

Conference Call of the Bureau of the UNECE Group of Experts on Gas

4 July 2016, 10:30 -12:00

Minutes

A. Participants

Attendees:

- Mr. Torstein Indrebø (Norway)
- Mr. Tamas Korosi (Hungary)
- Mr. Boris Maksijan (Croatia)
- Mr. Alexander Chachine, representing Vice-chair Alexander Karasevich
- Mr. David Elzinga, Secretary of the Group of Experts on Gas, Sustainable Energy Division

Regrets:

- Ms. Lucía Mora Ruiloba
- Mr. Francisco de la Flor Garcia
- Mr. Alexander Karasevich (Russian Federation) – represented by Mr. Alexander Chachine

B. Summary of discussions and decisions

1. Adoption of the Agenda

- Agenda adopted as previously circulated.
- Bureau agreed for the UNECE secretariat to chair the call due to the last minute unavailability of Group of Experts on Gas (GEG) chair.

2. Introductions - brief introduction by each bureau member

- Each bureau member gave a brief introduction of their expertise and experience
- An updated list of bureau member contact information will be sent out (attached to email containing these minutes)

3. Work plan extension to be discussed at 3rd Session GEG meeting in April

- Significant discussion was held point by point to review the comments offered by both Mr. Indrebø and Mr. Karasevich.
- As agreed at the Third session of GEG, the changes to the work plan largely reflect an extension of the existing work plan.
- The bureau took the opportunity to make some additional changes to the work plan in order to increase the clarity of the efforts. None of the proposed changes were considered significant in nature, but do improve the work plan.

- The work plan will now be sent out to the GEG community to review and provide comment for minor corrections. The bureau was clear that this is not a time to make major changes to the work plan.

4. **Review of task forces**

- The UNECE secretariat provided a very brief overview of the task forces and reflected the bilateral meetings that have been held since the Third Session with the Chair.

a) Best Practice Guidance in Managing Methane Emissions in the Gas Value Chain

- Communicated the work on the survey that has been developed by the UNECE secretariat, reflecting the objectives and status.
- Agreed to send out the draft survey to the bureau for review when it is sent to other Methane Management stakeholders.

b) Best Policy Practices on the Role of Natural Gas in Significantly Increasing the Uptake of Renewable Energy in the ECE Region and Helping Achieve the Objective of Access to Energy for All in the ECE Region

- Communicated that Total has accepted the role of chair for this task force, to be started in the September 2016 timeframe.
- Little work will be done until the new chair arrives.

c) Best Practice Policy Guidance for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)

- Communicated that the LNG Trends paper will be finalized in the coming month.
- Representing Mr. Alexander Karasevich, Mr. Alexander Chachine commented that there are some outstanding items from the last taskforce meeting of this task force, including from the UNECE secretariat.
- The UNECE secretariat replied that it is a challenge to complete efforts with existing resource allocations. Ongoing effort will continue.

d) Removing Barriers to the Use of Natural Gas as a Transportation Fuel

- Communicated the plan to finalise the document presented at the Third session, but to do so removing the marine section since it is not well developed.
- Mr. Indrebo has offered to contact DNV GL since they have done significant work in the marine space.
- Mr. Maksijan expressed interest in work in this area.

5. **Administrative matters:**

- Mandate and work plan approval process for 2018 - 2019
 - UNECE secretariat communicated the need for an electronic/written approval process due to the timing of the Committee on Sustainable Energy meetings over the next year, relative to the GEG meetings.
 - There was open support for this process, but Mr. Chachine expressed concern as to whether this was possible under UN rules.

- UNECE secretariat will consult internally within the UN and propose a process for consideration by the bureau.

6. Any Other Business

- Bureau members expressed a desire to determine how to better communicate the messages of the GEG
 - There is significant value in this effort as it is the main place in the UN where there is an open and pragmatic discussion on Natural Gas
 - Want to develop a strategy and plan to promote the work and prepare a small report on how we can do better.
 - There is a desire to invite new stakeholders, engage with other countries including developing connections with other technical organization – ie. – standards committees. This could lead to more relevant work that could be done by the GEG.
 - UNECE Secretariat supports this, but will need support from bureau to deliver this along with other substantive items.
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