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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY**

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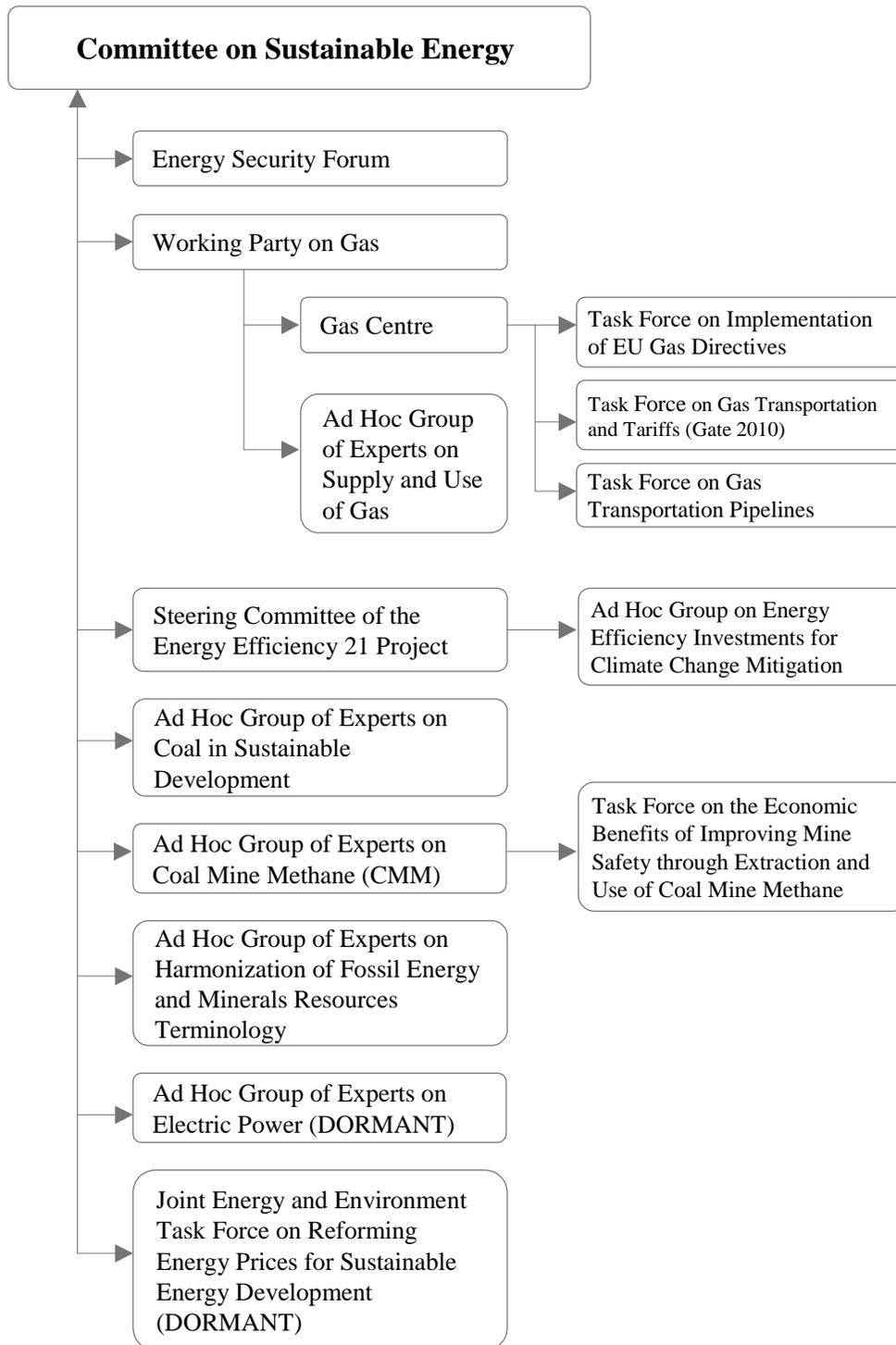
**STRUCTURE OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY  
AND ITS INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES**

