INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE BUREAU INTERNATIONAL DU TRAVAIL OFICINA INTERNACIONAL DEL TRABAJO



4, route des Morillons CH-1211 GENÈVE 22 Téléphone direct (22) 799 central (22) 799 61 11

Fac-similé (22) 798 86 85 E-mail: ilo@ilo.org Site internet: www.ilo.org

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Votre réf.

Mr W.H. Bel Deputy Director, Directorate for International Affairs International Affairs Department Ministry of Social Affairs and **Employment** P.O. Box 90801 2509 LV THE HAGUE Pay Bas

18 March 2010

Dear Mr Bel,

I acknowledge receipt of your email of 17 March 2010 requesting confirmation that "the Committee of Experts at its last session in December 2009 has decided to postpone until its next session to deal with the Dutch case of Convention No. 121, considering the complexity of the matter and the number of information contained in the government report sent in on 23 February 2009, the FNV comments and the government report sent to you informally on 15 September 2009 (and formally on 7 October 2009)".

Having consulted the file on Convention No. 121, I can confirm the details concerning the status of the consideration by the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations of the application by the Netherlands of Convention No. 121.

At its 78th session in November-December 2007, the CEACR addressed a Direct Request asking the Government to reply to the questions raised and to supply in 2008 a full report on the Convention. As no reply was received in 2008, the CEACR was not able to consider this case at its 79th session in November-December 2008.

The Government replied to the Direct Request in a letter dated 23 February 2009 signed by the Minister of Social Affairs and Employment. In the course of the International Labour Conference in June 2009, the Office advised the Government to send a full report in order to enable the CEACR to examine the complex and technical issues raised by the case.

A full report on Convention No. 121 was transmitted informally by the Ministry to the Office on 15 September 2009 and formally in a communication dated 7 October 2009.

Due to the complexity of the matter and the volume of the information provided, the Committee was unable to finalize the examination of this case at its session in November-December 2009 and has postponed it to the next session in accordance with its standing practice.

Yours sincerely, For the Director-General:

Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry, Director of the International Labour Standards Department