

---

30 March 2009

Original: ENGLISH

---

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY**

Working Party on Gas

**First expert meeting on the UNECE Study on “Impact of the liberalization of the natural gas markets on gas demand and prices in the UNECE region: gas saving to reduce natural gas demand and enhance energy security”**

Moscow, 26 March 2009

**REPORT OF THE MEETING**

**I. INTRODUCTION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS** (Agenda item 1)

1. The first expert meeting on the UNECE Study on “Impact of the liberalization of the natural gas markets on gas demand and prices in the UNECE region: gas saving to reduce natural gas demand and enhance energy security” took place on 26 March 2009 at the Offices of OAO Gazprom-Promgaz, Nametskina 6, Moscow, Russian Federation.

2. The Meeting was attended by 21 representatives from the following 11 UNECE member States: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Romania, Russian Federation, and Serbia.

3. The following inter-governmental, and other international organizations, took part in the Meeting: Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the European Commission.

4. The Chairman of UNECE Working Party on Gas, Mr. A. Karasevich, was elected Chairman of the meeting and Mr. A. Zorya, Deputy General Director of OAO Gazprom-Promgaz was elected as Chairman of the Bureau of the Study. Two representatives of the UNECE secretariat were in attendance.

**II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA** (Agenda item 2)

5. The provisional agenda was adopted.

**III. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY ON GAS RELATED TO ACTIVITIES RELATED TO LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS**  
(Agenda item 3)

6. The UNECE secretariat reported on the outcome of the nineteenth session of the Working Party on Gas, which was held on 20 and 21 January 2009 and attended by 101 representatives from the UNECE member-states as well as representatives of Egypt and Japan who participated under Article 11 of the Commission's Terms of Reference, which took the following decision, among others, regarding the agenda item 4: "Impact of the liberalization of the natural gas markets on gas demand and prices":

"c) the meeting decided to revise the title of the study to read: Impact of the liberalization of the natural gas markets on gas demand and prices in the UNECE region: gas saving to reduce natural gas demand and enhance energy security. The study will thus also examine the link between efficient gas pricing as a consequence of liberalization and effective gas use and their possible relevance for increasing gas supplies from the Russian Federation and countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States."

**IV. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE LAUNCH OF THE UNECE STUDY ON "IMPACT OF THE LIBERALIZATION OF THE NATURAL GAS MARKETS ON GAS DEMAND AND PRICES IN THE UNECE REGION: GAS SAVING TO REDUCE NATURAL GAS DEMAND AND ENHANCE ENERGY SECURITY"** (Agenda item 4)

7. The Chairman of the Bureau of the Study, Mr. A. Zorya made introductory presentation on the study on the "Impact of the liberalization of the natural gas markets on gas demand and prices".

8. Participants of the meeting accepted the Study structure as follows:

- Chapter 1: Structure of gas market and pricing policy;
- Chapter 2: Impact of liberalization of natural gas markets on gas demand, prices and improvement of efficiency ;
- Chapter 3: Liberalization and security of natural gas supply;
- Chapter 4: Natural gas saving to reduce natural gas demand to enhance energy security.

9. During the discussion, participants decided that the draft questionnaire presented by OAO Gazprom-Promgaz at of the nineteenth session of UNECE Working Party on Gas in January 2009, should be refined taking into account the specific demands of each chapter of the study in sufficient details and then distributed it by UNECE secretariat.

10. The participants believed that the Study might be an important check for the results of the ongoing liberalization of gas and energy markets in the UNECE region. Also it was stressed that was worth to analyse whether the sizeable structural changes which have been implemented in the gas markets resulted in desired outcomes for consumers such as better conditions of gas supply in terms of price (cheaper), environment (savings, reduced greenhouse gas emission), and security of supply (lower physical and economic risk).

11. It was pointed out that the liberalisation was at the core of the energy agenda of the European Union. Therefore it was deemed essential that the subject would be well understood including its advantages and drawbacks. The participants requested that the Study report should compare best practices in this respect from numerous countries in the UNECE region.

## **V. ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE STUDY** (Agenda item 5)

12. The meeting elected the following Heads of chapters:

- Chapter 1: Mr. Alain Tournebise (GdF-Suez, France);
- Chapter 2: Mr. Helmer Horlings (N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie, Netherlands);
- Chapter 3: Mr. Jiri Filippi (Ministry of Industry and Trade of Czech Republic);
- Chapter 4: Mr. Gheorghe Radu (Romgaz, Romania) and Mr. Patrice Dreiski (OSCE)

## **VI. ADOPTION OF CALENDAR** (Agenda item 6)

13. It was decided that the next meeting of experts on the Study on “Impact of the liberalization of the natural gas markets on gas demand and prices in the UNECE region: gas saving to reduce natural gas demand and enhance energy security” will take place in October 2009 in Moscow, Russian Federation within the framework of the international conference ENEFWEEK 2009.

## **VII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT** (Agenda item 7)

14. The expert group adopted the report of its first meeting session on 26 March 2009.

**VIII. OTHER BUSINESS** (Agenda item 8)

15. There was no other business to consider.

\*\*\*\*\*