



## THIRD ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Other questions****Temporary accommodation at headquarters**

1. At its 283rd Session (March 2002), the Governing Body approved the use of Sw.frs.973,500 (US\$550,000) from the Building and Accommodation Fund to erect a temporary annex on the Office grounds.<sup>1</sup> The additional space was required due to increased accommodation demands in Geneva. The buildings have now been completed and will enable office space to be liberated in the main building. Planning is under way to accommodate a number of officials together with other office activities.
2. The proposal made to the Programme, Financial and Administrative Committee in March 2002 included financial estimates obtained through a competitive bidding process. The Request for Proposals that was sent to construction firms in Switzerland and elsewhere in Europe sought bids that complied with construction, safety and security standards in Switzerland. The bids received all proposed comparable technical standards and the contract was awarded in accordance with Office contracting procedures, to the lowest priced bidder.
3. Although timely detailed plans were submitted to the Service de la Construction of the Etat de Genève, the authorities did not provide the ILO with their complete higher safety standards requirements for the prefab until after the closing of the Governing Body. To avoid any doubts on the solidity and safety of the prefab, the Director-General, in consultation with the ILO Advisory Committee on Safety and Health and the Medical Service, considered it essential to ensure that the prefab complied with all the Swiss higher safety and security measures.
4. In view of the urgent need for additional space, it would not have been practical to delay the project pending a further discussion of the 285th Session (November 2002) of the Governing Body. Consequently, the decision was taken to proceed, on the understanding that the additional funding could be found through delaying other maintenance activities, should funding from the 2000-01 surplus or through the Building and Accommodation Fund not be approved by the Governing Body at its 285th Session (November 2002).

<sup>1</sup> GB.283/PFA/4/1.

5. Even at the higher cost of Sw.frs.1,356,500 (some US\$770,000), the erection of the temporary annex remains financially viable. It will be recalled that the cost of renting temporary accommodation was estimated at approximately US\$600,000 per annum.
6. *The Subcommittee may wish to propose to the Programme, Financial and Administrative Committee that it recommends to the Governing Body that it agree that the additional cost of Sw.frs.383,000 (US\$216,300) for the construction of the temporary office building be charged to the Building and Accommodation Fund.*

Geneva, 17 October 2002.

*Point for decision:* Paragraph 6.