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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

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS  
ON ITS FIRST SESSION  
(11-12 December 2002)

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## REPORT

### ATTENDANCE

1. The Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals held its first session in Geneva from 11 to 12 December 2002.
2. Experts from the following countries took part in the session: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States of America.
3. Under rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, observers from Switzerland took part.
4. Representatives of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and of the following specialized agency were present: International Maritime Organization (IMO).
5. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Commission of the European Communities, Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
6. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations took part in the discussion of items of concern to their organizations: European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC), Federation Industrial Paints and Coats of Mercosul (FIPBM), Dangerous Goods Advisory Council (DGAC), International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), Soap and Detergent Association (SDA).

### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

**Document: ST/SG/AC.10/28 (Secretariat)**

7. The Sub-Committee adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat with the addition of informal documents (INF.1 to INF.3).

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

8. On a proposal by the expert from the United States of America, Mr. S. Benassai (Italy) and Ms. K. Headrick (Canada) were elected President and Vice-President respectively.

### RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

**Document: ST/SG/AC.10/2002/1 (Secretariat)**

9. The Committee took note of the Economic and Social Council's resolutions 2001/34 of 26 July 2001 and 2001/44 of 20 December 2001, and of decisions 2001/201B of 3 May 2001 and 2002/201 of 26 July 2002, and of their consequences for its membership and that of its sub-committees, as detailed in the explanatory notes to the agenda.
10. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the secretariat had published the twelfth revised edition of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations, and the third revised

edition of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Manual of Test and Criteria, in all official languages of the United Nations. The Model Regulations were available in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish on the website of the Transport Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe ([www.unece.org/trans/danger/danger.htm](http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/danger.htm)). The English version was also available on CD-Rom, and the French and Spanish versions were being prepared.

11. The Committee also noted that the amendments to the Manual of Tests and Criteria (lithium batteries) (ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.3/Amend.1) would be published as sales publications, and that the text was available on the UNECE Transport Division website as document ST/SG/AC.10/27/Add.2 in all UN official languages.

#### **WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS DURING THE BIENNIUM 2001-2002**

**Documents:** ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/38 and -/Adds.1-2  
ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/40 and -/Adds.1-2  
ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/42 and -/Adds.1-3  
ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2002/60  
ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2002/CRP.3 and Adds.1-7  
ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2002/CRP.4 and Adds.1-4

**Informal document:** INF.3 (IAEA)

12. The Committee took note of the reports of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods on its nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first sessions. The Committee noted also that the Sub-Committee had adopted its reports on its twenty-second session (2-6 December 2002) on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2002/CRP.3 and -/Adds.1-7 and -/CRP.4 and -/Adds.1-4) with some slight modifications. The final report will be issued as ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/44.

13. The Committee approved corrections to paragraph 51 of ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2002/CRP.3/Add.6 proposed by the representative of IMO, as well as corrections to the criteria for identification of radioactive material as high consequence dangerous goods for the purposes of security, as proposed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in INF.3.

14. The Committee decided to endorse the reports of the Sub-Committee, including the amendments to the existing recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods and the new recommendations made (see annexes 1 and 2).

#### **WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS DURING THE BIENNIUM 2001-2002**

**Documents:** ST/SG/AC.10/C4/2  
ST/SG/AC.10/C4/4  
ST/SG/AC.10/C4/6  
ST/SG/AC.10/C4/2002/CRP.3 and -/Adds.1-3  
ST/SG/AC.10/C4/2002/CRP.4 and /Add.1

15. The Committee took note of the reports of the Sub-Committee on its first, second and third sessions. The Committee noted also that the Sub-Committee had adopted the report on its fourth session (9-11 December 2002) on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2002/CRP.3 and Adds. 1-4 and -/CRP4 and Add.1) with some minor changes. The final report has been issued as ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/8.

16. The Committee, noting with great satisfaction that the Sub-Committee had reached a consensus on the GHS, decided to endorse the reports of the Sub-Committee, including the text of the GHS (see annex 3) (ST/SG/AC.10/30).

## **PROGRAMME OF WORK**

### **Programme of work for the biennium 2003-2004 and related proposals**

17. The Committee approved the programme of work of the two sub-committees as reflected in ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/44, para.55 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/8, paras.21-31 and annexes 2 and 3.

### **UNECE proposed programme budget for 2004-2005**

#### **Informal document: INF.1 (secretariat)**

18. The Committee noted the concerns expressed by the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods with regard to the decision of the secretariat to reduce the number of meeting days allocated to its activities for the proposed programme budget for 2004-2005 (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/44, paras.59-62).

