



FOR DEBATE AND GUIDANCE

SEVENTEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Report of the Director-General

Fourth Supplementary Report: Measures taken by the Government of Belarus to implement the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry established to examine the observance of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), and the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98)

1. At its 300th Session (November 2007), the Governing Body, after a full discussion, adopted the following decision:
 1. The Governing Body takes note of the information given by the Minister of Labour of Belarus and welcomes the Government's stated intention to reach agreement between all parties concerned on the question of trade union legislation.
 2. The Governing Body underlines that solutions based on consensus and dialogue have to be aimed at the full implementation of the recommendations of the 2004 Commission of Inquiry. All trade unions and employers' organizations should be able to function freely and obtain recognition in law and in practice.
 3. The Governing Body notes that the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations will be reviewing the state of the legislation and its conformity with Conventions Nos 87 and 98 at its upcoming meeting.
 4. While expecting that significant progress towards satisfactory solutions will be made in Belarus, the Governing Body will in an appropriate way review the developments at its March 2008 session.
2. The Governing Body takes note that the recently issued report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations contains further comments on the application of Conventions Nos 87 and 98 in Belarus.
3. No further information on the measures taken to implement the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry had been formally received from the Government at the time the present document was completed. According to available information, the discussions on the draft trade union law have not been concluded in the National Council on Labour and

Social Issues (NCLSI) and the law has not been submitted to the Parliament. Allegations of continuous interference and trade union rights violations have been received by the Office within the framework of the follow-up given to the recommendations by the Commission of Inquiry and have been transmitted to the Government for its reply.

Geneva, 14 February 2008.

Submitted for debate and guidance.