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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

WORKING PARTY ON GAS

Ninth session, 27-29 January 1999

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

for the ninth session to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting on Wednesday, 27 January 1999, at 10 a.m.

MAIN ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED

- Major results of gas industries developments in the ECE countries in 1998;
- Activities of the UN/ECE Gas Centre ;
- Restructuring of the gas industries in transition countries;
- New Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply and Use of Gas;
- Studies of the European Underground Gas Storage and the Gas Grids;
- European Natural Gas Vehicles developments - opportunities for east-west cooperation;
- Security of Supply in a changing European natural gas market - a Round Table.

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Decisions of the Committee on Sustainable Energy of concern to the work of the Working Party.
3. General energy situation and problems in the ECE region of relevance to natural gas.
4. Economic reforms and restructuring in central and eastern Europe and their implications and significance for gas markets and the gas industry in the ECE region:

Promotion and development of a market-based gas industry in economies in transition - the "Gas Centre"
5. Current developments and medium-term and long-term prospects and policies in the gas industry, including trade and interconnection of gas networks:
 - (a) Review of the gas situation and prospects in the ECE region;
 - (b) Future role of gas in meeting energy requirements, including storage of gas;
 - (c) Interconnection and extension of gas networks.
6. Activities of the meetings of experts in the field of natural gas:
 - (a) Twenty-first session of the Meeting of Experts on Natural Gas Resources;
 - (b) Joint session of the Meeting of Experts on the Use and Distribution of Gas and the Meeting of Experts on the Transport and Storage of Gas.
7. Activities of other ECE principal subsidiary bodies and various international organizations of relevance to the Working Party.
8. Future activities of the Working Party:
 - (a) Programme of work for 1999-2002;
 - (b) Provisional calendar of meetings for 1999 and 2000.
9. Other business.
10. Election of officers.
11. Adoption of the report.

NOTATIONS

Item 1

In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda.

Item 2

The Working Party will have before it the report of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, containing information on the discussions and decisions adopted by the Committee at its eighth session.

Item 3

The Working Party will have before it an analytical paper prepared by the secretariat, dealing with the short-term and long-term aspects of energy developments, including energy pricing and energy balance projections.

Item 4

The secretariat will report to the Working Party on the results of the operations of the Gas Centre. Delegations will be informed of the current status and programme of work of the Gas Centre for 1999.

Item 5 (a)

Delegations will be invited to make statements on the gas situation and gas markets, including LPG, in 1997 in their respective countries and to include in their reports preliminary information on the 1998 gas situation, covering, where possible, topics on production, reserves, availability of domestic production, environmental policies, safety issues and problems having an impact on gas industry operations and practices. Other points of interest are initiatives, conservation programmes and forecasts for the medium term, i.e. five years of supply and consumption, if available, and new developments and initiatives in everyday policies. Delegations are requested to make available 20 copies of their statements in one of the ECE working languages (English, French, Russian) for distribution to other delegations. To facilitate further publication of these reports, it would be highly desirable for the secretariat to have these statements on diskette.

Item 5 (b)

The Chairman of the study on underground gas storage in western, central and eastern Europe and the secretariat will report on the progress achieved in the implementation of the study and the next steps to be undertaken.

Item 5 (c)

The secretariat will report on the progress achieved in the implementation of the gas grids study.

Item 6

Delegations will be informed of the work of the three meetings of experts in the field of gas. In particular, the secretariat will report on the decision to merge the two Meetings of Experts on the Use and Distribution and the Transport and Storage of Gas into a new Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply and Use of Gas.

Item 7

The Working Party will be provided with information on the work of other international governmental and non-governmental organizations on any aspects of their activities which may be of interest to the Working Party.

The Executive Director of the European Natural Gas Vehicle Association (ENGVA) Mr. J. Seisler will make a presentation on the latest European developments with natural gas vehicles.

Item 8

The Working Party will consider its programme of work for 1999-2002 and its calendar of activities for 1999-2000.

Item 9

At the time of writing, the secretariat had no suggestions to make for consideration under this item.

Item 10

In accordance with the rules of procedure of the Commission, the Working Party elects its officers on a two-year basis. At its eighth session Mr. N. Pavlovschi (Romania) and Messrs. B. Rey (Poland) and C. Simeoni (Italy) were re-elected Chairman and Vice-Chairmen respectively.

Item 11

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