

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Working Party on Gas

Fourth Meeting of the Group of Experts on the UNECE
Study on Current Status and Prospects for Liquefied Natural
Gas (LNG) in the UNECE region

Madrid, 3 December 2009

REPORT OF THE MEETING

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

1. The fourth meeting of the Group of Experts on the UNECE Study on Current Status and Prospects for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) in the UNECE region” was held on 3 December 2009. It was attended by representatives of Belgium, Italy, Netherlands, Spain and United States of America.
2. Representatives of Enagas (Spain) and the secretariat opened the meeting. Mr. Francisco de la Flor Garcia (Enagas, Spain) was elected Chairman of the meeting.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda item 2)

3. The agenda was adopted.

III. WORK IN PROGRESS ON THE UNECE STUDY ON CURRENT STATUS AND PROSPECTS FOR LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS (LNG) IN THE UNECE REGION (Agenda item 3)

4. The heads of five chapters provided detailed information on the progress made so far in carrying out the Study following the decision taken at the eighteenth session of the Working Party on Gas, held in January 2008.
5. Given the substantial progress made on carrying out the study, the participants agreed that a draft version would be presented on 19 January 2010 to the twentieth session of the Working Party on Gas.
6. Delegations requested the secretariat to pursue contacts with the LNG producing countries with a view to organizing a meeting of the UNECE Group of Experts with those countries during the first quarter of 2010 i.e. once the first draft of the study is completed Qatar was suggested as a possible location for such a meeting. The other possible venue was 18-21 April 2010 at Oran, Algeria on the occasion of the sixteenth International Conference and

Exhibition on Liquefied Natural Gas. Finally, participants suggested that the possibility that EGAS from Cairo, Egypt could host such a meeting should also be kept open.

IV. UPDATE ON THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE STUDY AND DISTRIBUTION OF TASKS AMONG NEW PARTICIPANTS (Agenda item 4)

7. While no new proposals were presented for the election of officers of the Study, delegations requested Mr. B. Schlesinger (United States of America) to solicit the possible participation of the United States Energy Information Agency in the project.

8. The offer of the International Energy Agency (IEA) to contribute to the Study was accepted and the secretariat was asked to communicate the details of the IEA contact person to the UNECE Group of Experts.

V. ADOPTION OF CALENDAR (Agenda item 5)

9. It was decided that the heads of chapters of the study would exchange the table of contents of their chapters before 15 December 2009. They would also send their draft chapters by e-mail to Mr. F. de la Flor Garcia, Chairman of the Study, no later than 31 December 2009 so that he might have the initial draft of the Study for the annual session of the Working Party on Gas in January 2010.

10. Delegations requested all members of the Group of Experts to take an active part in the Round Table on LNG, to be held on 19 January 2010 during the session of the Working Party on Gas. The round table should assist in the promotion of the study and its completion.

11. The Chairman of the Study will circulate before 31 December 2009 the common slide format for the presentations to be made on 19 January 2010. It was agreed that the Chairman would make an introductory speech of five minutes while the heads of chapters would each have 20 minutes at their disposal, followed by a 15 minute question-and-answer session.

12. Delegations will decide on the date and place of the next meeting of the Group of Experts on 19 January 2010.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda item 6)

13. To facilitate the work on Chapter four of the Study (Regulation), representatives of Enagas will provide a template for the section on Authorisations to be posted on the ECE website. Once the template in place, the secretariat will ask member countries to fill it in and keep the questionnaire updated.

14. To facilitate the work on individual chapters and their incorporation into the main body of the study, the secretariat informed participants that all documents should be prepared as plain text, using the most basic text formatting. It strongly advised against using any customized formatting styles, codes, fields, table of contents, etc. MS Word, with Times New Roman, font 12, is the official word processor standard of the United Nations.

15. The secretariat reported on the progress of the studies on underground gas storage and market liberalization. It was requested to communicate the questionnaire on liberalization for

Spain to Enagas and for the United States of America and Canada to Benjamin Schlesinger Associates.

16. The Group of Experts requested the secretariat to make accessible the data collected for the underground gas storage and market liberalization studies given that they could be also of importance for the evolution of the LNG market in the future.

17. The secretariat reported on the progress of the questionnaire on the January 2009 natural gas supply/transit crisis in Europe. Delegations suggested that the secretariat contact the European Union Gas Coordinating Group, headed by Mr. J.A. Vinois, which might have already at least part of the data, and also that it ask the Russian Federation to provide information on the impact of the crisis on its natural gas industry.

18. Since the UNECE list of countries affected by the January 2009 natural gas supply/transit crisis seemed to be incomplete, the representative of Belgium volunteered to provide all the names of countries which were affected by that crisis.

VII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (Agenda item 7)

19. The Group of Experts adopted the report of its fourth meeting on 3 December 2009.