Note by the secretariat

**INTRODUCTION**

1. This document outlines the structure of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its intergovernmental bodies. An organigram of this structure is provided in figure 1.
2. The subsidiary bodies of the Committee are: Energy Security Forum, Working Party on Gas, Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Supply and Use of Gas, Gas Centre, Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project, Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation, Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal in Sustainable Development, Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane, Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Harmonization of Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources Terminology, Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Electric Power, and Joint Energy and Environment Task Force on Reforming Energy Prices for Sustainable Energy Development. The detailed programmes of work of these subsidiary bodies are contained in their respective reports.
3. A short description of the role and activities of the Committee and each body is provided in section I. Further information on the programme elements undertaken by the Committee and each body is provided in the “Draft Programme of Work for 2007-2008 in the Field of Energy” (ECE/ENERGY/2006/9).

Figure 1: Organigram of the Committee on Sustainable Energy



4. The Work Plan on ECE Reform (E/ECE/1434/Rev.1) specifically asks the Committee on Sustainable Energy to (i) streamline its activities and improve cooperation with other relevant institutions, in particular the International Energy Agency and the Energy Charter; and (ii) strengthen activities in the fields of energy efficiency, cleaner energy production, energy security and diversification of energy sources, taking into account environmental concerns.
5. As part of the Committee's response to the requests of this Work Plan, a set of options are proposed relating to the programmes of work in energy security, reserves and resources terminology, coal and electricity and natural gas. These alternatives are outlined in the note prepared by the secretariat, in collaboration with the Bureau, "Response by the Committee on Sustainable Energy to the Work Plan on ECE Reform" (ECE/ENERGY/2006/12).
6. It is noted that the options proposed are not exhaustive and delegates might wish to consider other changes in the structure, programme of work or methods of work of the Committee's subsidiary bodies.

## **I. SUSTAINABLE ENERGY (SUB-PROGRAMME 5)**

### Sectoral Committee

(a) Committee on Sustainable Energy

The Committee on Sustainable Energy is one of eight UNECE Sectoral Committees. It contributes to the harmonization of energy policies and practices; disseminates information and provides a forum for the exchange of views/experiences on best practices; assesses new developments and issues particularly related to energy pricing, security of supply and the environment; and develops norms and standards, classifications systems and guidelines. Revised Terms of Reference for the Committee have been prepared (ECE/ENERGY/2006/12, Annex I).

### Subsidiary Bodies

(b) Energy Security Forum

The Energy Security Forum facilitates cooperation to mitigate energy market instability and its negative impact on the global economy through dialogue, assessments and proposals by engaging various constituencies/groups in society, such as the private energy sector and the financial and insurance communities; and brings these issues to the attention of intergovernmental bodies and the United Nations Secretariat. It also conducts studies, as well as assesses energy security risks and how these may affect investments and policy options through a dialogue between representatives of governments, energy producers, energy companies, key consuming countries, relevant international organisations and the international financial community.

(c) Working Party on Gas

The Working Party on Gas carries out activities related to natural gas resources, infrastructure and market development; prepares major regional studies, such as on underground gas storage, gas grid networks and natural gas reserves/resources. It is also responsible for the

ongoing development of an international programme, known as the Blue Corridor Project, to establish transboundary corridors in the UNECE region for freight and public transportation by natural gas vehicles.

- (i) Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Supply and Use of Gas: assesses and exchanges information on the management, diagnostic techniques and technological developments for gas transportation systems; assesses the technical and ecological norms and standards for gas distribution networks and appliances. It is also involved in development and study of coal mine methane and coal bed methane and raising the awareness of the benefits that both have in economic, social and environmental terms.
- (ii) Advisory/Executive Board of Gas Centre: provides strategic direction for the programme of work of the Gas Centre and approves the budget. This is an extrabudgetary programme/activity.
  - Gas Centre Task Force on Implementation of EU Gas Directives: assesses and exchanges views/experiences, including with the European Commission, on the implementation of the EU Gas Directives and regulations, and their implications for non-EU countries.
  - Gas Centre Task Force on Transportation and Tariffs (Gate 2010): assesses and recommends ways to harmonize gas transportation rules within Europe with a view to optimizing transportation efficiencies and minimizing barriers to cross-border trade.
  - Gas Centre Task Force on Gas Transportation Pipelines: assesses and prepares a report on the routing of pipeline systems for the supply, transit and transportation of natural gas, including capacities, quality standards, operating pressures, ownership and also Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) production and receiving installations.
  - Gas Centre Ad Hoc Task Force on Company and Market Structure (2004-2005): assessed the implications of market liberalization and increased regulation (e.g., introduction of new regulatory agencies) on company operations and national market structure.
- (d) Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project

The Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project develops, guides and monitors the activities of the second phase of the Energy Efficiency 21 (EE21) Project for the period 2006-2009, which is aimed at promoting energy efficiency measures, particularly in and for the benefit of the former economies in transition; and provides general guidance and oversight to specific operational activities in the area of energy efficiency, such as projects funded by the United Nations Foundation/UN Fund for International Partnerships (UNF/UNFIP), Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM) and UNDP Global Environment Facility (GEF).

- (i) Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation – UNFIP/UNF: guides the implementation of activities and deals with operational issues, particularly regarding financing mechanisms or investment funds under the EE21 Project. Works to harmonize and develop guidelines and strategies to enhance energy efficiency and energy conservation, as well as to enhance regional cooperation on energy efficiency market formation and investment project development to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in countries with economies in transition.

(e) Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal in Sustainable Development

The Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal in Sustainable Development assesses/analyzes and provides a forum for the exchange of views/experiences on coal market adaptation, industry restructuring and environmental issues, including application of clean coal technologies and practices throughout the coal-energy chain, carbon capture and storage and ‘zero emission’ energy from fossil fuels; and assesses economic and social consequences, international experiences and lessons learned on mine/plant closures. It also provides support to the technical assistance project “Capacity Building for Air Quality Management and the Application of Clean Coal Combustion Technologies in Central Asia” funded by the UN Development Account.

(f) Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane (CMM)

The Ad Hoc Group of Experts on CMM promotes the development and profitable recovery and use of coal mine methane (a potent greenhouse gas); provides a forum for the exchange of information and experience on this issue; engages in a dialogue with the financial community to understand barriers to funding; supports the UNECE technical assistance project on development of CMM projects in CEE (Central and Eastern Europe) and EECCA (Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia), which is funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

- (i) Task Force on the Economic Benefits of Improving Mine Safety through Extraction and Use of Coal Mine Methane: supports the activities of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on CMM in the area of improving mine safety through extraction and use of CMM. It engages in a dialogue with the technical, business and regulatory communities to establish a clear linkage between the economic benefits and the mining of gassy coal seams based on the safe drainage and use of the gas and is working, including with the International Labour Organization, to elaborate a set of UN Guidelines on “Avoidance and Minimising Impact of Mine Explosions and Other Impacts of Mine Gas”.

(g) Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Harmonization of Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources Terminology

The Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Harmonization of Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources Terminology harmonizes the terminology and develops a common code for the worldwide evaluation and assessment of all major energy reserves and resources by applying the UNECE codification system developed for fossil energy and mineral resources (UN Framework

Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources); facilitates application of ECOSOC Resolution 2004/233; assists in the development of a governance structure for maintaining and revising the common global code; and provides the umbrella (i.e., host) for the governance structure. It also works with a wide range of stakeholders to ensure the common code responds to the needs of international energy studies, government resources management, industry's business process management and international financial reporting standards.

(h) Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Electric Power (dormant)

The Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Electric Power, which has been dormant since November 2003, assesses and promotes the security of supply and transition to liberalized energy markets; and enhances electric power network systems interconnections, electricity exchanges and trade.

(i) Joint Energy and Environment Task Force on Reforming Energy Prices for Sustainable Energy Development (dormant)

The Task Force elaborated guidelines for policymakers on reforming energy pricing and subsidies, which were subsequently endorsed by Environment Ministers in Kiev, Ukraine, May 2003; and, if reconstituted, would follow-up in assessing whether the guidelines endorsed by Ministers in 2003 were being implemented as well as addressing issues related to the incorporation of environmental externalities into the pricing system.