests* the Secretariat to submit the revised versions of the guidance papers on H6.2, H11 and H13 to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting for its adoption on an interim basis.

Elements of a draft decision for the Conference of the Parties

VII/[...]: Work on hazard characteristics

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions VI/25 on hazard characteristic H6.2 (infectious substances) and VI/37 on the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group and VI/29 on international cooperation,

Mindful of the usefulness of developing practical guidance on the hazard characteristics listed in Annex III to the Basel Convention to assist Parties and others to implement the Convention effectively,

Noting the importance of the work of the United Nations Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals in regard to the work being pursued on the hazardous characteristics of Annex III to the Basel Convention,

Considering the interest of the United Nations Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals in working with the appropriate body of the Basel Convention on hazard characteristics,

Bearing in mind the need to cooperate closely with the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals,

I. Finalization of the work on hazard characteristics

1. *Decides* to adopt, on an interim basis, the three guidance papers on the hazard characteristics H6.2 (infectious substances), H11 (toxic (delayed or chronic)) and H13 (capable after disposal of yielding another hazardous material);¹
2. *Invites* Parties and others to use these guidance papers and to submit to the Conference of the Parties, through the Secretariat, reports on their experience and any difficulties or obstacles encountered in the application of the guidelines, with a view to improving them as necessary;
3. *Requests* the Parties to contribute actively to the guidance paper on hazard characteristic H10 (liberation of toxic gases in contact with air or water) prepared by the Netherlands with a view to finalizing it in time for a session of the Open-ended Working Group in 2005;
4. *Invites* Parties and others to submit comments to the Netherlands with copies to the Secretariat on the H10 guidance paper, preferably by 31 January 2005;
5. *Invites* Parties and others to contribute technically and financially to the initiation of work on the other hazard characteristics of Annex III to the Basel Convention other than H6.2, H10, H11, H12 and H13;

II. Cooperation

6. *Requests* the Open-ended Working Group to establish a working relationship with the United Nations Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals with a view to exploring possible links between the work undertaken in the context of the Basel Convention on hazard characteristics and the elements of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, and including consideration of the respective work programmes to identify inconsistencies, discrepancies or shortcomings with a view to proposing appropriate action;
7. *Also requests* the Secretariat to present to the Open-ended Working Group at its first session in 2005 possible options for establishing a working relationship with the United Nations Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

¹ See document UNEP/CHW.7/...