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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Fifteenth session
Geneva, 28-30 November 2006

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTEENTH SESSION

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 28 November 2006*

Special Focus: Sustainable Energy Policies – The Key to Energy Security

Main issues for discussion:

- Emerging energy security risks and risk mitigation, including issues and prospects in the UNECE region
- Investment and regulation in the electric power sector in the UNECE region
- Global harmonization of energy reserves and resources terminology

* Delegates are requested to complete the attached registration form and transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, if possible at least two weeks prior to the session, either by fax (+41 22 917 0038) or by e-mail (catherine.pierre@unece.org). Prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix opposite the Red Cross Building (a map is attached) for the issuance of an identification badge at least one hour prior to the beginning of the meeting. In case of difficulty, please contact the UNECE secretariat by telephone (internal extension 74140).

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda (ECE/ENERGY/67).
2. Election of Officers/Bureau of the meeting.
3. Implementation of the UNECE Reform and matters arising from the sixty-first session of the Commission related to energy activities (ECE/ENERGY/2006/1).
4. Energy security: emerging energy security risks and risk mitigation, a global overview; report on global energy security and the Caspian Sea Region; and review of the Energy Security Forum (ECE/ENERGY/2006/2 and ECE/ENERGY/2006/3).
5. Energy for sustainable development in the UNECE Region and input to the 2006/2007 cycle of the Commission on Sustainable Development (ECE/ENERGY/2006/11).
6. Global harmonization of energy reserves and resources terminology and review of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Harmonization of Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources Terminology.
7. Panel on regulation and investment in the electricity industry and review of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Electric Power (ECE/ENERGY/2006/4).
8. Mitigating environmental and social consequences of coal production and use and review of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal in Sustainable Development and Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane (ECE/ENERGY/2006/5).
9. Natural gas, today's fuel of choice and overcoming future challenges and review of the Working Party on Gas, related Ad Hoc Groups and the Gas Centre.
10. Energy efficiency, import dependence and climate change and review of the Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project (EE21) and Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation (ECE/ENERGY/2006/6).
11. Update on Regional Advisory Services, including sub-regional activities, in the field of energy.
12. Meeting of the Extended Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy held on 14 December 2005 (ENERGY/2005/6).

13. Programme of work in the field of energy and its biennial evaluation:
 - (a) Evaluation of the programme of work for the 2004-2005 biennium (ECE/ENERGY/2006/9, Annex I);
 - (b) Review of revised Terms of Reference for the Committee (ECE/ENERGY/2006/12, Annex I);
 - (c) Structure of the Committee and its intergovernmental bodies (ECE/ENERGY/2006/8);
 - (d) Programme of work, including subsidiary bodies and the response from the Committee to the Work Plan on ECE Reform” (ECE/ENERGY/2006/9 and ECE/ENERGY/2006/12); and
 - (e) Provisional calendar of meetings for 2007 (ECE/ENERGY/2006/10).
14. Cooperation and coordination with other bodies:
 - (a) Sectoral Committees of the Commission; and
 - (b) Other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the business community.
15. Other business.
16. Adoption of the report of the meeting.

Note: Simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Russian will be provided during the meeting.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

1. In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda (ECE/ENERGY/67). The documents for the session will be published in English, French and Russian and will be posted on the UNECE website as soon as they become available at the following address: <http://www.unece.org/ie/se/com.html>
2. The Committee is expected to adopt the agenda.

Item 2: Election of Officers

3. The Committee should elect a Bureau or confirm/re-elect the existing Bureau.

Item 3: Implementation of the UNECE reform and matters arising from the sixty-first session of the Commission related to energy activities

4. The Committee will be informed about the provisions of the Work Plan on ECE Reform (E/ECE/1434/Rev.1) and decisions adopted thereafter by the Commission at its sixty-first session (21-23 February 2006), which have a bearing on the work of the Committee (ECE/ENERGY/2006/1). Particular attention will be given to the implications of the Work Plan on ECE Reform as they relate to the Committee, notably paragraphs 52 and 53 of E/ECE/1434/Rev.1:

“52. The Committee on Sustainable Energy shall streamline its activities and improve cooperation with other relevant institutions, in particular the IEA and the Energy Charter. This cooperation could take the form of joint activities, MoU, participation of members of other relevant organizations in the activities of the Subprogramme and vice versa.

