

PRESS RELEASE

GOVERNING COUNCIL OF UNITED NATIONS COMPENSATION COMMISSION
APPROVES AWARDS OF APPROXIMATELY US\$203.8 MILLION FOR COMPENSATION
AT ITS FIFTY-SECOND SESSION

The Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission, under the Presidency of Ambassador Michael Steiner (Germany), has concluded its fifty-second session today and approved awards of US\$203,804,511.74 for compensation.

The Council elected the Permanent Representative of Romania, Ambassador Doru-Romulus Costea, as a Vice-President of the Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission.

Representatives of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia addressed the fifteen-member Governing Council at its opening plenary meeting.

The Council approved three reports and recommendations of the panels of Commissioners concerning claims from individuals in categories "C" and "D":

Part two of the sixteenth instalment of category "D" claims (claims of individuals for losses over US\$100,000) involved 282 claims filed on behalf of individuals by 22 Governments and two international organizations. Of these, 234 claims filed by 17 Governments and two international organizations were approved by the Council for compensation, with a total award value of US\$105,942,621.02;

Part two of the seventeenth instalment of category "D" claims involved 305 claims filed on behalf of individuals by ten Governments. Of these, 258 claims filed by nine Governments were approved by the Council for compensation, with a total award value of US\$90,039,308.39; and

The second instalment of Palestinian late claims in category "C" (claims of individuals for losses up to US\$100,000) involved 965 claims filed by the Palestinian Authority. Of these, the Panel of Commissioners determined that 406 claims satisfied the threshold eligibility

requirement for review, namely whether the claimants had a full and effective opportunity to file their claim, as set out by the Governing Council. Of these 406 eligible claims, 390 were approved by the Council for compensation, with a total award value of US\$7,822,582.33.

The Council discussed a progress report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Commission. The report addressed the processing of claims and the payment of approved awards.

The Council also discussed the report of the Executive Secretary on the distribution by Governments and international organizations of payments to successful claimants, the transparency of the distribution process, and the return of undistributed funds.

Decisions were also adopted concerning requests made by several Governments for the late-filing of claims and with regard to specific aspects of the claims being submitted by the Government of Kuwait relating to former detainees now determined to be deceased.

The Council decided to hold its next regular session from 29 June – 1 July 2004.

To date, the Commission has awarded compensation of approximately US\$48.2 billion, including the awards approved in the fifty-second session; approximately US\$18.2 billion of the amount awarded has been made available to Governments and international organizations for distribution to successful claimants in all categories of claims.

Further information about the Commission, including the text of Governing Council decisions and reports and recommendations of the panels of Commissioners, can be found on the United Nations Compensation Commission website located at www.uncc.ch.