

## 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

Fifteenth session,  
Geneva, 9-11 July 2008  
Item 5 of the provisional agenda

### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GHS

#### Reports from Governments or organizations

#### Implementation update

#### Transmitted by the expert from Argentina

### **1. Introduction**

Pursuant to the world summit on sustainable development whose action plan urged countries to implement as soon as possible the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) in order for it to be fully operational in 2008, the Argentine Republic through the Environmental Affairs Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as of the year 2005 coordinates a working group at national level having identified the specific technical agencies involved in the matter. Such working group consists of specialists in the areas of transport, health, work, social security, environment, animal health and agrofood service, maritime authority, chemical and petrochemical production sector and other areas of that Ministry of Foreign Affairs and it aims at implementing the system.

Due to the multidisciplinary nature required to achieve the purpose stated, options were examined with the ultimate aim of creating a centralized national agency.

Such group works with experts in legislative technique and is advised by the respective legal areas of the sectors mentioned above in order to internalize the GHS system.

### **2. Training**

During the current year, lectures to disseminate, raise awareness, teach and train are planned to be given to the respective governmental areas, and to members of the sector gathered by the Argentine Chamber of the Chemical and Petrochemical Industry.

### **3. International and regional participation**

Last November and having as an incentive the treaty on the environment signed by the Argentine Republic and Chile in 1991 (Subcommittee on Environment), a workshop was organized in the City of Santiago, Republic of Chile dealing with chemical substances. The workshop was attended by representatives of the areas related to the issue on behalf of both countries.

The objective was to exchange experiences regarding issues of common interest inherent to the management of chemical substances and wastes, and the advances in the issue of national implementation of international conventions on chemical substances and products, identifying weaknesses and strengths in order to optimize coordination processes for a suitable exchange of information and support in international conventions; the agenda included issues relating to the following: exchange of experiences in the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), stressing the need to go further in the matter and taking into account the date established for it to be operative this year.

At the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR), the problem is been dealt with by the Technical Subgroup N. 6 (Environment) and by the Ad Hoc Group on Management of Dangerous Chemical Substances and Products which has drafted an action plan that has a risk communications implementation strategy, within its development there are tasks on legislative techniques and socioeconomic aspects to incorporate the GHS system; as the Argentine Republic has identified such implementation, which is a dynamic process, as one of the six priority issues for the region.

In addition, the issue of GHS implementation is being dealt with within Technical Subgroup N. 5 "Transport" of MERCOSUR.

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