53. The Committee on Sustainable Energy shall strengthen activities in the fields of energy efficiency, cleaner energy production, energy security and diversification of energy sources, taking into account environmental concerns. Special attention should be given to cooperation with the Committee on Environmental Policy, the Committee on Inland Transport and the Committee on Timber.”

5. The Committee may wish to:
 - (a) Discuss the provisions of the Work Plan on ECE Reform and related decisions addressed to the Committee by the Commission; and
 - (b) Review and approve the revised Terms of Reference of the Committee, under agenda item 13, on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau (ECE/ENERGY/2006/12, Annex I).

Item 4: Energy Security: emerging energy security risks and risk mitigation, a global overview; report on global energy security and the Caspian Sea Region; and review of the Energy Security Forum

6. With a view to enhancing dialogue and promoting the possible convergence of views on energy security issues in the UNECE region, the Committee on Sustainable Energy has addressed the subject on a periodic basis since 1998 through high level meetings, the publication of CD-ROMs and the establishment in 2003 of the UNECE Energy Security Forum (ESF) to better engage the private sector, the energy industries and the financial community on this matter. As part of the ESF initiative, three research papers from leading experts on energy security were commissioned and a number of workshops organized to discuss the conclusions and recommendations of these three papers. Similarly, a report on the contribution of the Caspian Sea Region to mitigating global energy security risks was also prepared, benefiting from various contributions from the countries of the Caspian Sea Region, a high-level meeting and a seminar.

7. This year's Committee session will seek, in three segments, to address the substantive conclusions and recommendations of work undertaken to date on energy security and decide upon on any future programme of work in this area:

- (a) An opening high-level segment will focus on the role of implementing sound sustainable energy policies as a key facilitator of energy security, together with the issues and prospects for energy security in the UNECE region (ECE/ENERGY/2006/2);
- (b) A second segment will address the potential role of the Caspian Sea region in reducing global energy security risks, including conclusions and recommendations for achieving enhanced energy trade and international cooperation in the region (ECE/ENERGY/2006/3); and
- (c) The concluding segment will review the work of the ESF and then invite delegates to discuss and make recommendations on any future intergovernmental activities to be undertaken by the Committee in this area.

8. The Committee on Sustainable Energy may wish to:

- (a) Request the secretariat to issue two publications:
 - Study on Emerging Energy Security Risks and Risk Mitigation in a Global Context;
 - Report on Global Energy Security and the Caspian Sea Region;
- (b) Retain energy security as an agenda item for the Committee to address periodically; and
- (c) Establish a new intergovernmental body, the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Energy Security, to promote a dialogue on selected aspects of energy security with the participation of representatives of governments, the energy industries, international financial community and relevant international organisations (ECE/ENERGY/2006/12, section I and annex II).

9. The Committee should note, however, that the establishment of a new intergovernmental body such as an Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Energy Security would require the abandonment of an existing programme area/element.

Item 5: Energy for sustainable development in the UNECE region and input to the 2006/2007 cycle of the Commission on Sustainable Development

10. The Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourteenth session (CSD-14) in May 2006, undertook a review focusing on identifying constraints and obstacles with respect to implementation in the area of energy, which forms part of a thematic cluster with industrial development, atmosphere/air pollution and climate change. The fifteenth session of the Commission in 2007 will take policy decisions on practical measures and options to expedite implementation in the selected cluster of issues. CSD-14 was dominated by the energy agenda, with discussions focusing on energy security, the impact of oil and gas prices, and the respective roles of renewable energy technologies and fossil fuels. The Committee will be briefed on the discussions and outcomes of both CSD-14 and the UNECE Regional Implementation Meeting held in December 2005 (ECE/AC.25/2005/2 and ECE/AC.25/2005/3).

