Minutes

A. Participants

Attendees:

- Mr. Francisco de la Flor Garcia (Spain), Chair
- Mr. Torstein Indrebø (Norway), Vice-chair
- Mr. Alexandre Chachine, on behalf of Vice-chair Alexander Karasevich (Russian Federation)
- Mr. Tamas Korosi (Hungary), Vice-chair
- Mr. Boris Maksijan (Croatia), Vice-chair
- Mr Dan Hooper (United States)
- Mr Michal Drabik, UNECE secretariat
- Ms Charlotte Griffiths, UNECE secretariat
- Mr. Branko Milicevic, UNECE secretariat

Regrets:

- Mr. Tamas Korosi (Hungary), Vice-chair
- Mr. Boris Maksijan (Croatia), Vice-chair

B. Summary of discussions and decisions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with no changes.

2. Preparations for the fourth session on 27-28 March 2017 (programme, participants, speakers, sponsors)

The secretariat shared the list of registered participants (130 by 22 March) and the draft timetable with speakers as at 23 March. Given relatively high number of presenters, the secretariat informed all speakers of the time limitations and prepared bios of speakers to facilitate their introduction by moderators.

There was also a concern that, due to the length of the programme, it would be challenging to finish the meeting in time. The secretariat reiterated the importance of adopting the session report in the room before the end of the workday on 28 March.
An updated timetable is given below.

**Tentative timetable and speakers**

*(As at 23 March 2017)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Agenda item</th>
<th>Speakers/Panelists</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Housekeeping</td>
<td>Mr Branko Milicevic, Secretary, Group of Experts on Gas</td>
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<td>10:05</td>
<td><strong>Item 1: Adoption of the agenda</strong></td>
<td>Mr Francisco de la Flor Garcia, Chair, Group of Experts on Gas</td>
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<td>10:10</td>
<td><strong>Item 2: Opening remarks</strong></td>
<td>Mr Francisco de la Flor Garcia, Chair, Group of Experts on Gas</td>
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<td>Keynote address by H.E. Mr. Abbas Al-Naqi, Secretary General, Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC)</td>
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<td>10:30</td>
<td><strong>Item 3: Election of officers</strong></td>
<td>Mr Branko Milicevic, Secretary, Group of Experts on Gas</td>
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| 10:40  | **Item 5: Methane emissions: a challenge to the sustainability credentials of gas** | **Part I: What do we know about methane emissions?**  
Moderators: Mr Francisco de la Flor Garcia, Chair, Group of Experts on Gas  
Mr Scott Foster, Director, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE  
Panelists: Mr Christophe McGlade, International Energy Agency (IEA)  
Mr Paul Balcombe, Sustainable Gas Institute  
Mr Steve Hamburg, Environmental Defense Fund  
Mr Richard Mattus, UNECE consultant (survey results) |
| 11:30  | Coffee break, in front of Salle XXI             | Sponsored by John Crane/Smiths Group plc                                           |
| 12:00  | **Item 5: Methane emissions: a challenge to the sustainability credentials of gas (continued)** | **Part II : Activities of international organizations and associations**  
Panelists: Mr Andrei Vasilyev, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE  
Mr Jos Dehaeseleer, MARCOGAZ  
Mr Andrea Gerini, NGVA Europe  
Mr Andrew Clifton, SIGTTO  
Mr Dan Hooper, Global Methane Initiative (GMI)  
Mr Phil Swanson, Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)  
Mr Gert Müller-Syring, DBI (tbc)  
Mr Judd Robbert, GERG (tbc) |
| 13:00  | Lunch break                                     |                                                                                   |
| 14:30  | After-lunch coffee, in front of Salle XXI       | Sponsored by John Crane/Smiths Group plc                                           |
| 15:00  | **Item 5: Methane emissions: a challenge to the sustainability credentials of gas (continued)** | **Part III: Case studies**  
Panelists: Ms Ann-Cathrin Vaage, Statoil  
Mr Konstantin Romanov, Gazprom  
Mr Claudio Rodriguez, Enagas |
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<td>10:00</td>
<td>Item 4: Round table on gas supply, transit and demand</td>
<td>Moderator: Mr Torstein Indrebo, Vicechair, Group of Experts on Gas Panelists: Mr Dmitry Sokolov, Gas Exporting Countries Forum Ms Ann-Cathrin Vaage, Statoil Ms Zsuzsana Selesz, DG Energy, European Commission Germany The Netherlands</td>
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<td>11:20 Coffee break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:50</td>
<td>Item 4: Round table on gas supply, transit and demand (continued)</td>
<td>Discussion by all, Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>12:50</td>
<td>Item 6: Activities and priorities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and its Committee on Sustainable Energy</td>
<td>Mr Scott Foster, Director, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE Ms Stefanie Held, Secretary, Committee on Sustainable Energy</td>
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<td>13:00</td>
<td>Lunch break</td>
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<td>15:00</td>
<td>Item 10: Recent developments and medium- and long-term prospects and policies in the gas industry – country updates and activities of international organizations</td>
<td>Moderator: Mr Alexander Karasevich, Vicechair, Group of Experts on Gas Panelists: Mr Wael Abdel Moati, Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) Mr Christophe McGlade, International Energy Agency (IEA) Mr Kaloyan Tsilev, NGVA Europe</td>
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16:00 | **Item 11: Renewal of mandate and work plans for 2014–2017 and 2018–2019** | Mr Alexander Karasevich, Vicechair, Group of Experts on Gas All

17:00 | **Item 12: Preparations for the fifth session** | Mr Alexander Karasevich, Vicechair, Group of Experts on Gas
Mr Branko Milicevic, Secretary, Group of Experts on Gas

17:20 | **Item 13: Other business** | Mr Alexander Karasevich, Vicechair, Group of Experts on Gas

17:40 | **Item 14: Adoption of conclusions and recommendations** | Mr Alexander Karasevich, Vicechair, Group of Experts on Gas

17:50 | **Item 15: Adoption of the report and close of the meeting** | Mr Alexander Karasevich, Vicechair, Group of Experts on Gas

18:00 | Close of the fourth session |

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3. **Update on room documents that will be presented at the session**

The secretariat informed the Bureau on the progress in preparing room documents.

One room document is the Group’s work plan for 2018-2019 that was being discussed and refined by the Bureau since December.

Another room document was prepared for UNECE by DNV GL. There are some copyright issue to be sorted out before this document could be published as a UN publication. The secretariat is in contact with DNV GL.

4. **Discussion of the "Model Framework for Reducing Methane Emissions along the Gas Value Chain"**

The Bureau discussed the Model Framework prepared by the secretariat. It was agreed that the requires more works and that it should at this time be circulated only among the Bureau members.


The Bureau decided that the Group should participate in Astana, although not necessarily in a ‘fossil fuel’ workshop together with coal. Perhaps a better fit would be to organize a workshop together with renewable energy. In this way the Group’s activities on interplay between gas and renewable could gain the needed momentum.

6. **Date of the next Bureau call**

The Bureau decided to meet in person on 23 March in Geneva, before the start of the 4th session.

7. **Any other business**

None.