

WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION
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COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

(d) Joint Headquarters Committee

Note by the Secretary-General

In the following document, the Secretary-General reports to the General Assembly on the outcome of the preparatory meeting held with the Spanish authorities with a view to the establishment of the Joint Headquarters Committee.

COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

(d) Joint Headquarters Committee

1. Following the transformation of the Organization into a specialized agency, the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Executive Council, approached the host country for the establishment of a Headquarters Committee that is to deal with all legal and practical matters relative to the presence of the WTO in Spain, following the example of existing committees for other United Nations agencies in the countries where they are based.
2. The main areas of action of the Committee will be the status of WTO officials in Spain, including that of their family and of retired officials, issues relative to the headquarters building and its security, the holding of WTO meetings in Spain, and the treatment given to delegations and other dignitaries visiting Madrid on account of their relations with the Organization.
3. The Executive Council has encouraged the Spanish Government and the Secretary-General to set up this Committee as quickly as possible. A preparatory meeting was held on 14 October 2005 between representatives of the Spanish Ministries of Foreign Affairs, and of Industry, Tourism and Trade on the one hand, and the Secretariat on the other hand, in order to initiate a reflection process regarding the actual composition that this body will have, its working methods and the subjects it is to tackle.
4. The Spanish Government has indicated to the Secretariat that it expects to be able to provide the necessary details for the first meeting of the Committee to be held in January 2006.
5. The Secretary-General intends to report on the progress made in this matter to the Executive Council at its seventy-eighth session.