11. In view of the emphasis on energy during CSD-14, the Committee might wish to discuss and consider what role it could usefully play in the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for CSD-15 (New York, 26 February - 2 March 2007) and CSD-15 itself (New York, 30 April - 11 May 2007) (ECE/ENERGY/2006/11).

Item 6: Global harmonization of energy reserves and resources terminology and review of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Harmonization of Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources Terminology

12. This session will focus on the role of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources (UNFC) as a tool for improved efficiency in the resources sector worldwide. The UNFC is both a harmonisation tool and a simple, functional and universally applicable scheme for classifying and evaluating energy and mineral reserves and resources. Importantly, it allows for a common international understanding.

13. Efficient markets need strong standards. Global markets are consolidating and need global standards. Those of capital and oil are already global and the gas market will follow as liquefied natural gas develops. Much of the hydrocarbons industry has internationalised and will benefit from a common terminology. Non-conventional energy resources are emerging as critical supply sources and some of these resources blur the boundary between minerals and energy. The effect of commonality will assist in dissolving barriers, whether they are governmental, market-related or technical. As a result, the way fossil energy and mineral resources are classified is being reviewed.

14. A panel of speakers will discuss the global and local needs to which resources classifications and definitions must respond within the four principal applications, namely: international energy studies, resource management, business processes, and financial reporting.

15. The Committee will review the activities and future programme of work of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Harmonization of Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources Terminology and also discuss recommendations for the future framework for this body. This could be

continuation as an Ad Hoc Group of Experts or transformation to an alternative, more appropriate UN body in view of the global nature of this activity (ECE/ENERGY/2006/12, section II and annexes III and IV).

Item 7: Panel on regulation and investment in the electricity industry and review of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Electric Power

16. In order to facilitate a debate on the most pressing regulatory and investment issues in the electricity industry in the UNECE region and to select a number of major issues to be proposed for the Committee to focus on in the future programme of work, a panel session will be held on “Regulation and Investment in the Electricity Industry” (ECE/ENERGY/2006/4).

17. Following this panel session the Committee should discuss and decide upon future activities to be undertaken in the area of electric power. The Committee should take note that no activities have been undertaken on this issue since the last session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Electric Power held in November 2003 due to the lack of staff resources (ECE/ENERGY/65, paragraph 38). In view of this and the need to explore all opportunities to implement the Work Plan on ECE Reform, it is proposed that the Committee should consider combining the work of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Electric Power and the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal in Sustainable Development into a group focusing on cleaner electricity production from coal and other fossil fuels (ECE/ENERGY/2006/12, section III and annexes V and VII). Pursuing such an initiative would streamline activities and strengthen the work in the field of cleaner energy production as identified in the Work Plan on ECE Reform.

Item 8: Mitigating environmental and social consequences of coal production and use

18. From the point of view of energy security, coal has the advantage that global coal reserves are large; sources of supplies are diversified; ample supplies are available from politically stable regions; world infrastructure is well developed; new supplies can be easily brought on stream; and coal can be stored. Nonetheless, coal is hindered by environmental concerns, which in the longer run could have implications for energy security. The future share of coal in the energy mix will depend on how quickly existing thermal power plants are refurbished, clean coal technologies can be implemented, and on the future evolution of policy measures on climate change. Opportunities to mitigate the environmental and social consequences of coal use and, in particular, the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions arising from its production and use will be addressed. The discussions will focus on coal mine methane (CMM) capture and use, implementation of cleaner coal technologies, and carbon capture and storage.

