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**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
(10-12 December 2003)

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND TIMETABLE
FOR THE SIXTH SESSION**

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 14.30 h on Wednesday, 10 December 2003

1. Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with established practice, the first item on the agenda is its adoption on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat.

2. Proposals of amendments to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)

- (a) At the fifth session of the Sub-Committee, the European Industrial Gas Association (EIGA) had submitted comments on the classification of toxic gas mixtures (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2003/1), questioning the relevance of the additivity formula as contained in 3.1.3.6 of the GHS. After discussion, the Sub-Committee invited EIGA to submit a paper to the next Sub-Committee session which would contain more evidence of and a better insight into the problem, present a list of gases for which data are available and propose options on how the problem could be solved (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2003/7);
- (b) Regarding the Water-Activated Toxicity Hazard Class (WAT), an issue already debated at the fifth Sub-Committee session, the OECD secretariat, having taken note of all the remarks, has referred the raised concerns to the various expert groups of the Task Force on Harmonization and Classification (HCL). The outcomes of the TF work, as presented in document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2003/10 will be reported by the OECD secretariat to the Sub-Committee;

- (c) The OECD secretariat will also inform the Sub-Committee of the progress made on the Sub-Committee's various programme elements that are carried out by the OECD Task Force HCL.

3. Reports of correspondence groups

At its fourth session, the Sub-Committee established three inter-sessional correspondence working groups, namely the Group on Labelling, the Group on Precautionary Statements, and the Group on Safety Data Sheets, respectively lead by the experts from the United States of America, Germany and Australia. The objective of these groups is to give more precise guidance on the three related issues with a view to facilitating the practical implementation of the GHS. Progress made during the first half of 2003 has been recorded in annexes 2, 3 and 4 of the report of the fifth session (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/10). Informal papers on the progress made by these groups since that time will be available before the sixth session and will be made available on the web. At the initiative of the experts from the lead countries, informal meetings of the three working groups will be organized on the eve of the session and will review the progress and discuss the further orientations of their work. The results of these consultations will be reported to the plenary session.

4. Harmonization with the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

The Chair of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods will inform the Sub-Committee of the ongoing work of his Sub-Committee regarding the harmonization of chemicals criteria and classification as applied in the transport sector with those of the GHS, and in particular those regarding hazards of flammable liquids and self-reactive chemicals, inhalation toxicity hazards and hazards for the environment.

5. Cooperation with other international organizations

- (a) Two documents have been submitted for the insertion of a new class of hazards into the GHS on ozone depleting substances. The UNEP Ozone secretariat will introduce a document from the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, requesting that the classification and labelling of ozone depleting substances into the GHS be considered by the Sub-Committee and possibly included in its programme of work (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2003/3). A group of EU countries has also submitted a proposal in favour of including the ODS hazard classification and communication into the GHS (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2003/6). The Sub-Committee may wish to discuss and decide about further actions to take on this matter;
- (b) Seizing the opportunity of the call from the Open-Ended Working Group of the Basel Convention for providing comments on the currently revised definitions and criteria for waste hazard characteristics, as contained in annex III to the Convention (H categories), the Sub-Committee has set up a correspondence group that has the task of providing comments on these classification elements under revision with a view to harmonizing them with the GHS. The correspondence group will submit its draft proposal to the experts of the Sub-Committee for discussion and review (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2003/8);
- (c) The Sub-Committee will be informed of the outcomes of the IFCS FORUM IV (held in Bangkok, 1-7 November 2003) and, in particular, of the "dinner-workshop" devoted to the opportunities and challenges of the GHS implementation;
- (d) The Sub-Committee will also be informed of the outcomes of the first preparatory session (Prepcom I) of the UNEP Strategic Approach International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and of its possible repercussions on the GHS. The experts may wish to express

their position regarding the strategic approach and its interconnections with the SGH, and on the positions the SCE GHS and the GHS should have in this approach;

- (e) With a view to pursuing its overview of the work under other international programmes and instruments that have links with the GHS, the Sub-Committee, through the secretariat, has invited the secretariats of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and of the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC) on Trade in Dangerous Chemicals to its sixth session. It is expected that the UNEP secretariat, in charge of both Conventions, will explain how they foresee possible linkages regarding the classification and labelling of the chemicals that are covered under these two instruments and the GHS;
- (f) Other international organizations may wish to inform the Sub-Committee of recent developments in their field regarding the GHS.

6. Implementation of the GHS

Experts, observers and international organizations concerned may wish to provide new or updated information to the Sub-Committee about progress in the GHS implementation and their role in promoting it.

7. Capacity building

Experts, observers and international organizations concerned, such as UNITAR, ILO and OECD, may wish to inform the Sub-Committee of any capacity-building activities or projects undertaken in relation to the GHS, for instance about the GHS Capacity Building Programme and related meetings and workshops, the WSSD Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS, or of the outputs about capacity building of the Intergovernmental Forum IV on Chemical Safety (IFCS, Bangkok, 1-7 November 2003).

8. Other business

At the time of writing, there is no other issue under this agenda item.

9. Adoption of the report

In accordance with established practice, the Sub-Committee may wish to adopt the report on its sixth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

**Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (sixth session)
Provisional Timetable**

*Sous-Comité d'experts du Système général harmonisé de classification et d'étiquetage des produits chimiques (sixième session)
Calendrier provisoire*

Wednesday 10 December <i>Mercredi 10 décembre</i>		Thursday 11 December <i>Jeudi 11 décembre</i>		Friday 12 December <i>Vendredi 12 décembre</i>	
Agenda item <i>Point de l'ordre</i> <i>du jour</i>		Agenda item <i>Point de l'ordre</i> <i>du jour</i>		Agenda item <i>Point de l'ordre</i> <i>du jour</i>	
a.m.	p.m. 14:30-17:30 Room XII	a.m. 09:30-12:30 Room XII	p.m. Room XII	a.m. 09:30-12:30 Room XII	p.m. 14:30-17:30 Room XII
	Items 1, 2 and 3 <i>Points 1, 2 et 3</i>	Items 3 (cont'd), 4, 5 (a) <i>Points 3 (suite), 4, 5 (a)</i>	5 (b, c, d) <i>5 (b, c, d)</i>	Items 6, 7, 8 and 9 <i>Points 6, 7, 8 et 9</i>	...(cont'd) and report adoption <i>...(suite) et adoption du rapport</i>

Note : Correspondence Groups on Labelling, Safety Data Sheets and Precautionary Statements will meet on Tuesday 9 December (afternoon) and Wednesday 10 December (morning) in three meetings back-to back, organized under the initiative of the lead countries. These informal meetings will be held at the Palais de Nations where a meeting room will be made available to this aim (for more information, please contact the secretariat).

NOTA : Les groupes de correspondance sur les fiches de données de sécurité, l'étiquetage et les conseils de prudence se réuniront le mardi 9 décembre (après-midi) et mercredi 10 décembre (matin) en 3 réunions successives organisées à l'initiative des pays chefs de file. Ces réunions informelles se dérouleront au Palais des Nations où une salle aura été mise à disposition à cet effet (pour plus d'information, merci de contacter le secrétariat).