

## 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

Twelfth session, 12 (p.m.)-14 December 2006  
Item 4(b) of the provisional agenda

### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GHS

#### Cooperation with other international organizations

#### Cooperation between the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention and the United Nations Sub-Committee of Experts on the GHS

#### Note by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention

#### **Background**

1. In its decision VI/29 (International cooperation), the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its sixth meeting in December 2002, recognized the need for the Secretariat to continue participating in 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.
2. At its seventh meeting in December 2004, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision VII/17 on the work on hazard characteristics, in which, among other things, it requested the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention to establish a working relationship with the United Nations Sub-Committee 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, including considerations of their respective work programmes to identify inconsistencies, discrepancies or shortcomings with a view to proposing appropriate actions. It also requested the Secretariat to present to the Open-ended Working Group, at its fourth session in July 2005, possible options for establishing a working relationship with the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.
3. Pursuant to paragraph 5 of decision VII/17 of the Conference of the Parties, on work on hazard characteristics, at its fourth meeting, in July 2005, the Open-ended Working Group agreed to the establishment of a working relationship between itself and the United Nations Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and adopted the terms of reference of the correspondence group. Following a similar agreement on the establishment and terms of reference of the correspondence group by the Sub-

Committee of Experts in its meeting in July 2005, the Joint Correspondence Group was established and commenced its work. The members of the Joint Correspondence Group are listed on the Basel Convention website under <http://www.basel.int/techmatters/>.

4. At its eleventh session in July 2006, the Sub-Committee was informed in document UN/SCEGHS/11/INF.6 by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention of the status of the work of the Correspondence Group which indicated that little progress has been made by the Group in developing its work programme and fulfilling the approved Terms of Reference.

### **Present Status**

5. Following the eleventh session in July 2006 of the Sub-Committee, little progress has been made by the Group in developing its work programme and fulfilling the approved Terms of Reference.

6. The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its eight meeting that took place in Nairobi, Kenya from 27 November to 1 December 2006 adopted a decision along the following lines:

#### *“The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Agrees* to extend the mandate of the Joint Correspondence Group between the Open-ended Working Group and the United Nations Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and requests the Secretariat to communicate its decision to the United Nations Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals;

2. *Also requests* the Secretariat to report regularly on the outcome of the work of the Joint Correspondence Group to the Open-ended Working Group and the Conference of the Parties.”

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