19. A background paper (ECE/ENERGY/2006/5) provides an overview of carbon capture and storage technologies, together with an outline of the costs and potential capacity for reducing emissions. Barriers to implementation and the work necessary to overcome them are also considered. There is significant potential for these technologies in the UNECE region, and the paper serves as the basis for further discussion on the role of the UNECE in supporting the interests of its member States in this subject. Pursuing work in this area could also meaningfully

be undertaken by the proposed new group with its focus on cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels (see paragraph 17).

20. The Committee will review the programme of work and future activities of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal in Sustainable Development and Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane (ECE/ENERGY/2006/12, section III and annexes V and VI).

Item 9: Natural gas, today's fuel of choice and overcoming future challenges and review of the Working Party on Gas, related Ad Hoc Groups and the Gas Centre

21. Concerns about the security of supply of natural gas are much less pronounced than for oil. However, natural gas is today's fuel of choice. The rapid growth in natural gas consumption is boosting the import dependence of many UNECE countries. While this may not be a major problem in the short to medium term, meeting demand over the longer term could become a challenge as significant new investment in production and transportation infrastructure will be required. Furthermore, supplies will increasingly have to be transported over longer distances as new production centres are developed in more remote or distant areas of the Russian Federation, the Norwegian shelf, North Africa and the Caspian Sea. These new production centres also involve increasingly difficult and costly production and transportation. Another issue that is continuing to confront governments and the natural gas industry is the opening up and liberalization of natural gas markets. While significant progress has been achieved to date in this area, there are still difficulties that need to be surmounted related to competition, regulation, tariffs and reciprocity. Discussions will therefore focus on overcoming the current challenges facing the gas sector in the UNECE region.

22. The Committee will review the programme of work and future activities of the Working Party on Gas, Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Supply and Use of Gas, and the Gas Centre (ECE/ENERGY/2006/12, section IV).

Item 10: Energy efficiency, import dependence and climate change and review of the Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project (EE21) and Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation

23. Recent international developments have placed greater importance on energy efficiency in most UNECE member countries. As concerns about energy security have re-emerged, energy efficiency figures prominently among the policy options being advocated by decision-makers to address the issue. Rising levels of energy import dependence and the risks of future environmental problems such as climate change are closely related. As highlighted during CSD-14, energy efficiency will contribute increasingly in the coming years to decreasing GHG emissions, whilst at the same time enhancing security of energy supplies. A panel session will discuss this topic.

24. The Committee will be briefed on the current status of the EE21 Project, which has evolved as a project initially focusing on capacity building, normative frameworks and development of policy reforms to one addressing market formation, project development and

promotion of investment. The new phase of the EE21 Project (2006-2009) will respond to the existing obstacles encountered in financing energy efficiency projects by facilitating the creation of a dedicated energy efficiency investment fund based on a public-private partnership and supported by the EE21 Project. A document "Financing Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation - Project Document Summary" has been prepared for this Committee session (ECE/ENERGY/2006/6).

25. The Committee will review the activities and future programme of work of the Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project and the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation. The Committee will also need to approve the EE21 Project Plan 2006-2009. Financing Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation - Project Document Summary

Item 11: Update on Regional Advisory Services, including sub-regional activities, in the field of energy

26. The Commission has repeatedly reaffirmed the importance of UNECE's operational and technical assistance as well as sub-regional activities, particularly for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia (EECCA). Hence, the Committee will review UNECE's activities delivered through the Regional Advisory Services and associated extrabudgetary projects.

Item 12: Meeting of the Extended Bureau of the Committee, 14 December 2005

27. The Bureau of the Committee as well as members of the Bureaux of its subsidiary bodies met on 14 December 2005 (ENERGY/2005/6). The extended Bureau discussed the status of the UNECE reform process; received an update on CSD-14 with its focus on energy for sustainable development; reviewed new and existing activities undertaken under the Committee; discussed the planning, preparations, scheduling and major topics to be addressed at the 2006 annual session of the Committee; and reviewed the Strategic Framework 2008-2009 for the sustainable energy programme.

