



NINTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Other financial questions

Financial arrangements for certain recommendations of the 29th Session of the Joint Maritime Commission

1. At its present session (March 2001), the Governing Body will have before it a number of recommendations of the 29th Session of the Joint Maritime Commission (JMC), which was held in Geneva from 22 to 26 January 2001,¹ three of which have financial implications.
 - (a) The first recommendation is to establish a high-level tripartite working group on maritime labour standards to assist with the work of developing a consolidated instrument which would bring together much of the existing body of ILO maritime instruments. The working group, which would be composed of 30 representatives (ten Government, ten Shipowners' and ten Seafarers' representatives) would hold three five-day meetings, one each in 2001, 2002 and 2003. Working papers for these meetings would be prepared and considered by a tripartite sub-group composed of 12 representatives to be nominated by the high-level tripartite working group. Participation of representatives in meetings of the tripartite sub-group would be at no cost to the Office.
 - (b) The second recommendation is for a three-day meeting in 2003 of a subcommittee of the JMC combined with a joint working group of Shipowner and Seafarer members of the JMC, for the purpose of updating the basic pay or wages of able seafarers and providing guidance on interpretation with the goal of arriving at a recommended total minimum salary. The cost for this meeting would only include servicing costs. Participation of representatives for meetings would be at no cost to the Office.
 - (c) The third recommendation is for a further meeting of the JMC or of experts to consider the results of the questionnaire sent out by the Office on international registers. Participation at this meeting would also be at no cost to the Office.

¹ See GB.280/5.

2. There is no provision in the Programme and Budget for 2000-01 nor the Programme and Budget proposals for 2002-03 for such meetings, and should the Governing Body decide that they should take place, financial arrangements will have to be made. Resources will need to be provided for travel and subsistence of all members of the high-level tripartite working group and for servicing all the meetings. The staff costs required for the preparatory work to the meetings will be borne through a reassignment of current staff resources. It is estimated that the total cost of these three recommendations would be:

	2001 US\$	2002 US\$	2003 US\$
(a) meetings on maritime labour standards	170 000	179 500	181 000
(b) meeting on minimum wage			14 000
(c) meeting on international registers			9 500
Total	170 000	179 500	204 500

3. It is proposed that the cost of the first meeting of the high-level working group to be held in the last quarter of this year, at some US\$170,000, be financed in the first instance from savings under Part I of the budget and that, should this not prove possible, the Director-General would propose alternative methods of financing at a later stage in the biennium. As some technical meetings in each biennium have an agenda restricted to a sector or category of workers and in order to avoid an excessive reduction in the allocations for sectoral meetings, it is proposed to finance the recommendations of the JMC in 2002-03, estimated to cost some \$384,000, one half from the amount provided for sectoral meetings and one half from the amount provided for the technical meetings reserve. The Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues would be required to make the necessary adjustments to the programme of sectoral meetings.
4. *The Committee may wish to recommend to the Governing Body, should it approve the recommendations of the Joint Maritime Commission, that:*
- (a) *the cost of the meetings in 2000-01, estimated at some \$170,000, be financed in the first instance from savings in Part I of the budget on the understanding that, should it subsequently prove impossible, the Director-General would propose alternative methods of financing at a later stage in the biennium; and*
- (b) *the cost of the meetings in 2002-03, estimated at some \$384,000, be financed to the extent of \$192,000 from the amount available for sectoral meetings and a further \$192,000 from the technical meetings reserve as contained in the 2002-03 programme and budget.*

Geneva, 7 March 2001.

Point for decision: Paragraph 4.