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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Working Party on Gas

Eighteenth session
Geneva, 22-23 January 2008

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 22 January 2008*

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Matters arising from the sixty-second session of the Commission related to energy activities, and the sixteenth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy related to the Working Party on Gas

* New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the registration form, which is available from the website of the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division (<http://www.unece.org/ie/>), and transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, if possible, at least two weeks prior to the session – namely, by **8 January 2008** – either by fax (+41 22 917 0038) or by e-mail (catherine.pierre@unece.org). Delegates are requested to present themselves at least one and a half hours prior to the start of the meeting at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix opposite the Red Cross Building (see the map on the Energy Division's web site), for the issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone (internal extension 74140 or 75721).

3. Review of the activities of other subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy
4. Round Table on the Role of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to Enhance Energy Security in the UNECE Region
5. Current developments and medium- and long-term prospects and policies in the gas industry, including trade of gas:
 - (a) Blue Corridor project on the use of gaseous fuels for transportation
 - (b) International Week of Rational Use and Distribution of Gas
 - (c) Review of the gas situation and prospects in the UNECE region
 - (d) New developments in European and world market of Natural Gas Vehicles (NGVs)
 - (e) European gas industry policy concerning the development of regulations and standardization in the field of gas pipelines
6. Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply and Use of Gas
7. Overview of the activities of other international organizations in the field of gas
8. Future activities of the Working Party:
 - (a) Programme of work for 2008-2011
 - (b) Provisional calendar of meetings for 2009.
9. Election of officers.
10. Other business
11. Adoption of the report of the meeting

Note: Simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Russian will be provided during the meeting.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

1. In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda (ECE/ENERGY/WP.3/2008/1).

Item 2: Matters arising from the sixty-second session of the Commission related to energy activities, and sixteenth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy related to the Working party on Gas

2. The Working Party on Gas will be informed about the decisions taken by the Commission at its sixty-second session held in April 2007, which have relevance to UNECE work in the field of energy (ECE/ENERGY/2007/1). It will be also informed about the decisions of the sixteenth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy related to gas activities, including the adoption of the Terms of Reference of the Working Party on Gas and the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply and Use of Gas (ECE/ENERGY/68/Add.1, sections IV and IX).

Item 3: Review of the activities of other subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

3. The secretariat will inform delegations of the progress achieved in the implementation of the work programme of other subsidiary bodies and programmes of the Committee on Sustainable Energy. In particular, presentations will be made on the activities of the Gas Centre, Energy Efficiency 21 project, energy security, harmonization of fossil energy and mineral resources terminology, and coalmine methane.

Item 4: Round Table on the Role of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to Enhance Energy Security in the UNECE Region

4. As customary, in the course of the session a Round Table will be organized. In view of the growing liquefied natural gas (LNG) market in Europe and worldwide and its role in securing reliable gas supply to customers, the Bureau of the Working Party on Gas and the secretariat have decided on the above topic for discussion. Leading experts will be invited to address this issue. The Round Table will be held on Tuesday, 22 January 2008, from 3p.m. to 6 p.m.

Item 5: Current developments and medium- and long-term prospects and policies in the gas industry, including trade of gas

5. Representatives of Gazprom (Russian Federation), E.ON Ruhrgas (Germany) and the secretariat will report on developments with regard to future work on the Blue Corridor project, aimed at using natural gas instead of diesel as fuel in international freight and passenger traffic.

6. Mr. Alexander Karasevich, Vice-Chairman of the Working Party on Gas and Director General of Promgaz/Gazprom, will report on the International conference "Week of Rational Use and Distribution of Gas", held in Moscow on 25-28 September 2007. He will also report on progress achieved in the implementation of the study on Gas Saving to Reduce Natural Gas Demand and Enhance Energy Security, launched at the seventeenth session of the Working Party on Gas in January 2007.

7. Representatives of UNECE Governments, gas companies and organizations will be invited to make statements and present preliminary results of the gas industry and gas market operations in 2007 in their respective countries, covering where possible topics on production,

reserves, availability of domestic production, environmental policies, safety issues and problems which have an impact on gas industry operations and practices. Delegations are requested to make available copies of their statements in one of the UNECE working languages (English, French, Russian) for distribution to other delegations, and also to send in advance electronic versions of their presentations to the secretariat.

8. Mr. Jeffrey Seisler (International Natural Gas Vehicles Association) will make an overview of NGV world market developments. Mr. Daniel Hec, Secretary-General of the Technical Association of the European Natural Gas Industry (Marcogas), will present the European gas industry policy concerning the development of regulations and standardization in the field of gas pipelines. Other specific presentations are also expected.

Item 6: Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply and Use of Gas

9. Delegations will be informed of the work carried out by the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply and Use of Gas and its future programme of work.

Item 7: Overview of the activities of other international organizations in the field of gas

10. Various international governmental and non-governmental organizations, public and private institutions and organizations will make presentations on their activities related to natural gas.

Item 8: Future activities of the Working Party

11. The Working Party will consider its programme of work for 2008-2011 (ECE/ENERGY/WP.3/2008/6) and its calendar of meetings for 2009 (ECE/ENERGY/WP.3/2008/5).

Item 9: Election of officers

12. In accordance with the rules of procedure of the Commission, the Working Party elects its officers on a two-year basis. At its seventeenth session Mr. Igor Ponomarenko (Ukraine) and Messrs. Andreas Grossen (Switzerland) and Alexander Karasevich (Russian Federation) were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairmen, respectively.

Item 10: Other business

13. Delegations may wish to raise any other points relevant to the meeting. At the time the provisional agenda was prepared, there were no issues to be raised under this item.

Item 11 Adoption of the report

14. The Working Party will adopt its report on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.
