



FIFTEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Matters relating to the Administrative Tribunal of the ILO**Recognition of the Tribunal's jurisdiction by the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO)**

1. Under its Statute, the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organization is competent to hear complaints against intergovernmental organizations which recognize its jurisdiction and Rules of Procedure and have been approved by the Governing Body. The relevant provisions of the Statute (article II, paragraph 5) appear in Appendix I to document GB.279/PFA/15.
2. By a letter dated 10 October 2000 (see appendix), Mr. Ian Michel Smith, Director-General of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO), informed the Director-General of the ILO that the Executive Committee of EPPO had decided on 18 September 2000, at its 116th Meeting, to extend the jurisdiction of the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organization to EPPO and the members of its staff.
3. EPPO was created under the International Plant Protection Convention (concluded under the auspices of the FAO) on 18 April 1951 through the signature by 15 European States of the Convention for the Establishment of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization. To date, the membership of EPPO is 43, including 41 States from Europe and other regions of the Mediterranean and two territories. The functions of EPPO are the development of good practices in the application of phytosanitary measures and plant protection; the development of regional standards on those subjects; promotion of the harmonization of phytosanitary and plant protection measures, as well as the simplification and unification of phytosanitary regulations and certifications; assistance and advice to member States in the field of plant protection; the coordination and stimulation of international campaigns against pests; facilitation of cooperation in research and information exchange on pests; and the dissemination of information in the field of plant protection. EPPO comprises the following organs: the Council, consisting of representatives of all members; the Executive Committee, composed of a President, a Vice-President and seven members elected by the Council; the Director-General and secretariat; and the Accounts Verification Panel. The EPPO's headquarters are in Paris. The status of the organization and of its staff is provided for in a host agreement concluded with the Government of France in 1964, which entered into force on 9 September 1965.

This agreement recognizes EPPO's immunity from every form of legal process and contemplates for EPPO and its staff the privileges and immunities which are normally recognized for international organizations and their officials. The Institute employs some 11 officials.

4. The Tribunal's jurisdiction under article II, paragraph 5, of its Statute already extends to 38 organizations other than the ILO. The recognition of the Tribunal's jurisdiction by other organizations entails no additional cost to the ILO, since the organizations against which complaints are filed are required by the Statute to bear the expenses of sessions and hearings and to pay any award of compensation by the Tribunal. The other organizations also contribute in amounts proportionate to the number of their staff to much of the costs of the Tribunal's secretariat.
5. *In the light of the above, the Committee may wish to recommend that the Governing Body approve the recognition of the Tribunal's jurisdiction by the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization.*

Geneva, 3 November 2000.

Point for decision: Paragraph 5.

Appendix

Request by the EPPO concerning recognition of the jurisdiction of the ILO Administrative Tribunal

Letter of 10 October from the Director-General of the EPPO to the Director-General of the ILO

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to present the request made by the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) to the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to extend the jurisdiction of its Administrative Tribunal to the officials of the EPPO, in accordance with the decision taken at the last session of the Executive Committee of the Organization on 18 September 2000.

After having considered the Statute and Rules of Procedure of the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organization, EPPO undertakes to recognize the Tribunal's jurisdiction.

EPPO is an intergovernmental organization, composed at present of 43 member countries. The Organization has its headquarters in Paris and has 11 officials. The Organization's Staff Regulations and Rules are those of UNESCO, subject to the necessary adjustments resulting from its structure, size and activities.

Please find attached in English and French, a copy of the Convention for the Establishment of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization, as well as of its Staff Regulations and Rules.

I remain at your disposal should you need any further information and avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you the assurances of my highest consideration.

The Director-General,

(Signed)

I. M. Smith.