



SEVENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Other questions**(a) Proposals for the convening of the Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers of the Joint Maritime Commission (Geneva, 24-25 February 2006)**

1. It will be recalled that the Seafarers' Wages, Hours of Work and the Manning of Ships Recommendation, 1996 (No. 187), provides that the basic pay or wages for a calendar month of service for an able seaman should be no less than the amount periodically set by the Joint Maritime Commission or another body authorized by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office.
2. At its 280th Session (March 2001), the Governing Body, having considered the report of the 29th Session of the Joint Maritime Commission (22-26 January 2001), agreed to the establishment of a Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers which should meet every two years, even if there was no budgetary allocation, for the purpose of updating the basic pay or wages of able seamen between sessions of the Commission. It agreed that the Subcommittee should be composed of six Shipowner and six Seafarer representatives.
3. The Subcommittee first met in Geneva from 5 to 8 July 2003. At its 288th Session (November 2003), the Governing Body took note of the report of the Subcommittee and, inter alia, approved the recommendations in paragraph 3 of that report which referred to a resolution concerning the ILO minimum wage for able seamen. The resolution, inter alia, reiterated that the Subcommittee considered that it was essential that the basic pay or wages of seamen should be updated every two years, and invited the Governing Body to convene in two years' time the Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers.
4. It will be recalled that the 94th (Maritime) Session of the International Labour Conference will be held in Geneva from 7 to 23 February 2006. It is expected that there will be a meeting of the Joint Maritime Commission following the end of the ILC. The presence of Seafarer and Shipowner representatives in Geneva provides an opportunity for the Subcommittee to meet.
5. It is therefore proposed that the Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers of the Joint Maritime Commission shall be convened at ILO headquarters in Geneva from 24 to 25 February 2006. Its work would begin after the closure of the Maritime Conference and

would continue, if necessary, until 25 February 2006. The agenda of the Subcommittee would consist of a single item: The Seafarers' Wages, Hours of Work and the Manning of Ships Recommendation, 1996 (No. 187): the updating of the basic wage of able seamen. The report of the Subcommittee would be submitted directly to the Governing Body.

- 6. *The Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues may wish to recommend to the Governing Body that it approve the convening of the Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers of the Joint Maritime Commission in the conditions described in paragraph 5 above.***

Geneva, 16 September 2005.

Point for decision: Paragraph 6.