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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Working Party on Gas

Twenty-Third session
Geneva, 22 January 2013

Annotated provisional agenda for the twenty-third session*

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 22 January 2013**

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Natural gas markets in the UNECE region: key issues and trends – Round Table.
4. Matters arising from the twenty-first session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the on-going informal consultations on the energy sub-programme related to the Working Party on Gas.
5. Use of gas in transport.
6. Current state and prospects of liquefied natural gas in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe.

* This document has been submitted after the official documentation deadline due to processing delays.

** 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, before 9 January 2013 – either by fax (+41 22 917 0038) or by e-mail (liliane.mauranne@unece.org). Delegates are requested to present themselves at least one hour 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).

7. Underground gas storage in Europe and Central Asia.
8. Review of the work of the UNECE Gas Centre
9. Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the supply and use of gas.
10. Review of the activities of other subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.
11. Recent 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) New developments in the European and world market of natural gas vehicles (NGVs) - Blue Corridor and other projects.
12. Overview of the activities of other international organizations in the field of gas.
13. Future activities of the Working Party:
 - (a) Programme of work for 2013-2016;
 - (b) Provisional calendar of meetings for 2013.
14. Other business.
15. Dates of next meeting.
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 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.3/2013/1).

Item 2: Election of officers

2. At its twenty-second session in January 2012 the Working Party on Gas re-elected its Bureau for a two-year term as follows: Mr. Alexander Karasevich (Russian Federation), Chairman; Mr. Tamas Korosi (Hungary), Mr. Gilles-Henri Joffre (France), Mr. Gheorghe Radu (Romania) and Mr. Francisco de la Flor Garcia (Spain), Vice-Chairmen.

Item 3: Natural gas markets in the UNECE region: key issues and trends – Round Table

3. Leading experts from the UNECE member-governments, gas industry and national regulatory bodies will be invited to address the key issues and trends in the natural gas markets in the region. Competitiveness of natural gas, production and consumption trends, investment challenges and changing market structure will be among the main topics of interest of the meeting participants.

Item 4: Matters arising from the twenty-first session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the on-going informal consultations on the energy sub-programme related to the Working Party on Gas

4. The secretariat will report on the decisions of the Committee at its twenty-first session (28 - 30 November 2012) and implications, if any, of the on-going informal consultations on the energy sub-programme for the Working Party on Gas.

Item 5: Use of gas in transport

5. Authors of the joint UNECE-International Gas Union study on use of gas in transport (under the title Natural Gas Vehicles and submitted to the UNECE secretariat in August 2012) will be invited to present the main findings of the study.

6. The UNECE secretariat will provide in advance of the meeting all UNECE member-countries with the electronic copy of the report for their comments and suggestions.

Item 6: Current state and prospects of liquefied natural gas in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe

7. Authors of the UNECE study on current state and prospects of liquefied natural gas in the region of the Economic Commission of Europe will be invited to present the draft report and its main conclusions and recommendations.

Item 7: Underground Gas Storage in Europe and central Asia

8. The expert group on the UNECE study on Underground Gas Storage in Europe and central Asia will be invited to present the preliminary results of the study.

9. The secretariat will provide in advance of the meeting all UNECE member-countries with the electronic copy of the draft report for their comments and suggestions.

Item 8: Review of the work of the UNECE Gas Centre

10. Bearing in mind that the mandate for the UNECE Gas Centre is included in the Terms of Reference for the Working Party on Gas (ECE/EX/2006/L.22, pages 2 and 13-14), a representative of the Board of the Gas Centre or the secretariat will report on the work of the Gas Centre in previous 12 months.

11. The UNECE secretariat will provide in advance of the meeting all UNECE member-countries with the electronic copy of the Gas Centre work report for their comments.

Item 9: Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply and Use of Gas

12. The secretariat will briefly report on the status of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply and Use of Gas.

Item 10: Review of the activities of other subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

13. The secretariat will report on the work of other subsidiary intergovernmental bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy: the Energy Efficiency 21 programme, clean electricity production, fossil energy and mineral resources classification, Global energy efficiency and coal mine methane as well as on the results achieved in the regional advisory activities.

Item 11: Recent developments and medium- and long-term prospects and policies in the gas industry, including trade of gas

14. Representatives of UNECE Governments, gas companies and organizations will be invited to present their countries' gas industry operations and condition in 2012. National representatives are kindly requested to provide in advance electronic versions of any presentations to the secretariat in one of the UNECE three working languages (English, French, or Russian).

15. Representatives of relevant companies are invited to report on developments with regards to trends in the use of gas in transport in the UNECE region as well as in the world including the Blue Corridor and similar projects.

Item 12: Overview of the activities of other international organizations in the field of gas

16. International governmental and non-governmental organizations will be invited to present their activities in the field of natural gas in 2011.

Item 13: Future activities of the Working Party

17. The Working Party will consider its future programme of work and its calendar of meetings for 2013 (ECE/ENERGY/WP.3/2013/3). Bearing in mind the on-going review process by the UNECE member-countries of the future status of the Working Party on Gas, the secretariat will not prepare an official document on the matter. In case that the member-countries reach a consensus between the time of this document and the meeting, delegates will be invited to present their comments on the proposed structure and programme of the Working Party on Gas.

Item 14: Other business

18. Delegations may wish to raise any other matter relevant to the meeting. At the time when the provisional agenda was prepared, there were no issues communicated to the secretariat under this item.

Item 15: Dates of next meeting

19. The twenty-fourth session of the Working Party on Gas will be held from 21 to 22 January 2014.

Item 16: Adoption of the report

20. The Working Party will adopt its report on the basis of the Chairman's summary and a corresponding draft prepared by the secretariat. If member countries agree to revised guidelines on procedures and practices for UNECE bodies, the procedure for adoption of the report will be aligned with that agreement.
