



SEVENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Composition and purpose of sectoral meetings to be held in 2003: Programme for the economic sectors

Introduction

1. At its meeting in March 2002, the Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues decided that the Working Party on the Review of the Sectoral Activities Programme should make recommendations as regards the programme for the economic sectors in 2003 for approval by the Governing Body at its 284th Session in June 2002.¹
2. The Working Party met on 4 June 2002 to consider this issue and reached consensus on the following proposals concerning the programme for the economic sectors in 2003.

Public service : Public emergency services – Social dialogue in a changing environment

3. The Working Party recommends that a joint meeting on this subject be held from 27 to 31 January 2003 with the following composition: all interested governments, eight employers' representatives from the private sector and 25 workers' representatives. The nomination of the employers' and workers' representatives should be made by the respective groups of the Governing body. The government and employers' representatives would form one group during the meeting.
4. The meeting would review the following issues concerning emergency services: trends in working conditions, rights at work, the state of social dialogue, health and safety, human resource planning and coordination structures.
5. The Working Party also recommends that the purpose of the meeting should be: to elaborate a set of guidelines for addressing the issues raised above and in particular best

¹ GB.283/13, paras. 22 and 36.

practice for safeguarding the health, rights and interests of workers dealing with emergency situations, using a report prepared by the Office as basis for the discussions. These guidelines should give appropriate recognition to the concerns and values of emergency workers and used as appropriate. In addition, the meeting should also adopt a report on its discussions and may adopt resolutions.

Food, drink and tobacco: The future of employment in the tobacco sector

6. The Working Party recommends that a tripartite meeting on this subject be held from 24 to 28 February 2003 with the following composition: all interested governments, 18 employers' representatives and 18 workers' representatives. The nomination of the employers' and workers' representatives should be made by the respective groups of the Governing Body.
7. The Working Party also recommends that the purpose of the meeting should be: to review current employment trends in the tobacco manufacturing industry and discuss future prospects in terms of the social and labour implications of these trends, as well as guidance on measures to mitigate negative impacts of changes in employment levels and working conditions and the role of social dialogue, using a report prepared by the Office as basis for the discussions; to adopt conclusions that include proposals for action by governments, by employers' and workers' organizations and by the ILO; and to adopt a report on its discussion. In addition, the meeting may adopt resolutions.

Commerce: Employment effects of mergers and acquisitions in commerce

8. The Working Party recommends that a tripartite meeting on this subject be held from 7 to 11 April 2003 with the following composition: all interested governments, 18 employers' representatives and 18 workers' representatives. The nomination of the employers' and workers' representatives should be made by the respective groups of the Governing Body.
9. The Working Party also recommends that the purpose of the meeting should be: to exchange experience on policies aimed at promoting positive employment outcomes of mergers and acquisitions in commerce, using a report prepared by the Office as the basis for its discussions; to review approaches to increased social dialogue and mechanisms for bipartite consultations to avoid or minimize merger-related lay-offs and erosion in employment and working conditions in the sector; to identify best practice in managing downsizing related to mergers and acquisitions, where this becomes necessary; to adopt conclusions that include proposals for action by governments, by employers' and workers' organizations and by the ILO, as well as practical guidelines for social dialogue on mergers and acquisitions in commerce; and to adopt a report on its discussion. In addition, the meeting may adopt resolutions.
10. The savings obtained through a reduced number of participants of the meeting are to be used for a meeting of the small tripartite forum that was requested by the 1999 tripartite meeting on commerce and which met for the first time in November 2001 with a view to drafting a manual on social dialogue in commerce.

Utilities: Challenges and opportunities facing public utilities

11. The Working Party recommends that a tripartite meeting be held on this subject from 19 to 23 May 2003 with the following composition: all interested governments, 17 employers' representatives and 17 workers' representatives. The nomination of the employers' and workers' representatives should be made by the respective groups of the Governing Body.
12. The Working Party also recommends that the purpose of the meeting should be: to discuss recent developments in the sector, the research priorities and the needs for capacity building for social dialogue, using a report prepared by the Office as basis for the discussion; to review and assess the progress made in the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations adopted at the 1999 ILO tripartite meeting on managing privatization and restructuring of public utilities; to adopt conclusions which will identify areas for follow-up action in terms of research and regional activities. In addition, the meeting should also adopt a report of its discussions and may adopt resolutions.
13. The savings obtained through a reduced number of participants of the meeting are to be used for follow-up action in the above areas.

Other industries and topics – Service sector: Meeting of experts to develop a code of practice on violence and stress at work in services – A threat to productivity and decent work

14. The Working Party recommends that this meeting of experts be held from 8 to 15 October 2003 with the following composition: 12 experts to be nominated by governments, 12 experts to be nominated after consultations with the Employers' group of the Governing Body and 12 experts to be nominated by the Workers' group of the Governing Body. The 12 government experts should be nominated by the governments of the following countries: Algeria, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Japan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States. The governments of the following countries should be placed on the reserve list: Austria, Brazil, Burundi, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, France, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland and Zimbabwe.
15. The Working Party also recommends that the purpose of the meeting should be: to consider and review a draft and adopt a code of practice on violence and stress at work in services – a threat to productivity and decent work.

Chemical industries: Best practices in work-flexibility schemes and their impact on the quality of working life in the chemical industries

16. The Working Party recommends that a tripartite meeting on this subject be held from 27 to 31 October 2003 with the following composition: all interested governments, 20 employers' representatives and 20 workers' representatives. The nomination of the employers' and workers' representatives should be made by the respective groups of the Governing Body.

17. The Working Party also recommends that the purpose of the meeting should be: to discuss the development and application of flexible working arrangements and their impact on employment, working conditions, skills development and career prospects in the chemical industries, using a report prepared by the Office as the basis for its discussions; to highlight the role of social dialogue and identify “best practice” in work flexibility; to adopt conclusions that include proposals for action by governments, by employers’ and workers’ organizations and by the ILO; and to adopt a report on its discussions. In addition, the meeting may adopt resolutions.
18. *The Governing Body is invited to approve the recommendations of the Working Party on the Review of the Sectoral Activities Programme as regards the programme for the economic sectors in 2003, in particular :*
- (a) the subject, type, duration and composition of the meetings, as proposed in paragraphs 3, 6, 8, 11, 14 and 16; and*
 - (b) the purpose of the meetings, as proposed in paragraphs 5, 7, 9, 12, 15 and 17.*

Geneva, 7 June 2002.

Point for decision: Paragraph 18.