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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Working Party on Gas

Nineteenth session
Geneva, 20-21 January 2009

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE NINETEENTH SESSION

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 20 January 2009*

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Underground gas storage in the UNECE region
3. Current state and prospects of liquefied natural gas in the UNECE region

* New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the registration form, which is available from the website of the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division (<http://www.unece.org/ie/>), and transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, if possible, at least two weeks prior to the session – namely, by **6 January 2009** – either by fax (+41 22 917 0038) or by e-mail (catherine.pierre@unece.org). Delegates are requested to present themselves at least one and a half hours prior to the start of the meeting 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 (see the map on the Energy Division's web site), for the issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone (internal extension 74140 or 75976).

4. Impact of the liberalization of the natural gas markets on gas demand and prices
5. Matters arising from the seventeenth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy related to the Working Party on Gas
6. Review of the activities of other subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy
7. Current developments and medium- and long-term prospects and policies in the gas industry, including trade of gas:
 - (a) Review of the gas situation and prospects in the UNECE region
 - (b) Blue Corridor and other projects on the use of gaseous fuels for transportation
 - (c) New developments in the European and world market of natural gas vehicles (NGVs)
 - (d) Other issues of interest of the gas industry in the UNECE region
8. Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply and Use of Gas
9. Overview of the activities of other international organizations in the field of gas
10. Future activities of the Working Party:
 - (a) Programme of work for 2009-2012
 - (b) Provisional calendar of meetings for 2010.
11. Other business
12. 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 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/WP.3/2009/1).

Item 2: Underground gas storage in the UNECE region

2. As a follow-up to the decision of the eighteenth session of the Working Party on Gas to launch an update of its initial study on underground gas storage (UGS) in Europe and Central Asia, completed in 1999, and the intensive work on that project of the related UNECE expert group in the course of 2008, a half-day Round table on UGS in the UNECE region will take place in the morning of 20 January 2009. Leading experts on UGS are invited to take part in this event.

3. After the Round Table, the terms of reference for the update of the UNECE study on UGS in Europe and Central Asia will be discussed and proposed for adoption.
(ECE/ENERGY/WP.3/2009/3)

Item 3: Current state and prospects of liquefied natural gas in the UNECE region

4. The Working Party on Gas decided at its eighteenth session to launch a study on the current state and prospects of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in the UNECE region. Following that decision a UNECE expert group was established and substantial progress in the preparation of the project has been achieved during 2008. To inform the meeting of the most pressing issues regarding the LNG industry in the region as well as to promote the study, a half-day Round table on the current state and prospects of LNG in the UNECE region will take place in the afternoon of 20 January 2009. A group of reputed experts on LNG will form the panel on this major industry issue.

5. After the Round Table, the terms of reference for the study will be discussed and proposed for adoption. (ECE/ENERGY/WP.3/2009/4)

Item 4: Impact of the liberalization of the natural gas markets on gas demand and prices

6. The secretariat and representatives of Gazprom-Promgaz and Eurogas will update the meeting on the progress of this activity.

Item 5: Matters arising from the seventeenth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy related to the Working party on Gas

7. The Working Party on Gas will be informed about the decisions of the seventeenth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy related to gas activities
(ECE/ENERGY/2009/2).

Item 6: Review of the activities of other subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

8. The secretariat will inform delegations of the progress achieved in the implementation of the work programme of other subsidiary bodies and programmes of the Committee on Sustainable Energy. In particular, presentations will be made on the activities of the Gas Centre, Energy Efficiency 21 project, energy security, harmonization of fossil energy and mineral

resources terminology, and coalmine methane. Energy security activities could be of particular interest to the Working Party on Gas and its future programme of work in the light of the decision taken at its eighteenth session in 2008 to contribute to the ongoing energy security study of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

Item 7: Current developments and medium- and long-term prospects and policies in the gas industry, including trade of gas

9. Representatives of UNECE Governments, gas companies and organizations will be invited to make statements and present preliminary results of the gas industry and gas market operations in 2008 in their countries, addressing topics such as production, reserves, availability of domestic production, environmental policies, safety issues and other issues which have an impact on gas industry operations and practices. Delegations are requested to make available copies of their statements in one of the UNECE working languages (English, French, Russian) for distribution to other delegations, and also to send in advance electronic versions of their presentations to the secretariat.

10. Representatives of Gazprom (Russian Federation) and other companies are invited to report on developments with regard to progress on the Blue Corridor project, aimed at using natural gas instead of diesel as fuel in international freight and passenger traffic.

11. Mr. Jeffrey Seisler (Clean Fuel Consulting) will present an overview of NGV world market developments.

12. Presentations on other technical and economic issues of interest for the gas industry in the UNECE region are also invited.

Item 8: Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply and Use of Gas

13. Delegations will be informed of the work carried out by the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply and Use of Gas and possible options on its future work will be examined.

Item 9: Overview of the activities of other international organizations in the field of gas

14. International governmental and non-governmental organizations, public and private institutions and organizations will make presentations on their activities related to natural gas.

Item 10: Future activities of the Working Party

15. The Working Party will consider its programme of work for 2009-2012 (ECE/ENERGY/WP.3/2009/6) and its calendar of meetings for 2010 (ECE/ENERGY/WP.3/2009/5).

Item 11: Other business

16. Delegations may wish to raise any other points relevant to the meeting. At the time the provisional agenda was prepared, there were no issues to be raised under this item.

Item 12: Adoption of the report

17. The Working Party will adopt its report on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.
