



HARMONIZED SYSTEM
COMMITTEE

NC0738E1

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32nd Session

O. Eng.

Brussels, 22 October 2003.

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

(Item II.5 on Agenda)

I. BACKGROUND

1. The Secretariat has continued its close co-operation with other international organisations with a view to achieving the wider and more uniform application of the Harmonized System. Important activities which have occurred between the Committee's 31st and 32nd Sessions are summarised below.

II. AREAS OF CO-OPERATION

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

2. The Council, on 28 June 2003, adopted the new Council Recommendation on the Insertion in National Statistical Nomenclatures of Subheadings to Facilitate the Collection and Comparison of Data on the International Movement of Substances Controlled by Virtue of Amendments to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, which was prepared following a request of UNEP. This Recommendation comprises 36 recommended separate national subdivisions for chemically defined ozone layer depleting substances and mixtures containing these substances.
3. In addition, and also following a request from UNEP, the Review Sub-Committee approved amendments to subheading 3824.7 concerning mixtures containing ozone layer depleting substances (ODS), to be introduced as from January 2007. These amendments were sent to the Committee for consideration and adoption (see item IV.2 on the Agenda).
4. The WCO Secretariat has also continued its co-operation with the Interim Secretariat for the Rotterdam Convention (UNEP). On the basis of proposals received from the Interim Secretariat and from the **EC**, the Review Sub-Committee approved amendments to the Harmonized System with regard to commodities falling within the ambit of the Rotterdam Convention. These amendments were sent to the Committee for consideration and adoption (see item IV.2 on the Agenda).

Note : Shaded parts will be removed when documents are placed on the WCO documentation database available to the public.

File No. 2082

5. Within the framework of co-operation with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (UNEP) the WCO Secretariat has received a new proposal regarding the separate identification of certain categories of hazardous wastes in the Harmonized System. The issue is on the Agenda of this meeting (see item VII.7 on the Agenda).

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

6. At the invitation of OPCW, an officer of the Nomenclature Sub-Directorate participated in a regional seminar on the Role of the Chemical and Other Relevant Industries in the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in Latin America and the Caribbean, organised by OPCW and the Mexican national authorities, held in Mexico City, Mexico, from 11 to 13 June 2003. 91 participants from all over the world attended the meeting.
7. During this meeting, the Secretariat officer gave a presentation on the use of the Harmonized System and the connection between the Chemical Weapons Convention and WCO, in particular with regard to the Harmonized System.
8. The WCO presentation concentrated on the structure of the Harmonized System and the means to arrive at uniform and consistent application. The participants showed a keen interest in the subject and asked a number of questions related to the issues presented, which were discussed and clarified during the presentation.
9. At the invitation of OPCW, on 30 July 2003, a Secretariat officer gave a presentation concerning the connection between the Chemical Weapons Convention and WCO, in particular the Harmonized System, within the context of the Fourth Course of the Associate Programme, organised by OPCW, in The Hague, Netherlands. For this programme, OPCW had selected 24 participants originating from the same number of countries, working in the chemical field.
10. The Secretariat will continue its co-operation with and assistance to the OPCW Secretariat, as needed.

International Lead and Zinc Study Group (ILZSG), International Copper Study Group (ICSG) and International Nickel Study Group (INSG)

11. At the invitation of ILZSG, ICSG and INSG, a Secretariat officer participated in a workshop on recycling in emerging markets, held in St. Petersburg, Russia, from 10 to 12 September 2003. Representatives of government agencies, industry and non-governmental organisations attended the workshop. The presentation made by the Secretariat's officer concentrated on the use of the Harmonized System as a tool to obtain predictable, reliable and accurate international trade data.
12. The Secretariat will continue its co-operation with the ILZSG, ICSG and INSG Secretariats, as needed.

United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)

13. On the basis of world import data for 109 countries provided by UNSD for the years 1997 to 2000 the Secretariat prepared a study regarding the possible deletion of headings/subheadings with a small volume of trade. The matter was on the Agenda of the Review Sub-Committee at its 26th, 27th and 28th Sessions and is still being pursued within the framework of this review cycle. Co-operation with UNSD in this respect will continue, as needed.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)/International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR)

14. On the basis of preceding consultations between the WCO and INBAR, INBAR has prepared and submitted a proposal regarding the separate identification of a number of articles made of bamboo and rattan in the Harmonized System. The Review Sub-Committee started discussion of this issue at its 28th Session and is pursuing the matter. Co-operation with INBAR in this respect, will, of course, continue.

International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

15. The ICC continues to co-operate with the Secretariat, enabling it to receive timely and pertinent information for use in the preparation of working documents for the HSC and the Review Sub-Committee. This assistance is particularly noteworthy with regard to information technology products, which is, of course, one of the areas of interest with regard to the 3rd HS Review Cycle.

III. CONCLUSION

16. The Committee is invited to take note of the above-referenced developments.
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