

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**

21 November 2011

Twenty-second session

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Item 4 (c) of the provisional agenda

**Implementation of the GHS: Cooperation with other
bodies or international organizations**

Classification and hazard characterization of wastes: Outcome of the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention

Note by the secretariat

I. Background

1. In 2003, the GHS Sub-Committee proposed its cooperation to the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) of the Basel Convention for the revision of the hazard characteristics of hazardous wastes (refer to document UN/SCEGHS/7/INF.19)
2. At its seventh session in December 2004, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted decision VII/17 on the work on hazard characteristics, in which, among other things, it requested its OEWG to establish a working relationship with the GHS Sub-Committee.
3. Pursuant to paragraph 5 of that decision, the OEWG agreed, at its fourth session (July 2005), to the establishment of a correspondence working group with the GHS Sub-Committee and adopted the terms of reference for the work of the group. The proposed terms of reference were further endorsed by the GHS Sub-Committee at its ninth session (July 2005).
4. As a first step to develop the work programme of the correspondence group and fulfil its mandate, interested parties from both bodies were invited to nominate experts to assume the chairship the group. The invitation was reiterated, without success, at the subsequent sessions of the OEWG and of meetings of the Conference of the Parties and the information was shared with the GHS Sub-Committee ¹.

II. Outcome of the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties

5. The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention held its 10th meeting (COP-10) from 17 to 21 October 2011, in Cartagena, Colombia.

¹ Refer to documents: INF.11 and INF.21 (7th session); INF.6 (11th session); and INF.15 (12th session).

6. The Conference considered document UNEP/CHW.10/8², which contained in its section III, paragraph B a draft decision reiterating the invitation to the group to fulfilling its mandate as soon as possible and to nominate individuals to assume its chairship.
7. The Conference also considered document UNEP/CHW.10/26² containing the draft work programme of the OEWG for 2012–2013. The item regarding the work of the joint correspondence group was included under Topic B (“Classification and hazard characterization of wastes”), activity four (“Provide guidance on harmonization and coordination as they relate to work with UNSCE/Globally Harmonized System”).
8. The summary of the discussions, as reflected in the advanced version of the report provided by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, is as follows:
 - “89. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, drawing attention to the relevant documents.
 90. In the ensuing discussion, one representative suggested that the matter should not be pursued at the current time and that the Secretariat should be requested to continue monitoring the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. One representative sought time to engage in further consultations.
 91. The Conference of the Parties suggested that interested representatives should consult informally on the matter.
 92. Following those consultations **the Conference of the Parties agreed** that it would not adopt a decision on the matter at the current meeting and that it would consider further the work to be undertaken on harmonization and coordination pursuant to decision IX/20 at its eleventh meeting.”
9. The Sub-Committee is therefore invited to take note of this decision.

² <http://www.basel.int/TheConvention/ConferenceofthePartiesCOP/MeetingsandDocuments/tabid/2409/Default.aspx>
(last accessed 21 November 2011)