

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

Sixteenth session,
Geneva, 10 – 12 December 2008
Item 5 (b) and 7 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

1. At its fourth meeting (July 2005), and pursuant to decision VII/17 of the Conference of the Parties on work of hazard characteristics, the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) of the Basel Convention agreed to the establishment of a Joint Correspondence Working Group with the GHS Sub-Committee.
2. The decision taken by the Open-Ended Working Group as well as the terms of reference of the Joint Correspondence Group on hazard characteristics were endorsed by the GHS Sub-Committee at its ninth session, in July 2005 (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/18, paras. 40-42). The members of the Joint Correspondence Group which were nominated at that time are listed on the Basel Convention website under: <http://www.basel.int/techmatters/hazd-char/jointIWG.doc>
3. At its eight meeting (November 2006), the Conference of the Parties decided to extend the mandate of the Joint Correspondence Group (decision VIII/19) to continue the work. This decision was communicated to the GHS Sub-Committee (see UN/SCEGHS/12/INF.15) who decided to keep this item on its programme of work for the biennium 2007-2008 (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/24, Annex 2, item 3(b)).
4. However, according to the information provided by the secretariat of the Basel Convention to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting (June 2008), little progress has been made by the Joint Correspondence Group in selecting a chair, developing its work programme and fulfilling the approved terms of reference (see document [UNEP/CHW.9/25](#)).

5. In view of the above, the Conference of the Parties decided to invite interested Parties as well as Members of the GHS Sub-Committee to select a chairperson for the Joint Correspondence Group, as a first step to fulfilling its mandate.

6. The text of Decision IX/20, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is reproduced hereafter for information of the Sub-Committee. (The full report of the Conference of the Parties on its ninth meeting is available on the [Basel Convention website](#))

“IX/20: Harmonization and coordination

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Invites* the Joint Correspondence Group established pursuant to decision OEWG-IV/13 to fulfill its mandate as soon as possible;

2. *Invites*, as a first step to fulfilling its mandate, the nomination by interested Parties and the United Nations Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals of individuals to assume the chair of the Joint Correspondence Group by 30 November 2008;

3. Requests the Secretariat to report on the outcome of the work of the Joint Correspondence Group to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting.”

7. The Sub-Committee may also wish to note that the Conference of the Parties has included the review of issues relating to harmonization and coordination with the GHS Sub-Committee in the work programme of its Open-ended Working Group under item B “Classification and hazard characterization of wastes (see annex).

8. The relevant excerpts from decision IX/32 (Work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2009–2011) are reproduced in the annex to this document for information of the Sub-Committee.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

9. The Sub-Committee may wish to consider:

- the invitation of the Conference of the Parties regarding the chairmanship of the Joint Correspondence Group;
- to keep the item on the cooperation with the Basel Convention on matters of common concern on its programme of work for the biennium 2009-2010.

Annex**Excerpts from decision IX/32
(Work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2009–2011¹)****“IX/32: Work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2009–2011***The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Adopts* the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2009–2011 contained in the annex to the present decision;

2. *Elects* the following representatives as members of the Bureau of the Open-ended Working Group for the triennium 2009–2011:

Co-chairs: Mr. Oludayo Olusegun Dada (Nigeria) (Technical)
Mr. Damien Scott Hall (Australia) (Legal)
Vice-chairs: Mr. Mohammed Khashashneh (Jordan) (Technical)
Ms. Gillian Guthrie (Jamaica) (Legal)
Rapporteur: Ms. Sonja Radovic (Croatia).

Annex to decision IX/32**Work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2009–2011**

[...]

II. Scientific and technical matters			
Topics	Activities	Decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting	Priority
A. Technical guidelines	[...]		
B. Classification and hazard characterization of wastes	1. Consider and review any applications for changes and any corrections of the list of wastes in Annexes VIII and IX and report on the matter, through the Secretariat, to the Conference of the Parties.	VIII/15	High
	2. Consider the amendment of entries relating to POPs.	IX/16	High
	3. Review issues concerning the identification of wastes in the World Customs Organization Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System and related matters.	IX/19	Medium
	4. Review issues relating to harmonization and coordination as they relate to work with UNSCE/Globally Harmonized System.	IX/20	Medium
	5. Complete the work on hazard characteristic H11	IX/18	Low
C. Review issues raised under MPPI	[...]	IX/8	Medium

[...]

¹ *Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on its ninth meeting* ([UNEP/CHW.9/39](#))