



## SEVENTEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Report of the Director-General****First Supplementary Report: Arrangements for the Seventh European Regional Meeting**

1. According to the Rules for Regional Meetings adopted by the Governing Body at its 283rd (March 2002) Session and confirmed on the occasion of the 90th (June 2002) Session of the International Labour Conference, the Governing Body determines the date and location of each Regional Meeting. The Regional Meetings are in principle to be hosted in the country where the Regional Office is located and they take place once every four years. The Sixth European Regional Meeting took place in Geneva in December 2000. It would therefore be expected that the Seventh Regional Meeting take place in Geneva in December 2004.
2. In the course of informal consultations organized by the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia with ILO constituents of its region, the wish to hold the Seventh Regional Meeting in one of the new European Union member countries was clearly stressed as an important sign of the acknowledgment of Europe's increasing integration. Hungary and the Czech Republic were interested in hosting the Seventh European Regional Meeting and they agreed on the single candidature of Budapest.
3. During these informal discussions, the proposal to hold the meeting in early February 2005 was also considered more suitable; in this way, it would be possible to avoid scheduling a major European Meeting in the busy end-of-year period. The Government of Luxembourg, which will hold the EU Presidency during the first half of 2005, indicated that it would make the Meeting an integral part of its EU Presidency Agenda.
4. The ILO's Programme and Budget for 2004-05 foresees an allocation of some US\$173,000 for hosting the Meeting in Geneva. All additional costs associated with holding the Meeting in Budapest would be covered by the joint contributions of the Governments of Hungary and Luxembourg.
5. The Office therefore proposes Budapest, Hungary, which houses an ILO Subregional Office, to hold the Seventh Regional Meeting, and to schedule the Meeting in February 2005.

- 6. *The Governing Body may wish to decide to transfer the Seventh European Regional Meeting to Budapest, Hungary, and to hold the Meeting in February 2005.***

Geneva, 2 October 2003.

*Point for decision:* Paragraph 6.