COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS AND ON THE GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

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PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2007-2008

Request for the continuation of the work related to the labelling of very small packagings

<u>Transmitted by the experts from DG ENTERPRISE and DG ENVIRONMENT</u> of the European Commission

Introduction

The European Commission is currently in the process of preparing for the implementation of the GHS and has drafted a proposal for a regulation which would introduce the GHS criteria into Community law. The Commission Services have undertaken a public consultation on this draft proposal, have analysed the responses and adopted the draft proposal accordingly. It is the intention to have the Commission proposal adopted by end of this year.

Consideration

Within the context of the public consultation on the draft proposal implementing the GHS into Community law several responders have raised the issue of labelling of very small packagings. The current version of the draft proposal therefore includes some provision for the labelling of very small packing for the supply and use sector based on the existing EU legislation. However for consistency with the philosophy of the GHS it would be desirable to try to establish consistent guidelines for the labelling of very small packagings and work has already commenced under the auspice of the Sub-Committee.

session At the seventh of the Sub-Committee, **CEFIC** submitted document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/4 concerning the labelling of very small packagings. CEFIC was subsequently requested to prepare a Detailed Review Document (DRD) on current provisions in existing systems for the labelling of very small packagings in order to identify common elements, and then to report findings back to the Sub-Committee. This was done and the replies were summarised and provided as an annex to document UN/SCEGHS/10/INF.8. At the eleventh session CEFIC was coming forward with a proposal consideration document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2006/12.

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In the report to the eleventh meeting it is concluded that there was general support for the development of guidance on labelling of very small packagings. However, the Sub-Committee felt that the proposal put forward by CEFIC should be further developed and it was agreed that this issue be considered for the program of work for the next biennium.

Proposal

The Commission Services would like to reinsure that these issues are considered for inclusion on the UNSECGHS Programme of Work for the next biennium.