

Executive Council

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Administrative, Financial and Statutory Matters

(f) Joint Headquarters Committee

1. The Joint Headquarters Committee responsible for dealing with all legal and practical matters relative to the presence of the UNWTO in Spain was established following the conversion of the UNWTO into a specialized agency of the United Nations, and in line with the example of the arrangements that exist for other United Nations agencies in the countries where they are based.
2. The Committee has met four times since its creation in March 2006. The last meeting was held on 4 February 2010 with the participation of representatives of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and the General Secretariat of Tourism as well as of the UNWTO Secretariat.
3. In accordance with the agenda of that meeting, various matters were discussed, such as a new building for the Organization's headquarters, the relations between UNWTO and the Spanish Autonomous Communities, the celebration of the 35th anniversary of the Organization's headquarters in Spain, the security of the headquarters building, and the status and new identity documents of UNWTO staff, including that of their families and of retired officials.
4. The constitution of a joint working group on the issue of a new building for the Organization's headquarters was agreed. This joint working group met on 10 and 29 November 2010 to consider current plans by the Spanish Authorities and office requirements by the UNWTO. There is also on-going work with the Authorities in matters related to physical security of the building, updates to fire protection and general building maintenance.
5. As for the relations between UNWTO and the Spanish Autonomous Communities, it was decided to transmit to the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (with copy to the Spanish General Secretariat of Tourism), on a regular basis and prior to signature, all the agreements between UNWTO and these Communities for their examination. All agreements signed between UNWTO and other Spanish entities are forwarded to the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation as well as to the General Secretariat of Tourism, for their information, as it was done in the past.
6. The new identity documents of UNWTO staff and families were received in August 2010 and it is noted that the quality of these documents has improved. However, the Secretariat is requesting the Spanish Foreign Ministry to include the mention of "diplomatic" on the identity documents issued for the diplomatic staff members as was the case in the previous documents. The Secretariat wishes to thank the Spanish authorities for taking the measures to facilitate border-crossing for officials by transmitting the new identity documents to all relevant institutions.

7. The Secretariat is also following up on the possibility for dependent family members of the staff to work in Spain.
8. The next meeting of the Committee is expected to be held in the course of this year.