



HARMONIZED SYSTEM
REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE

-
25th Session
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NR0208E1
(+ Annex)

O. Eng.

Brussels, 31 January 2002.

APPROVAL OF REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

(Item II.1 on Agenda)

Reference documents :

NC0457E1(HSC/28)
NC0510E2 (HSC/28 – Report)

SP0084E1 (PC/46)
SP0090E1 (PC/46 – Report)

I. BACKGROUND

1. At its 28th Session (November 2001), the Harmonized System Committee accepted the proposed procedure regarding the approval of Review Sub-Committee reports with certain modifications to paragraph 4 of Doc. NC0457E1 (see paragraphs 57-64 of Doc. NC0510E2, HSC/28 – Report). The proposed procedure was intended to reflect the Secretary General's direction to discontinue the reading of Review Sub-Committee reports at the end of the Sub-Committee's meetings, beginning with the Spring 2002 Session. The approved procedure is set out in the Annex to this document.

II. DECISION OF THE POLICY COMMISSION

2. At its 46th Session held in December 2001, the Policy Commission examined the Report and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Group on Committee Structures and Working Methods. The Policy Commission approved the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Group as set out in Doc. SP0084E1, including the recommendation that reports should only be read at the end of a meeting where there was a necessity to do so.
3. The Policy Commission also requested the Secretariat to begin preparations for submitting a package of detailed proposals - recommendations and guidelines - to the Policy Commission and Council in June 2002.
4. The Policy Commission further agreed that the criteria arising out of the recommendations would already be applied during the first six months of 2002.

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5. The Report of the Policy Commission is set out in Doc. SP0090E1 (PC/46 – Report).

II. CONCLUSION

6. The Review Sub-Committee is invited to take note of the above developments in the Policy Commission and the fact that the new procedure for the approval of its reports as set out in the Annex to this document will take effect from the 25th Session in accordance with the decision of the Policy Commission.

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PROCEDURE FOR THE APPROVAL OF REPORTS OF THE
HARMONIZED SYSTEM REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE

- The Secretariat will prepare all draft annexes of the RSC report setting out the approved texts and provide them to delegates by the end of the RSC meeting.
 - The Secretariat will not be able to provide the narrative portions of the draft report by the end of the meeting.
 - Accordingly, the RSC will no longer read and finalise the report of the meeting at the end of the session.
 - The draft report will be completed by the Secretariat during the week after the end of the meeting and circulated – to delegations represented at the RSC meeting only – for comment.
 - The comment period will be two weeks after transmission of the draft report and only written comments will be accepted on the draft report.
 - The draft report and the comments received will then be published as working documents for the immediately following HSC meeting.
 - The draft report will be adopted during the first day of the immediately following HSC meeting by the delegations represented at the RSC meeting on the basis of the written comments only.
 - The final report will be examined by the whole Committee on the basis of the usual decision document prepared by the Secretariat during the second week of the HS Committee's meeting.
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