

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
Transport of Dangerous Goods

Thirty-fourth session
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Item 12 of the provisional agenda

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2009-2019

Comments on 2008/65

Submitted by the expert from the Netherlands

Introduction

1. The Netherlands fully supports the industry's need to further accelerate the harmonisation process and actively seek compromise with the objective to achieve a uniform set of regulations. We do also agree with the arguments put forward by the industry especially in terms of harmonisation, safety and efficiency in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2008/65.
2. The proposal is also in line with the request of the Economic and Social Council to the Committee regarding the transport of dangerous goods to continue to study "(..) further harmonization of international agreements or conventions governing the international transport of dangerous goods, or a possible joint approach to the development of an effective international instrument on multimodal international transport of dangerous goods, as appropriate;".
3. In view of the Netherlands this goal could be achieved by a world convention on the transport of dangerous goods. In order to come to a convention it is essential that text must be developed which is acceptable for all modes of transport. The texts of the UN Model Regulations are not always the same as the texts in the Regulations of the modes of transport. The document of the industry can be seen as a first and essential step in the direction of a world convention.

Terms of reference and how to do the work

4. The Netherlands thinks that the work to be done should be organised in a good way and should start in the next biennium. In order to do that the Sub-Committee should develop terms of reference for the work to be done.

5. How to organise the work should be discussed as well:

Who takes the lead?

Who is carrying out the work?

Where to start? Industry suggested to start with Part 2 Classification. Other possibilities are Part 4 or Part 6.

Working procedures.

A time schedule should be developed.

6. The Netherlands is prepared to contribute to the work to be done

Proposal

7. It is proposed that the Sub-Committee will set up the terms of reference and a plan of action during the Sub-Committee meeting in December, probably in a few working groups during lunch. It is also proposed that the work should start in the next biennium.
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