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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Working Party on Gas

Sixth expert meeting on the update of the
UNECE Study on Underground Gas Storage in
Europe and Central Asia

Geneva, Switzerland, 23 April 2009
Salle S-1, Ground Floor, Palais des Nations

REPORT OF THE MEETING

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

1. The sixth expert meeting on the update of the UNECE Study on Underground Gas Storage in Europe and Central Asia was held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 23 April 2009. Representatives of Germany, the Netherlands and Romania attended the meeting. Delegates from Gas Infrastructure Europe, the Commission of the European Union and International Gas Union took an active part in the meeting as well.

2. Representative of Islamic Republic of Iran participated under Article 11 of the Commission's Terms of Reference.

3. Mr. Joachim Wallbrecht (Germany) and Mr. Gerard Martinus (the Netherlands) were elected to serve as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the meeting, respectively.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda item 2)

4. The agenda was adopted.

III. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT LETTER PREPARED BY THE UNECE SECRETARIAT TO BE SENT TO THE UNECE MEMBER-COUNTRIES, COMPANIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS FOR NOMINATING EXPERTS TO PROVIDE THE

REQUESTED DATA (§ 9, 10, 11 OF THE REPORT OF THE 5TH MEETING) (Agenda item 3)

5. The meeting participants reviewed the draft letter prepared by the UNECE secretariat to be addressed to UNECE member-countries, companies and other organizations asking for their support to the study. They decided that Mr. Ulrich Duda (Germany) would produce the second draft of the letter, mainly asking for the support to the study and the nomination of one contact person, plus possibly individual experts to contribute to the work in individual chapters, to be nominated in each organization receiving the letter, and circulate it among the Group of Experts for comments before 5 May 2009. The intention is to send the final letter out before 22 May 2009 asking the counterparts to respond at latest by 8 June 2009.
6. Equally, the participants re-examined the targeted audience and procedure of identifying country / corporate representatives for the Study, including the progress made so far. At the meeting, delegates decided that the letter would be sent to the top management of corporations which were in underground gas storage business as well as to relevant national regulatory bodies in the UNECE region.
7. To arrive at the suitable list of corporations which were in underground gas storage business as well as to relevant national regulatory bodies in the UNECE region, delegates requested the UNECE secretariat to share its list of relevant contacts not later than 30 April 2009 with the present representatives of International Gas Union and Gas Infrastructure Europe with the request to the present representatives of International Gas Union and Gas Infrastructure Europe to supplement that list with own relevant contacts before 15 May 2009.
8. The delegates decided that the second letter, accompanied by the questionnaire described in Item 4 of this report, to the nominated contact points in the corporations and relevant national regulatory bodies should be sent not later than 19 June 2009 asking the counterparts to fill it in at latest by 17 September 2009.

IV. REVIEW OF THE QUESTIONNAIRES PREPARED BY HEADS OF CHAPTERS (§13 OF THE REPORT OF THE 5TH MEETING) (Agenda item 4)

9. Participants reviewed draft questionnaires for chapters 2, 3, 4 and 6, which were circulated in advance of the meeting, and invited the heads of remaining chapters 1, 5 and 7 to circulate their drafts before 1 May 2009.
10. While delegates praised the authors of submitted draft questionnaires for the quality of their proposals, they invited participants to send all comments and suggestions on the draft questionnaires directly to concerned heads of chapters without delay. In addition, heads of chapters were

encouraged to hold conference calls not later than 15 May 2009 with interested participants on further advancing work on their individual questionnaires,

11. In the process of developing the questionnaires the participants agreed that the particular attention must be paid to the compatibility of the individual questionnaires including some standardization such as their structure, appearance and width and depth of required data. In general, it was suggested that the question should be formulated on the right-hand side of every page with the space for answers on the left-hand side of the page including boxes for multiple choice questions and space for providing comments below every possible answer. The use of Word and Excel files was encouraged.

12. The meeting participants decided that the best way to administer the questionnaire is to have it in the electronic form posted on the relevant section of the UNECE website with the access to it being protected by a usual login procedure. It was requested that the electronic posting would allow the access either to the whole questionnaire or to its individual parts.

13. While the delegates considered whether the targeted audience considered could in principle have the choice either to fill it in electronically or download the whole questionnaire or his parts and fill it in by hand and send it back to the UNECE secretariat, the ease of handling, speed, much lower cost, time savings and later statistical analysis would strongly favour the electronic response.

V. APPOINTMENT OF HEADS OF CHAPTERS (§15 OF THE REPORT OF THE 5TH MEETING) (Agenda item 5)

14. The members of the UNECE Group of Experts reviewed the current status of the leadership of the study in every chapter and consider possible additions in particular in the chapters where additional expertise might be required. They requested the UNECE secretariat to solicit again and without delay the active participation in the study of experts from Gazprom, Wingas, DONG, Stogit, OMV, Enagas and Repsol.

VI. PUBLICITY OF THE STUDY - REPORT FROM THE MILAN SUMMIT AND OTHER FUTURE PRESENTATIONS (Agenda item 6)

15. It was reported that the Group of Experts' presentation at the 9th Annual Global Gas Village Summit which was held on 15-16 April 2009 in Milan, Italy had been well received.

16. The Group of Experts did not accept the offer of EnergyWise, a management company, to provide assistance to the Group in carrying out the study.

VII. BUILDING AND UPDATING LIST OF CONTACTS FOR THE STUDY (Agenda item 7)

17. In addition to the measures mentioned in the paragraph 7 of the Agenda item 3 of this report, the delegates invited the UNECE secretariat to maintain and upgrade a detailed list of participants and contacts for the study. Equally, the meeting thanked Mr. T. Korosi (Hungary) for forwarding to the UNECE secretariat a list of relevant contacts in the national regulatory bodies, which would be incorporated into the main contact list.

VIII. ADOPTION OF THE CALENDAR OF WORK (Agenda item 8)

18. Participants decided that the next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 17 June 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda item 9)

19. Delegates requested the UNECE to submit to the Group of experts before 1 May 2009 a note by its IT experts on its capacity and procedures to administer electronic questionnaires through the UNECE website including subsequent data integration and analysis.

X. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (Agenda item 10)

20. The expert group adopted the report of its sixth meeting on 23 April 2009