28. The Committee is invited to comment on the issues raised at the meeting of the extended Bureau.

Item 13: UNECE programme of work in the field of energy and its biennial evaluation

29. The Committee will consider the evaluation of the implementation of its Programme of Work for the biennium 2004-2005 (ECE/ENERGY/2006/9, Annex I). The Committee should take into account, as appropriate, the results of this biennial evaluation when deciding upon its future activities.

30. The Committee should review and adopt its programme of work for 2007-2008, including that of its subsidiary bodies, on the basis of three notes prepared by the secretariat (ECE/ENERGY/2006/8, ECE/ENERGY/2006/9 and ECE/ENERGY/2006/12).

31. The Committee will be invited to consider and adopt its revised Terms of Reference (ECE/ENERGY/2006/12, Annex I). Once the Committee has approved the Terms of Reference, the Executive Committee will then be invited to approve them.

32. The Committee should review the structure of the Committee and its intergovernmental bodies (ENERGY/2006/8).

33. The Committee should review the proposals regarding its subsidiary bodies in response to the Work Plan on ECE Reform (ECE/ENERGY/2006/12).

34. The Committee should approve the provisional calendar of meetings for 2007 (ECE/ENERGY/2006/10).

Item 14: Cooperation and coordination with other bodies

35. The Committee will be briefed on the activities of common interest of other Sectoral Committees and on cooperation with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including the business community.

Item 15: Other business

36. At the time the provisional agenda was prepared, there were no issues to be raised under this item.

Item 16: Adoption of the report of the meeting

37. In accordance with the recommendations of the Commission, the meeting report will be short, business-like, and focus mainly on conclusions and decisions. Further, in agreement with the decision of the Committee taken at its seventh session, the report will be drafted in consultation with members of the Bureau and approved by it, before being circulated to member countries.

ANNEX I

COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
Fifteenth session, 28-30 November 2006

Sustainable Energy Policies – The Key to Energy Security

TIMETABLE

Tuesday 28 November

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	<i>Agenda items 1, 2 & 4, including Special Session on Energy Security</i>
3 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Agenda items 5 & 6
6 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.	Cocktail Reception for all participants, 8 th floor

Wednesday 29 November

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	<i>Special Panel Session on Regulation and Investment in the Electricity Industry: Agenda item 7</i>
3 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Agenda items 8 & 9

Thursday 30 November

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Agenda items 3, 10 – 16 (Items 3 & 13 will be taken together)
1 p.m.	Close of Meeting

ANNEX II

COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY Fifteenth session, 28-30 November 2006

REGISTRATION FORM

In view of the enhanced security arrangements for access to the Palais des Nations, delegations are asked to inform the secretariat (UNECE Sustainable Energy Division) of their exact composition. Access to the Palais des Nations will be granted only to those in possession of an identity card issued by the Safety and Security Section, Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix opposite the Red Cross Building (a map is attached) for the issuance of an identification badge at least one hour prior to the beginning of the meeting. In case of difficulty, please contact the UNECE secretariat by telephone (internal extension 74140 / 75721).

Each delegate attending the session is therefore urged, if possible, to register at least two weeks before the session commences.

To gain initial entry to the Palais, delegates should bring their passport and their registration form to confirm identity. A note will be sent to all registrants in the weeks prior the meeting and will include a detailed time schedule, the location within the Palais where the meeting will be held and other logistical information.

Delegates should complete the attached registration form and return it by fax (+41 22 917 0038) or e-mail (charlotte.griffiths@unece.org or catherine.pierre@unece.org) to:

Ms. Charlotte Griffiths
Secretary, Committee on Sustainable Energy
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UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA *Please Print*

Conference Registration Form

Date

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Title of the Conference

Committee on Sustainable Energy, 15th Session, 28-30 November 2006

Delegation/Participant of Country, Organisation or Agency

Participant

Family Name

First Name

Mr.

Mrs.

Ms. Date Of Birth / / (DD/MM/YYYY)

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ANNEX II

MAP OF THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

