



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
THE REVISION OF THE ATHENS
CONVENTION RELATING TO THE
CARRIAGE OF PASSENGERS AND
THEIR LUGGAGE BY SEA, 1974
Agenda item 5

LEG/CONF.13/12
12 September 2002
Original: ENGLISH

**ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE, INCLUDING THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF OTHER COMMITTEES, AS NECESSARY**

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document outlines a proposal on the work programme and the schedule of meetings for the Conference on the revision of the Athens Convention and the 85th session of the Legal Committee, aimed at making best use of the time allocated for both the Conference and the Committee.

Action to be taken: Paragraph 18

Related documents: LEG 84/13/2.

I Introduction

1 In accordance with the recommendation to the Council by the Legal Committee at its eighty-third and eighty-fourth sessions, the International Conference on the Revision of the Athens Convention relating to the Carriage of Passengers and their Luggage by Sea, 1974 and the eighty-fifth session of the Committee have been convened back-to-back, during the period 21 October to 1 November 2002.

2 This document outlines a proposal on the work programme and the schedule of meetings for the Conference and the eighty-fifth session of the Committee. The proposal aims at making best use of the time and resources available for both the Conference and the Committee and is based on past practice by the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) and the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) in scheduling committee meetings and diplomatic conferences in conjunction with each other.

3 Based on that experience, as recommended by the Legal Committee at its last session, the Conference has been convened for the weeks beginning 21 October 2002. The Conference would be held in conjunction with the Legal Committee during the two weeks ending on 1 November 2002. In order to bring the Conference to a successful conclusion, some of the time allocated for the Legal Committee will be given over to the Conference, which will result in a shortened session of the Committee. To facilitate a more flexible use of time some sessions of the Conference will be interspersed with the proceedings of the Committee.

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly asked to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

4 The main arrangements for the Conference are summarized in the following paragraphs.

II Structure

5 In addition to the Plenary, the Conference will have a Committee of the Whole to consider a draft Protocol of 2002 to amend the Athens Convention relating to the Carriage of Passengers and their Luggage by Sea, 1974 (document LEG/ CONF.13/3).

6 There will also be a Drafting Committee to take care of the drafting of all the texts to be adopted by the Conference.

7 A Credentials Committee will consider the Credentials of the representatives of Governments participating at the Conference.

8 These suggestions have been embodied in the relevant rules of the Provisional Rules of Procedure which are before the Conference in document LEG/CONF.13/2 (rules 4, 44 and 45).

9 The Plenary and the Committee of the Whole may establish other bodies as they consider necessary.

10 Having regard to these suggestions, the Conference may wish to consider and adopt a structure along the following lines:

- (a) a Plenary presided over by the President, or in his absence by one of the Vice-Presidents;
- (b) a Committee of the Whole, with a Chairman elected by the Plenary and two Vice-Chairmen, elected by the Committee itself. The Committee of the Whole will be open to all delegations;
- (c) a Drafting Committee composed of not more than nine members appointed by the Plenary on the proposal of the President, with a Chairman appointed by the Plenary. The Drafting Committee will elect its own Vice-Chairmen; and
- (d) a Credentials Committee composed of five members appointed by the Plenary on the proposal of the President. The Credentials Committee will elect its own Chairman.

III Interpretation and records of decisions

11 The official languages of the Conference (for interpretation during meetings of the Plenary, the Committee of the Whole and the Drafting Committee) will be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish; and the working languages (for the production of documentation) will be English, French and Spanish.

12 The Conference will operate with only one team of interpreters at any particular time during the meetings of the Plenary, the Committee of the Whole and the Drafting Committee. This means that only one meeting requiring interpretation can be held at any one time. The Credentials Committee will operate without interpretation.

13 Due to budgetary constraints summary records will not be produced for any meetings of the Conference. However, records of decisions of meetings of the Plenary and the Committee of the Whole will be produced and issued during the Conference.

IV Organization of work and schedule of meetings

14 On the basis of the structure proposed above and the facilities available it is suggested that the work of the Conference be organized as follows:

- (a) the morning of the opening day of the Conference (21 October) will be devoted to the consideration of organizational arrangements. This will take place informally at the meeting of Heads of Delegations and subsequently at the inaugural session of the Plenary to elect the officers and to establish the various committees;
- (b) the Committee of the Whole will commence its work in the afternoon on the opening day. It will continue its work on Friday, 25 October, and thereafter in the morning of Monday, 28 October, after coffee break in the afternoon of the same day, in the afternoon of Tuesday, 29 October and on Wednesday, 30 October;
- (c) the Drafting Committee will meet in the mornings of Tuesday, 29 and Thursday, 31 October;
- (d) the Plenary will be reconvened in the morning of Friday, 1 November to consider the reports of the Committee of the Whole, the Credentials Committee and the Drafting Committee and to adopt the treaty instrument resulting from the work of the Committees. The Plenary will also adopt the Final Act of the Conference for signature by the representatives of States participating at the Conference. Due to time constraints, any treaty instrument adopted by the Conference will be open for signature on a date subsequent to the end of the Conference.
- (e) the Credentials Committee will meet in the afternoon of Wednesday, 23 October.

15 The work programme and the schedule of meetings proposed above is presented in the annex to this document.

V Meetings of Heads of Delegations

16 It is proposed that, in accordance with usual practice, a meeting of Heads of Delegations be convened prior to the formal opening of the Conference in order to discuss certain organizational and procedural questions. The conclusions reached by the Heads of Delegations will be reported by the Secretary-General to the Plenary for consideration and adoption. Accordingly a meeting of Heads of Delegations has been scheduled to be held at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 21 October 2002.

VI Eighty-fifth session of the Legal Committee

17 Based on the proposals in paragraph 14 above, it is suggested that the Legal Committee meet on Tuesday, 22 October, Wednesday, 23 October and on Thursday, 24 October. The Committee would then reconvene for the consideration and adoption of its report in the afternoon of Monday, 28 October.

VII Action requested of the Conference

18 The Conference is invited to consider the information and suggestions in this document and to take such other decisions as it may deem appropriate.

ANNEX
WORK PROGRAMME AND SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS
21 October – 1 November 2002

CONFERENCE BODIES	FIRST WEEK										SECOND WEEK											
	MON 21 OCT		TUE 22 OCT		WED 23 OCT		THUR 24 OCT		FRI 25 OCT		MON 28 OCT		TUE 29 OCT		WED 30 OCT		THUR 31 OCT		FRI 1 NOV			
	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm		
PLENARY																						
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE																						
CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE																						
DRAFTING COMMITTEE																						
LEGAL COMMITTEE 85TH SESSION																						