

# Conference Call of the Bureau of the Group of Experts on Gas

20 December 2016, 15:00

## Minutes

### A. Participants

#### Attendees:

- Mr. Francisco de la Flor Garcia (Spain), Chair
- Mr. Torstein Indrebø (Norway), Vice-Chair
- Ms. Charlotte Griffiths, UNECE secretariat
- Mr. Scott Foster, UNECE secretariat
- Mr. Michal Drabik, UNECE secretariat
- Mr. Branko Milicevic, UNECE secretariat
- Mr. Mats Fredriksson, IGU, as a guest

#### Regrets:

- Mr. Tamas Korosi (Hungary), Vice-Chair
- Mr. Alexander Karasevich (Russian Federation), Vice-Chair
- Mr. Boris Maksijan (Croatia), Vice-Chair

### B. Summary of discussions and decisions

#### 1. Approval of agenda

The agenda approved without changes.

#### 2. GEG Bureau update

The participants agreed that it would be beneficial to expand and strengthen the Bureau, provided that all Bureau members are able to dedicate time, not only to participate in global discussions but to address specific items and deliver results.

The secretariat will solicit the idea of joining the Bureau to various stakeholders both from the member States and large companies with particular interest in gas, such as Total or Shell. Countries that could be approached are: The Netherlands, Poland, the United States, Turkey, Israel, Turkmenistan, or Ukraine and also organizations such as the International Gas Union.

The Chair de la Flor iterated that the main contributor of materials and, eventually, specialists within the gas sector has to be the IGU. They could be more involved if UNECE provides a good channel to disseminate messages.

### **3. Draft agenda for GEG Fourth Session**

The Bureau agreed that the agenda item on methane management should remain the flagship event for this session. In addition, following suggestions by Vice-chair Indrebø, another item – tentatively called: Roundtable on Supply, Transit and Use of Gas – should be added. High level speakers with various perspectives will be invited to represent the wide spectrum of producers and users of gas. Possible speakers could come from the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), Shell, BP, Statoil, the United States, Poland, Ukraine, Turkey, or Slovakia.

Vice-chair Indrebø recommended that the Bureau and secretariat reach out to the Oil and Gas Climate Initiative (OGCI). OGCI brings together 10 leading O&G companies – BP, CNPC, Pemex, Eni, Reliance, Repsol, Saudi Aramco, Shell, Statoil, and Total – that together committed \$1 billion to a climate fund. OGCI focuses, inter alia, on methane management and CCS. Since OCGI is formally run by CEOs of these companies, we need to identify focal points at each of the 10 companies and OCGI with whom we could work on daily basis.

The secretariat will circulate an amended agenda by the end of the week. The agenda needs to be finalized by 6 January 2017 and send for processing and translation.

### **4. Methane Management Survey**

The survey on methane management was sent out to the targeted audience last week. It was also posted on the web pages of GEG, GoE on CMM and SED. IGU received a communication from the UNECE secretariat on this. So far 14 responses were received. The findings of the survey will be presented at the 4<sup>th</sup> session.

### **5. Update on EXCOM and Committee on Sustainable Energy matters**

CSE will resume its 25<sup>th</sup> session on 19 January. Chair de la Flor will represent GEG.

The GEG came into focus at EXCOM. Its work plan was scrutinized by (some) member States. It has become increasingly important that GEG delivers on its work plan.

The Bureau enquired whether the secretariat would be able to prepare a draft of the “Best Practice Guidance on Managing Methane Emissions along the Gas Value Chain” that would provide a structure and an outline of the document which would be then filled in with content provided by selected experts. Given severe resource constraints at this time, the secretariat was reluctant to commit itself to undertaking this task, yet agreed to explore the issue.

### **6. Draft GEG work plan 2018-2019**

The GEG needs to discuss and agree on its 2018-2019 work plan relatively quickly. The 2018-2019 work plan will have to be finalized well before the September session of the Committee. The absolute deadline to send this official document to translation is early July. The secretariat will submit an informal document on this before the 4<sup>th</sup> session, which needs to be quickly turned into a formal document through a written procedure.

The Bureau discussed potential activities of the 2018-2019 work plan. It agreed that two out of the four current work plan activities should be rolled over into the next cycle: methane emissions along the value chain and the nexus gas/RE, which could be done in collaboration with CEP and GERE.

A range of potential new topics for the 2018-2019 cycle were discussed. Here are some proposals:

- Air quality and the role of natural gas in enhancing it, with focus on urban air quality. This could be done in collaboration with WHO and IGU, which recently published 4-5 case studies on air quality;
- The role of natural gas in enhancing energy efficiency; a broad system-wide perspective highlighting gas superiority in terms of efficiency over other fuels. This could include the concepts of power via pipeline vs power via wire, distributed generation, use of gas powered-vehicles rather than electric ones;
- Gas and CCS;
- Energy access and gas role in enhancing it, in particular in non-UNECE context;
- An annual roundtable on gas supply, transit and demand, if the March session demonstrates something like this would be of interest to member States.
- An event on presenting short policy papers on various gas topics
- Other cross cutting issues such as natural gas and climate, or the role of gas in attaining a wide range of Sustainable Development Goals.

#### **7. Date of next Bureau call**

The next call may take place during the January CSE session that Chair de la Flor will attend. Proposed dates are **18 or 19 January 2017**.

#### **8. Any other business**

No other business was discussed.

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