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## TOWN HALL MEETING TO HIGHLIGHT PRIORITIES FOR 2010

Ján Kubiš, UNECE Executive Secretary, held a Town Hall meeting on Friday 15 January to outline priorities for 2010.

The meeting started with a minute of silence in memory of the UN colleagues who lost their lives or are reported missing following the earthquake that devastated Haiti.

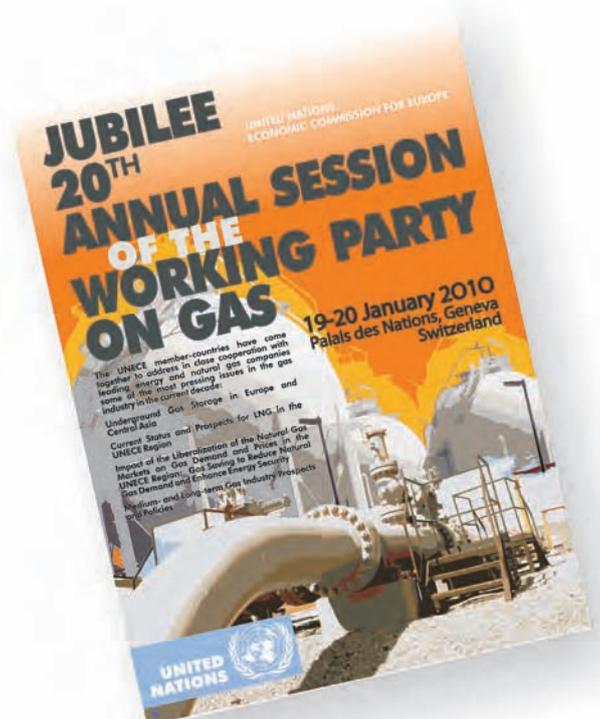
In his address, Ján Kubiš recalled the priorities of the United Nations for 2010, as presented by the Secretary General in his December letter to staff and in the Town Hall meeting of 11 January 2010, and highlighted how they will be reflected in UNECE's work over the next 12 months.

This will in particular include a regional consultation on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in preparation of the MDG summit, further mainstreaming climate change in all activities, following up on the work on the empowerment of women, and strengthening internal procedures and processes. □

## UNECE CELEBRATES 20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ITS WORKING PARTY ON GAS

UNECE's Working Party on Gas is holding its 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Session on 19 and 20 January 2010. For the past 20 years, the Working Party has served as a forum gathering governments, the industry and international organizations to assess changes and trends in the gas situation in Europe, North America and Central Asia.

This jubilee session will be opened by Ján Kubiš, UNECE Executive Secretary. Amongst the highlights of the session will be the keynote address by Mr. Alexander Krestiyarov, Deputy Head, Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the European Communities, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Minister-Counsellor, on "The Energy Cooperation between the Russian Federation and the European Union".



The meeting will review medium and long-term gas industry prospects and policies in the UNECE region and discuss the preliminary results of three UNECE studies on:

- Underground Gas Storage in Europe and Central Asia,
- Current State and Prospects of Liquefied Natural Gas Industry in the UNECE Region,
- Impact of the Liberalization of the Natural Gas Market on Gas Demand and Prices. □



*For more information, please visit:*

<http://www.unece.org/energy/se/docs/wpgas20.html>

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## UPDATE ON VEHICLES EMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

The Working Party on Pollution and Energy (GRPE) of the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) held its 59th session from 12-15 January 2010.



At this meeting, the GRPE experts considered in detail proposals for the insertion into UNECE Regulations of the Euro 5 emission levels for light vehicles. The new Euro 5 emission requirements define more stringent limit values for exhaust emissions by the engines of new vehicles with regard to the pollutants Nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), Carbon monoxide (CO), Hydrocarbons (HC) and particulate matters (PM).

alignment of Regulation No.49 (Emissions of pollutants of heavy duty vehicles) will enter into force at the end of this year.

Furthermore, the GRPE informal group on Fuel Quality made good progress in the development of recommendations for market fuel quality parameters, which are expected to be adopted by WP.29 in November 2010. These fuel quality specifications are aimed at preventing a degradation of the vehicle emission control devices, such as exhaust gas catalysts or particulate filters.

GRPE also initiated new activities in the area of environmental protection by establishing three new informal groups on:

- Heavy Duty Hybrid Electric Vehicles, to develop new emission test procedures for engines used for the propulsion of trucks equipped with a hybrid electric powertrain.
- Retrofit Emission Control devices, to harmonize the requirements for emission control devices produced for the replacement of such devices in vehicles already in use.
- Mobile Air Conditioning, to develop, in parallel with the ongoing work on the Worldwide harmonized Light vehicle emissions Test Procedures, a new test procedure to evaluate the energy efficiency of such systems for motor vehicles. □

*For further information, visit:*

[http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp29/meeting\\_docs\\_grpe.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp29/meeting_docs_grpe.html)

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 WP.29 GRPE adopted the proposal and submitted it to WP.29 for consideration at its March 2010 session. If adopted by WP.29 in March, these amendments to Regulations Nos. 83 (Emissions of pollutants of passenger cars) and 101 (Fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions) as well as the