





ECONOMIC COMMISSION for EUROPE

Management Response

Evaluation Title:	Evaluation of the UNECE Gas Centre		
Period of Review:	1994-2015		
Date of Evaluation Report:	May 2018		
Approved by:	Programme Management Unit Catherine Haswell	06.07.2018	 Signature
Cleared by:	Director of Division Scott Foster	06.07.2018	
Prepared by:	Manager of the evaluation Scott Foster	06.07.2018	

Recommendation 1: The UNECE secretariat should define and communicate the envisaged role for a successor to the Gas Centre to gas companies, member States and other relevant stakeholders.

Management Response:

The recommendation is fully accepted.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

This activity is underway. The Secretariat has shared the interest of the gas industry to institute a successor to the Gas Centre, but to date member States have indicated no appetite for such a body.

A concept note was prepared and presented to the Group of Experts on Gas, the Committee on Sustainable Energy, and the Executive Committee. An informal task force comprising EXCOM representatives from the Russian Federation, the European Union, the United States, and Switzerland met 5 times over the course of 2016 and 2017 to consider alternatives. At the request of the informal task force, the Secretariat prepared a note on alternative approaches, and based on that note, the representatives of the task force decided to not pursue this initiative further. The issue of a Gas Industry Advisory Board was raised again at the March 2018 meeting of the Group of Experts on Gas but, based on the outcomes of the Executive Committee's informal task force, the European Union did not accept action on the agenda item. Certain member States have expressed interest in continuing the discussion and the Secretariat awaits further guidance. The Secretariat will continue to engage with all stakeholders to determine if some type of activity supported by the gas industry meets expectations. Scott Foster, Director of Sustainable Energy Division, will ensure implementation of these actions.

Recommendation 2: If a successor to the Gas Centre is established, the UNECE secretariat should consider the following for its operational model:

- A focus on facilitating a dialogue between gas companies, member States and UN organizations through regular forums, e.g. quarterly or biannual;
- A research agenda coordinated with the Group of Experts of Gas;
- A knowledge hub of its outputs that is accessible and promoted.

Management Response:

This recommendation is fully accepted.

Follow up actions and responsibilities: If a successor is established, ensure that the recommendations are included in the terms of reference.

Recommendation 3 To secure the legacy of the Gas Centre and to ensure that the knowledge generated is not lost, establish a simple online archive of the main reports and research generated by the Gas Centre during its tenure.

Management Response:

The recommendation is not accepted.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The knowledge generated by the Gas Centre is the intellectual property of the members of the Gas Centre. Governments that requested access to the information on an on-going basis were invited to join the Gas Centre as full members. Further, the knowledge generated was time sensitive, and now, 4 years later, the information would have little or no value. There is little value today in going through the Gas Centre archives to make available information in which no one has interest. We propose to take no action on this specific recommendation. UNECE's Group of Experts on Gas is a subsidiary body of the Committee on Sustainable Energy. The Group promotes gas' role in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on sustainable and clean production, distribution and consumption of natural gas in the UNECE region. In addition to the overarching discussions, four dedicated Task Forces under the Group focus on best practice guidance on reducing methane emissions along the gas value chain, best practice guidance on the role of gas in increasing the uptake of renewable energy, best practice guidance for liquefied natural gas, and recommendations on removing barriers to the use of gas as a transportation fuel.