

**Italy (ratification: 1981)**

1. The Committee notes the information contained in the Government's reports and the observations submitted by the Italian General Confederation of Labour (CGIL), the Italian Confederation of Workers' Unions (CISL) and the Italian Union of Labour (UIL). It notes with interest the adoption of Decree No. 25 of February 2002 (replacing the relevant provisions in Decree No. 303/1956); Decree No. 66 of 25 February 2000 (revising section VII of Decree No. 626/1994); Decree No. 707 of 10 December 1996 (replacing the relevant provisions of Law No. 245/1963) and Decree No. 345 of 4 August 1999 giving effect to *Articles 1, paragraph (b), 4, 6, paragraphs 2 and 3, 9, paragraphs 1 and 2, 10, paragraph 1, and 11, paragraph 2, of the Convention.*

2. *Article 11, paragraph 1, of the Convention. Prohibition against employment of pregnant women and nursing mothers in work processes involving exposure to benzene.* With reference to its previous comments, the Committee notes in particular that, although new legislation on this subject has been adopted (cf. article 7 of Decree No. 151 of 26 March 2001), national law still provides that pregnant and nursing mothers should not be exposed to work involving the risk to exposure to dangerous chemical agents such as benzene during the period of pregnancy and for *seven months after birth*. The Committee reiterates that this provision of the Convention is intended to protect mothers and children during the whole nursing period, which may often exceed seven months following delivery and that, as a consequence, the prohibition on the employment of nursing mothers should not be limited in time by law. The Committee also notes the observations by the CGIL, CISL and UIL who underscore the need to adjust legislation in this respect. ***The Committee urges the Government to take the necessary measures in a near future to ensure that nursing mothers (irrespective of the length of the nursing period) are not employed in work processes involving exposure to benzene or to products containing benzene and to supply information in its next report on progress achieved in this respect.***

[The Government is asked to reply in detail to the present comments in 2007.]