

## 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

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### ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

#### Progress report on the work of the expert group for the development of the classification and labelling criteria for the terrestrial environmental hazards

#### Transmitted by the expert from Spain

During the last biennium, the UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (UN SCE GHS) decided that the work on developing classification and labelling criteria for terrestrial environmental hazards should stay on its work programme for the biennium 2005-2006. Interested member countries were encouraged to continue the work with the lead country, Spain, and to keep the Sub-Committee informed of their progress, with the aim of presenting the results of their work at the end of the biennium.

Spain, as lead country, established an Expert Group and invited UN SCE GHS members to nominate experts for this group. Experts from Japan, Austria, Brazil, France, Slovenia and also USA as observer are participants of this Task Force Working Group.

Spain prepared an initial proposal for the development of terrestrial environment classification criteria, based on the combination of exposure routes and taxonomic groups as suggested by the OECD expert group. The proposal covers the relevant terrestrial trophic levels and includes two acute categories and two chronic categories. This was sent to the group on April 25 and a six week deadline (by June 2) was given for the submission of comments.

The Brazilian experts suggested the possibility of including acute category three and chronic categories three and four, and thereby the harmonization with the aquatic environment classification and labelling. Comments from Brazilian industry have been also received.

The Slovenians suggested that an unofficial Workshop of the Task Force Working Group could be held in Slovenia.

Spain is now working on a new draft of the initial proposal, where three acute categories and four chronic categories have been included, following the format of GHS for a future inclusion in Chapter 4: Environmental Hazards. This second draft will be sent to the Working Groups for its evaluation.