

PRESS RELEASE

The Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission held a special session today for the purpose of electing a new president and one of the two vice-presidents of the Council. The Council elected the Permanent Representative of Germany, Ambassador Walter Lewalter, as President and the Permanent Representative of Angola, Ambassador João Filipe Martins, as the new Vice-President of the Governing Council. Germany and Angola replace Norway and Mauritius which held the presidency and vice-presidency of the Governing Council for the period 2001-2002. It has been the practice of the Council to elect its president and vice-presidents from the incoming members for a two-year period. The session was presided over by the Vice-President, Ambassador Dimiter Tzantchev Tzantchev, Permanent Representative of Bulgaria, whose Government's membership on the Council continues until the end of 2003.