



## SEVENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Other questions****(b) Revision of the International Medical Guide for Ships**

1. The International Medical Guide for Ships (2nd edition) was published in 1988 by the World Health Organization (WHO). This publication, which is referred to in the Health Protection and Medical Care (Seafarers) Convention, 1987 (No. 164), is carried by a large proportion of the world merchant fleet, and has proved to be an essential tool in the provision of medical care to seafarers. It has been the result of cooperation between the ILO, WHO and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) ever since work started on the first edition in 1965 and published with the logos of the three organizations. It is widely considered that the present second edition requires urgent updating.
2. Currently, the WHO is preparing a new third edition of this publication. A first draft of the new edition was written by experts of the International Maritime Health Association and handed over to the WHO for editing and publication. The preparatory work has been partially funded by the International Transport Workers' Federation. Following consultations with the Office, the WHO has kept the secretariats of the Shipowners' and Seafarers' groups of the Joint Maritime Commission aware of the progress.
3. The WHO has informed the Office that the Guide is being extensively edited and illustrated. It is intended that a meeting be held during the first half of 2006 for experts to review the final draft of the Guide. The WHO intends to circulate this final draft to the ILO and the IMO, and also to invite an ILO delegation to participate in the review meeting. The dates and composition of the meeting will be communicated to the Governing Body as soon as possible. The Office would then invite the secretariats of the groups of the Joint Maritime Commission to nominate the appropriate number of experts to attend the review meeting. It is expected that the meeting will be held at no cost to the WHO or the ILO. The Office will continue to maintain close cooperation with the WHO and the IMO on this question.
4. The third edition of the International Medical Guide for Ships would then be submitted to the ILO Governing Body and the competent organ of the IMO by the end of 2006 before publication by the WHO in a similar way to previous editions.

Geneva, 16 September 2005.

*Submitted for information.*