



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
25 January 2001

Original: English

Organizational session for 2001

29 January-2 February and 3 and 4 May 2001

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

Elections, nominations and confirmations

Elections and nominations

Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Note by the Secretary-General

I. Background

1. By resolution 1999/65 of 26 October 1999, concerning the reconfiguration of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods into a Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, the Economic and Social Council invited Member States interested in participating in the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS Subcommittee) to apply at the latest by the end of 2000 so that the composition of the Subcommittee and of the reconfigured Committee might be decided at the organizational session for 2001 of the Economic and Social Council.

2. Subsequently, a letter was sent on 17 July 2000 by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs to all Permanent Missions of Member States to the United Nations in New York, requesting applications to be sent to the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission of Europe (ECE) not later than 31 December 2000, since ECE assumes the responsibility of the secretariat of the reconfigured Committee and of its two subcommittees.

* E/2001/2.



II. GHS Subcommittee

3. The following Member States have applied for membership in the GHS Subcommittee: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Qatar, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

4. The original proposal made to the Council for creation of the GHS Subcommittee was that it should have as wide a participation and membership as practically possible.¹

5. Since the number of applicant States to the GHS Subcommittee is not unreasonably high and may be considered “practicable”, in view of the resources agreed by the General Assembly for the reconfiguration,² the Secretary-General recommends that all above-mentioned applicant States be granted full membership in the GHS Subcommittee.

III. TDG Subcommittee

6. For the Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG Subcommittee), the present membership is as follows: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

7. Applications for full membership in this Subcommittee have been received from Austria, Finland and Iran (Islamic Republic of). The Secretary-General is pleased to approve these applications and, in accordance with established practice, requests the Council’s endorsement of that decision.

IV. Reconfigured Committee

8. For the reconfigured Committee, the original proposal provided for as large a membership as practicable to be drawn from the representation in the Subcommittees.³ If all the above applications for membership in the Subcommittees were approved by the Council, States participating in either Subcommittee would be the following: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Qatar, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

9. The Council may wish to approve the membership of the Committee as indicated in paragraph 8 above.

Notes

¹ E/1999/43, para. 21 (d), and E/1999/90, p. 7.

² A/54/443/Add.1, and General Assembly resolution 54/250 A of 23 December 1999.

³ E/1999/90, p. 7.