19. The Committee expressed dismay at this secretariat decision, since ECOSOC resolution 1999/65 on the reconfiguration of the Committee and the creation of the GHS Sub-Committee reflected long and difficult negotiations according to which more than 25% of the meeting time previously allocated to transport of dangerous goods had now been allocated to GHS intersectoral activities in response to the Agenda 21 without any request for additional meeting time for such new activities. The programme of work of both sub-committees implied the organization of many parallel or intersessional informal working group sessions or correspondence working group activities, and further reduction of the official meeting time was not realistic.

20. The Committee requested the secretariat to ensure that the proposed UNECE programme budget for 2004-2005 reflect the schedule of meetings effectively needed for the work programme as proposed to the Economic and Social Council.

21. It was agreed that the meeting time allocated to the Committee session in 2004 could be reduced to two meetings (1 day) instead of five meetings (2.5 days) and that the saved meeting time would be allocated to the GHS Sub-Committee. Nevertheless, one additional (half-day) meeting could be transferred from the December 2004 GHS scheduled session to the GHS Sub-Committee December 2004 session if the officers of both sub-committees decided so in July 2004.

22. Therefore the Committee agreed that the schedule of meetings for 2003-2005 should be as follows:

#### 2003

30 June – 4 July 2003:	TDG Sub-Committee – 10 meetings
7-9 (a.m) July 2003:	GHS Sub-Committee – 5 meetings
1-10 (a.m.) December 2003:	TDG Sub-Committee – 15 meetings
10 p.m-12 December 2003:	GHS Sub-Committee – 5 meetings
(Total: TDG: 25 meetings GHS: 10 meetings)	

2004

5-14(a.m) July:	TDG Sub-Committee	–	15 meetings
14(p.m)-16 July:	GHS Sub-Committee	–	5 meetings
29 November - 3 December:	TDG Sub-Committee	–	10 meetings
6-9 December:	GHS Sub-Committee	–	8 meetings
10 December:	Committee	–	2 meetings

(Total: TDG: 25 meetings  
GHS: 13 meetings  
Committee: 2 meetings)

2005

July:	TDG Sub-Committee:	10 meetings
	GHS Sub-Committee:	6 meetings
December:	TDG Sub-Committee:	15 meetings
	GHS Sub-Committee:	5 meetings

(Total: TDG: 25 meetings  
GHS: 11 meetings)

23. The total number of meeting days for 2005 should remain at 18 (36 meetings) but the exact allocation for each sub-committee would have to be decided at the 2004 Committee session.

**DRAFT RESOLUTION 2003/... OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**Informal document: INF.2**

24. The Committee adopted a draft resolution for consideration by the Council at its 2003 substantive sessions (see annex 4).

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

25. The Committee adopted the report on its first session and the annexes thereto on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

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**Annex 1**

**Amendments to the twelfth revised edition of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations (ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.12)**

(See ST/SG/AC.10/29/Add.1)

**Annex 2**

**Amendments to the third revised edition of the Recommendation on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Manual of Tests and Criteria (ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.3)**

(See ST/SG/AC.10/29/Add.2)

**Annex 3**

**Globally Harmonized System of Classification and labelling of Chemicals (GHS)**

(See ST/SG/AC.10/30)

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**Annex 4**

**Draft resolution 2003/...of the Economic and Social Council**

**Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 1999/65 of 26 October 1999, 2001/34 of 26 July 2001 and 2001/44 of 20 December 2001,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals<sup>1</sup> during the biennium 2001-2002;

**A. WORK OF THE COMMITTEE REGARDING THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS (TDG)**

*Recognizing* the importance of the work of the Committee for the harmonization of codes and regulations relating to the transport of dangerous goods;

*Bearing in mind* the need to maintain safety standards at all times and to facilitate trade, as well as the importance of this to the various organizations responsible for modal regulations, while meeting the growing concern for the protection of life, property and the environment through the safe transport of dangerous goods, including their security in transport;

*Noting* the increasing volume of dangerous goods being introduced into world-wide commerce and the rapid expansion of technology and innovation;

1. *Expresses* its appreciation for the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals with respect to matters relating to the transport of dangerous goods, including their security in transport;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

- (a) To circulate the new and amended recommendations<sup>2</sup> on the transport of dangerous goods to the Governments of member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international organizations concerned;
- (b) To publish the thirteenth revised edition<sup>3</sup> of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations, and the fourth revised edition of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Manual of Tests and Criteria<sup>4</sup> in all the official languages of the United Nations, in the most cost-effective manner, not later than the end of 2003;

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<sup>1</sup> E/2003/...

