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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
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Item 9 (c) of the provisional agenda

DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL  
ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE PURPOSES OF RULE 77 OF THE  
RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE BOARD

Application by the European Sea Ports Organisation

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

1. The UNCTAD secretariat has received an application from the Secretary-General of the European Sea Ports Organisation (ESPO), requesting the inclusion of that organization by the Trade and Development Board in the list provided for in rule 77 of the Board's rules of procedure.
2. Having reviewed the information provided, the secretariat is of the opinion that, subject to the concurrence of the Bureau of the Trade and Development Board, ESPO may be classified in the Special Category under the provision of paragraph 12 (b) of Board decision 43 (VII).
3. The Board may wish to take action on the above-mentioned application at its current session in the light of the recommendation of the Bureau.
4. Some information regarding ESPO is annexed hereto.

This document is at this stage intended for the information of States members of UNCTAD and its distribution is, therefore, restricted for their exclusive use. It is proposed to de-restrict the document in due course.

## Annex

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE EUROPEAN SEA PORTS ORGANISATION (ESPO)

#### History

1. ESPO is a non-profit organization which was founded on 26 January 1993 in response to a need for an organization to represent the ports of Europe and to reflect the viewpoints of the industry to the European Economic Community.

#### Aims and objectives

2. According to article 2 of its Statutes, the aims of ESPO are to promote the policies and viewpoints of the Community ports with the European Community authorities and other relevant international bodies and consequently to study all problems relating to the port industry in the context of the treaties establishing the European Community so as to keep its members informed and to seek, where possible, common positions.

#### Members

3. ESPO consists of members of nationally representative port authorities, port administrations or port associations in the following countries of the European Union: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. ESPO also has members in Cyprus, Iceland, Malta and Norway.

#### Structure

4. ESPO is governed by a General Assembly, comprising three delegates from each member, which meets at least twice a year and is responsible inter alia for determining the general policy of the organization. The General Assembly is convened and presided over by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman, who are elected for a period of two years. The Secretary-General acts as Secretary to meetings of the General Assembly. The Executive Committee, comprising the Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen, and designated members, supervises the work of the Secretary-General and is responsible for matters as defined by the General Assembly. In addition to these bodies, there are three Technical Committees: the Environment Committee, the Marine Committee and the Transport Committee, each composed of one member from each country. The Technical Committees prepare policy proposals and carry out the main work of the organization.

#### Financial resources

5. ESPO's budget is drawn up by the Secretary-General and voted by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Executive Committee. Financial resources are derived principally from membership fees.

Relations with other international organizations

6. ESPO has status with the North Sea Conference, the Oslo Commission and the Paris Commission.

Publications

7. In 1994, ESPO, with the assistance of the European Commission, published the ESPO Code of Environment. ESPO publishes a monthly newsletter and an annual report.

Liaison

8. Liaison with UNCTAD will be maintained by the Chairman, Mr. Fernand Suykens, or, in his absence, Mr. J.P. Lannou, Port of Le Havre.

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9. The working languages of ESPO are English and French.

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