

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

14 March 2011

Twentieth session

Geneva, 7–9 December 2010

Item 11 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the report

Explanations provided by the secretariat in response to the statement made by the expert from the United Kingdom concerning the status of the representative of the European Union

Note by the secretariat

In reading the draft report of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized system of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals on its twentieth session, on 9 December 2010, the expert from the United Kingdom made a statement concerning the status of the representative of the European Union, which is reproduced in informal document INF.44, issued after the session. Following this statement, a member of the secretariat provided explanations which are reproduced below:

- (1) By virtue of Rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, which had been brought to the Sub-Committee's attention at its first session in document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/1, the participation of the European Union, which is an international organization granted permanent observer status by the General Assembly, in sessions of the Sub-Committee is governed by Rule 79 of the said rules of procedure. This rule reads as follows:

“PARTICIPATION OF OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Rule 79

Representatives of intergovernmental organizations accorded permanent observer status by the General Assembly and of other intergovernmental organizations designated on an ad hoc or a continuing basis by the Council on the recommendation of the Bureau, may participate, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Council on questions within the scope of the activities of the organizations.”

- (2) The representative of the European Union had been duly accredited by the Permanent Delegation of the European Union to the international organizations in Geneva prior to the session in accordance with procedures currently applicable. In accordance with Rule 79, the representative of the European Union is considered as the observer for the European Union and has no right to vote.
- (3) The GHS Sub-Committee, the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, and the Committee itself are subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council classified as “Expert bodies composed of governmental experts”. Only the expert who has been duly accredited by the government of a country which

is full member of the Committee or its sub-committees may act in such a capacity and has the right to vote. Experts participating in this session had been duly accredited in accordance with the procedures.

- (4) Rules applicable to the proceedings of the Committee and its sub-committees had been explained by the secretariat at the first session of the GHS Sub-Committee. Refer to documents ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/1, 2, 6, 7 and 8.