<sup>2</sup> ST/SG/AC.10/29/Add.1-2

<sup>3</sup> ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.13

<sup>4</sup> ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.4



- (c) To make these publications available on the web site of the Economic Commission for Europe, which also provides secretariat services to the Committee, and to make them also available on CD-Rom;

3. *Invites* all Governments, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the other international organizations concerned to transmit to the secretariat of the Committee their views on the Committee's work, together with any comments that they may wish to make on the amended recommendations;

4. *Invites* all interested Governments, the regional commissions, the specialized agencies and the international organizations concerned, when developing or updating appropriate codes and regulations, to consider taking into account the recommendations of the Committee;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to carry out a survey of the status of the effective implementation of the Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods by member States and international organizations on worldwide level;

## **B. WORK OF THE COMMITTEE REGARDING THE GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS (GHS)**

*Bearing in mind* that, pursuant to paras 19.27 of Agenda 21, the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) has cooperated for a decade with the International Labour Organization, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG Sub-Committee) to develop a globally harmonized hazard classification and compatible labelling system for chemicals;

*Bearing also in mind* that the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS Sub-Committee) was created pursuant to resolution 1999/65 to make the GHS available worldwide, to keep it up-to-date and to promote and monitor its implementation;

*Noting with satisfaction* that the Committee could reach consensus on the GHS after consideration of a draft consolidated by IOMC on the basis of inputs from the TDG Sub-Committee, ILO and OECD;

*Aware* that the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) at its 2002 session in Johannesburg encouraged, in para. 22 (c) of its Plan of Implementation<sup>5</sup>, countries to implement the GHS as soon as possible with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008;

*Aware also* that the General Assembly, by its resolution 57/253 of 20 December 2003, endorsed the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and requested the Economic and Social Council to implement the provisions of this Plan relevant to its mandate and, in particular, to promote the implementation of Agenda 21 by strengthening system-wide coordination;

*Further aware of, and recognizing*, the significance of the UNITAR/ILO/OECD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to implement the GHS for building capacities at all levels to achieve the 2008 target;

1. *Expresses* its deep appreciation to the Committee and other organizations concerned for their fruitful cooperation;

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<sup>5</sup> A/CONF.199/20.

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General :
  - (a) to publish the GHS in all the official languages of the United Nations, in the most cost-effective manner and to circulate it to the Governments of member States, the specialized agencies, and other international organizations concerned as soon as possible and no later than in 2004;
  - (b) to consider disseminating the GHS as a CD-ROM;
  - (c) to make the GHS available on the web site of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe, which also provides the secretariat services to the Committee;
3. *Invites* all Governments to take the necessary steps to implement the GHS through their national legislation as soon as possible and no later than in 2008;
4. *Invites* regional commissions, United Nations programmes, specialized agencies and other organizations concerned to promote the implementation of the GHS and, where relevant, to amend their respective legal international instruments addressing transport safety, work safety, consumer protection or the protection of the environment so as to give effect to the GHS through such instruments;
5. *Invites* Governments, regional commissions, United Nations programmes, specialized agencies and other organizations concerned to provide feed-back to the GHS Sub-Committee;
6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to monitor the status of implementation of the GHS;
7. *Encourages* Governments, regional commissions, United Nations programmes, specialized agencies and other relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations (in particular industry) to support GHS implementation and capacity building activities in developing countries and countries in transition by providing financial contributions and/or technical assistance.

### **C. PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

*Noting* the programme of work of the Committee for the biennium 2003-2004 as contained in paragraph ... of the report of the Secretary-General<sup>1</sup>;

*Noting nevertheless* with concern that the additional staff resources requested in relation to the reconfiguration of the Committee in operative paragraph 4 of resolution 1999/65, detailed as resources at P4 level and General Service level in E/1999/L.48 and in paragraph 7 of document A/54/443/Add.1 and approved by the General Assembly under resolution 54/250A of 23 December 1999 for 2001, have been only partially reconducted for 2002-2003;

1. *Decides* to approve the programme of work of the Committee;
2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Transport Division of the Economic Commission for Europe with the requested additional staff at General Service level in accordance with A/54/443/Add.1;
3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to it in 2005 on the implementation of the present resolution.

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<sup>1</sup> E/2003/...