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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Working Party on Gas**Twenty-First session**

Geneva, 18-19 January 2011

Annotated Provisional Agenda for the twenty-first session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 18 January 2011*

I. Provisional Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Development of efficient mechanisms of the natural gas market regulation in the UNECE region.
3. Impact of the liberalization of the natural gas markets on gas demand and prices.
4. Use of Gas in Transport.
5. Current state and prospects of liquefied natural gas in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe.
6. Underground gas storage in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe.
7. Matters arising from the nineteenth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy related to the Working Party on Gas.

* 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 4 January 2011 – either by fax (+41 22 917 0038) or by e-mail (liliane.mauranne@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 72446 or 74140).

8. Review of the activities of other subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.
9. 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 region of the Economic Commission for Europe;
 - (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 region of the Economic Commission for Europe.
10. Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply and Use of Gas.
11. Overview of the activities of other international organizations in the field of gas.
12. Future activities of the Working Party:
 - (a) Programme of work for 2011-2014;
 - (b) Provisional calendar of meetings for 2012.
13. Other business.
14. 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.3/2011/1).

Item 2 Development of efficient mechanisms of the natural gas market regulation in the UNECE region

2. As a follow-up to the decision of the twentieth session of the Working Party on Gas (ECE/ENERGY/WP.3/2010/2, XII, 35(b)) to undertake a study on Development of efficient mechanisms of the natural gas market regulation in the UNECE region, a Round table on this important subject will take place in the morning of 18 January 2010. Leading experts on natural gas markets and related regulation are invited to take part in this event.

Item 3 Impact of the liberalization of the natural gas markets on gas demand and prices

3. The Working Party has just completed a study on the Impact of the liberalization of the natural gas markets on gas demand and prices in the ECE region: gas savings to reduce

natural gas demand and enhance energy security. The related ECE expert group, formally established in 2009 and composed of 25 experts from 14 UNECE member-countries, delivered to the UNECE secretariat the final copy of the study ready for editing and publishing. One or more representatives of this UNECE expert group will make a detailed presentation of results of the study.

Item 4 Use of gas in transport

4. Following the decision of the twentieth session of the Working Party to launch a study on Use of gas in transport (ECE/ENERGY/WP.3/2010/2, VIII, 29(c)), a Round table on Use of gas in transport will be organized on 18 January 2011. Leading experts on use of gas in transport are invited to take part in this event.

Item 5 Current state and prospects of liquefied natural gas in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe

5. The UNECE expert group on the UNECE study on the current state and prospects of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in the ECE region will report on the progress made and present the key results in the morning of 19 January 2011. The UNECE expert group, following related decision of the eighteenth session of the Working Party on Gas an ECE expert, will share with the delegates the key issues regarding the LNG industry in the region. A group of reputed experts on LNG will take part in the report.

Item 6 Underground gas storage in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe

6. Relying on the comprehensive work that UNECE expert group on underground gas storage undertook between 2008 and 2010 and as a follow-up to the decision of the eighteenth session of the Working Party to launch an update of its initial study on underground gas storage (UGS) in Europe and Central Asia, one or more representatives of the UNECE group of experts will report on the progress made and expected next steps on 19 January 2011.

Item 7 Matters arising from the nineteenth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy related to the Working Party on Gas

7. The Working Party will be informed about the decisions of the nineteenth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy related to gas activities (ECE/ENERGY/84).

Item 8 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, clean electricity production, harmonization of fossil energy and mineral resources terminology, and coalmine methane. Given the substantial progress made on the ECE energy security project

and the decision taken at the eighteenth session of the Working Party on Gas in 2008 to contribute to that ongoing study, the best ways to involve ECE member countries and natural gas companies in its future activities will continue to be discussed.

Item 9
Current developments and medium- and long-term prospects and policies in the gas industry, including trade of gas

9. Representatives of ECE Governments, gas companies and organizations will be invited to make statements and present preliminary results of the gas industry and gas market operations in 2010 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 ECE working languages (English, French and 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. Presentations on NGV world market developments are invited, and on other technical and economic issues of interest for the gas industry in the ECE region.

Item 10
Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply and Use of Gas

12. Delegations will be informed of the work carried out by the Ad Hoc Group of Experts and, as a part of the regular exercise, possible options on its future work will be examined.

Item 11
Overview of the activities of other international organizations in the field of gas

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

Item 12
Future activities of the Working Party

14. The Working Party will consider its programme of work for 2011-2014 (ECE/ENERGY/WP.3/2011/4) and its calendar of meetings for 2011 (ECE/ENERGY/WP.3/2011/3).

Item 13
Other business

15. 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 14
Adoption of the report

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