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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Meeting of the Signatories to the
Convention on Access to Information,
Public Participation in Decision-making and
Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Working Group on Genetically Modified Organisms
(First meeting, Geneva, 10 – 12 October 2001)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE MEETING

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland,
starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 10 October 2001

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda (CEP/WG.5/AC.3/2001/1).
3. Report of the task force on genetically modified organisms (CEP/WG.5/AC.3/2001/3).
4. Preparation of a draft decision for the Meeting of the Parties (CEP/WG.5/AC.3/2001/4 and 5).
5. Any other business.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The first meeting of the Working Group on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) is convened in the light of the decision of the Meeting of the Signatories to the Convention to establish an open-ended intergovernmental working group to prepare a draft decision for the Meeting of the Parties (CEP/WG.5/2000/2, para. 35) and having regard to the request of the Signatories that the application of the Convention in the field of GMOs be further developed at the first meeting of the Parties (ECE/CEP/43/Add.1/Rev.1, para. 15).

Item 1. Election of officers

The Working Group will elect a chairperson and may elect other officers.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

The Working Group is expected to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.

Item 3. Report of the task force on genetically modified organisms

The Chairperson of the task force on genetically modified organisms, Mr. H. Gaugitsch (Austria), will present the report of the second meeting of the task force (CEP/WG.5/AC.3/2001/3).

Item 4. Preparation of a draft decision for the Meeting of the Parties

Building on the work of the task force and in particular the main outcomes of its second meeting, the Working Group is expected to start the process of preparing a draft decision on GMOs for adoption by the Parties at their first meeting. The draft decision is expected to cover the issue of public participation in decision-making on GMOs as well as that of GMO labelling and product information, and may cover related issues considered by the task force such as the definitions of 'deliberate release' and 'contained use' of GMOs.

Pursuant to paragraphs 16, 34 and 35 of the task force's report, two legal studies have been commissioned by the secretariat to facilitate the discussion under this agenda item. The first of these is on public participation in decision-making on GMOs (CEP/WG.5/AC.3/2001/4) and is intended to assist the Working Group in deciding which of the various procedural options examined by the task force it would recommend the Meeting of the Parties to pursue. The second is on GMO-related labelling and product information (CEP/WG.5/AC.3/2001/5).

Item 5. Any other business

Delegates wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.