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ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫЕ НАЦИИ

ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ
ДЛЯ ЕВРОПЫ

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE

Telegram: UNATIONS, GENÈVE
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Palais des Nations, Room 380
CH-1211 GENEVA 10

25 November 2005

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to the sixteenth annual session of the Working Party on Gas, which will be held on 24 and 25 January 2006 at the Palais des Nations, Geneva.

In light of the recent changes in the European institutional and political landscape, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is currently undergoing a comprehensive review of its role, mandate and functions. The aim of this exercise is to streamline the work of the UNECE and to focus its activities in areas where it has a clear comparative advantage over other international organizations working in the ECE region. The secretariat will inform delegations of the results of this restructuring and of the consequences it will have on the activities in the field of sustainable energy and natural gas in particular.

As well, we plan to inform you on the work carried out under the auspices of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, in particular of the outcome of the meetings and seminars held by the Working Party on Gas, the Gas Centre, Energy Efficiency-21 project, Energy Security Forum, Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Harmonization of Energy Reserves and Resources Terminology and others.

Delegations will be invited to briefly review gas industry developments in their countries, covering topics on production, reserves, environmental policies, conservation programmes, forecasts of gas supply and consumption as well as information on major gas projects and gas market liberalization.

The Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply and Use of Gas will hold its seventh session on Thursday, January 26, after the Working Party on Gas session. It will discuss projects currently underway in this Group, such as "Diagnostics of gas transportation lines and risk management", "Technological standards and norms required for design and operation of NGV filling stations" and "Gas leakages". We hope that you will be able to attend this session as well.



In the afternoon of the first day of the session (Tuesday, 24 January), there will be a Round Table organized on natural gas and electric power (“Gas to Power”). In order to stimulate debate, a panel discussion on the issue will be held. The delegates will have the opportunity to hear the views of the panellists and to take part in the open discussion that will follow the presentations. The Round Table is scheduled to begin at 3:00 p.m. and will continue until 6 p.m.

The Working Party will also review activities and discuss projects in the field of gas currently underway by other international organisations.

If you plan to make a presentation using PC (“Power Point”), please send it in advance to the secretariat (preferably, not later than 10 days prior to the meeting) so that we could download your file and prepare it for the computer projector.

The Chairman of the Working Party on Gas, Mr. Ferdinand de Lichtervelde invites delegates to a reception, which will take place in the evening of the first day of the session, on January 24.

I would like to underline the importance that I attach to your participation as well as that of your colleagues in the above-mentioned sessions. Please note that there is no conference fee for this event. At the same time, the cost of attendance is covered by the participants. Kindly note you may wish to use this letter for the purpose of obtaining a visa to attend the meeting.

In view of the new security arrangements in the Palais des Nations, please complete and return the Conference Registration Form attached to the last page of the agenda to our office by telefax: +41 22 - 917 0038. Should you require any additional information, please contact my colleague Mr. Alexandre Chachine, Tel. +41 22 - 917 2451 (alexandre.chachine@unece.org).

I look forward to your participation, collaboration and continued support.

Best wishes for the forthcoming festive season,

Yours sincerely

George Kowalski
Director, Industrial Restructuring,
Energy and Enterprise Development Division