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30TH SESSION OF THE UNECE TRANS-EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER) STEERING COMMITTEE **BAKU, AZERBAIJAN, 19 – 22 SEPTEMBER 2011**

The 30th session of the UNECE Trans-European Railway (TER) Steering Committee took place in Baku, Azerbaijan on 19 – 22 September 2011 at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The meeting brought together National Coordinators of the 18 TER member countries, representatives of the host country, UNECE, TER Project Manager, and consultants which contributed to the TEM and TER Revised Master Plan published in 2011.

On 20 September, G. Panahov, deputy Minister of Transport of Azerbaijan, opened the "Conference on Development of Special Rail Transport Infrastructures – Rail ferries/Seaports", which was an integral part of the session. In addition to the members of the TER Steering Committee and representatives of the Ministry of Transport of Azerbaijan, representatives of the EU DG Move/Corridor VII, OSCE, Black Sea Trade and Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, Black and Caspian Seas shipping companies, railway companies and major seaports also took part in the Conference.

The Conference addressed the challenges faced by rail transport including the development of seaports in the UNECE region, their hinterland connections, and the role and opportunities for rail ferries in the region. The conference was organized by the TER Project and the UNECE Transport Division with the support of the relevant Ministries. The results of the recently published TEM and TER Revised Master Plan were presented, in particular those related to development of rail transport infrastructure. This was followed with the presentations of specific case studies of the Port of



Constanta, the Black Sea Ferries and of the Turkish ports, the development plan of the Port of Rijeka in combination with the objectives and actions of the SETA project. The conference was an excellent opportunity for the seaports and port authorities to present developmental plans to improve their positions as major hubs and the important

role of hinterland connections in the Caspian, Black Sea and Adriatic Sea.

The representative of OSCE underlined the importance of good functioning rail network (including rail ferries) in the Caucasus area for a prosperous development of the region, connecting Europe and Central Asia. The representative of the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank as well as the representative of the Asian development Bank spoke about the modalities for financing important railways, ports and hinterland infrastructure projects including the PPPs.

Participants also visited the Seaport of Baku where they had the opportunity to see the technical features and functioning of the rail-ferry terminal. □

UNECE's Trans-European Railway (TER) project was established in 1990 as a subregional cooperation platform among Central, Eastern and South-Eastern European countries.

Its 18 members include: Armenia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey.

For additional information on the TER Project please visit:
<http://live.unece.org/trans/main/ter/ter.html>
or contact Helmuth Meelich at: meelich@uneceter.sk
or Miodrag Pesut at: miodrag.pesut@unece.org.

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SECOND INDUSTRY FORUM ON NATURAL GAS LONG TERM CONTRACTS



On 27 September, UNECE's Gas Centre organized the Second Industry Forum on Natural Gas Long-Term Contracts. Around 30 companies attended this meeting and discussed the role of the future natural gas contracts in Europe. With 40 participants, the Forum was the perfect place to discuss this very hot topic in Europe.

long-term gas contracts. Oil indexation contracts are therefore inappropriate to purchase extra gas needed from 2016. It is time for major gas players to consider alternative indexation methods for pricing this additional gas requirement.

- Either producers will insist on oil indexation, with the resulting little demand growth, or producers will provide contracts acceptable to the power industry, in which case we could witness a renewed dash for gas.
- The European Gas Industry has made gas a widely available convenient and clean energy for homes, factories and power plants. The Long-Term Contracts should exist in the future but need to adapt to market realities and find another index to secure gas for power generation.

The following points were discussed during the session:

- In Europe, the main external sources of supply in 2010 were Russia (23%), Norway (19%), Algeria (10%) and Qatar (6%).
- Existing oil-linked contracts will persist because, barring arbitration, it is impossible for continental European buyers to obtain material changes from sellers.
- However, with power prices liberalized in Europe, utilities are unable to commit to further oil-linked

For the first time, PETROBRAS, Brazil's gas and oil giant, and Global Business Consultants from Caracas were represented. The delegates explained the role of Long-Term Contracts in Latin and South America, stressing that in that region long-term prices are cheaper than spot prices.

The Forum was moderated by Thierry Bros, Senior Commodity Analyst for European and LNG at Société Générale. □

ROAD SAFETY MESSAGE AT EUROBASKET 2011 PEAKED DURING SEMI-FINALS

The high note of the information campaign on road safety "We play and drive by the rules", launched by UNECE, FIBA Europe and FIBA during EuroBasket 2011, was reached during the two semi-final games played on 16 September.

Just before the commencement of the semi-finals, the players of the four teams, France, Russia, Spain and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, unrolled a banner with the campaign's motto, spreading the road safety message to millions of viewers and basketball fans around the world.



A short video clip of the event may be found on the UNECE website at:

http://live.unece.org/trans/roadsafe/fiba2011_roadafety_campaign.html.

The campaign, running under the motto "We play and drive by the rules", built up on the success of a similar campaign launched last year during the FIBA Basketball World Championship 2010 held in Turkey. The campaign aimed to inform people around the world about the simple rules that save lives on the road. Its objective was



to encourage respect for the rules on the road, as well as on the court.

It included video clips with José Calderón, World champion with the Spanish national team, and Jonas Valanciunas, member of Lithuania's national team. These were broadcast in the arenas and on the television channels broadcasting the games. A Declaration for road safety was displayed in the arenas to invite the players and teams engaged in EuroBasket 2011 to join the campaign.

The campaign was launched by UNECE, FIBA Europe and FIBA with the support of the Spanish Basketball Federation (FEB), the Lithuanian Basketball Federation (LBF) and the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Lithuania (MoTC). □

Information Service
United Nations
Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
CH-1211 Geneva 10 - Switzerland

Tel.: +41 (0) 22 917 44 44
Fax: +41 (0) 22 917 05 05
E-mail: info.ece@unece.org
<http://www.unece.org>



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