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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Task Force on the Elaboration of an
International Codification for Lignite
and Sub-bituminous Coal Utilization */
Second meeting, Bucharest (Romania)
20 September 1999

REPORT

I. ATTENDANCE

1. The meeting was attended by 19 representatives from 9 countries: Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, United Kingdom, and United States of America
2. Australia and Brazil participated under article 11 of the Commission's terms of reference.
3. The International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology (ICCP) also took part in the meeting.

*/ The Task Force was convened on the recommendation of the Meeting of Experts on Research, Management and Transition in the Coal Industry at its twenty-fifth session which was subsequently approved by the Working Party on Coal at its fifth session. The terms of reference of the Task Force were approved at its second meeting (Oporto, 1997, ENERGY/WP.1/AC.22/2).

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II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (agenda item 1)

4. The provisional agenda, as proposed by the secretariat, was adopted.

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (agenda item 2)

5. Mr. Manuel Lemos de Sousa (Portugal) was elected Chairman of the meeting.

IV. NEEDS AND JUSTIFICATION FOR CARRYING OUT AN INTERNATIONAL CODIFICATION FOR LIGNITE AND SUB-BITUMINOUS COAL (LOW-RANK COALS) UTILIZATION (agenda item 3)

6. The Chairman described the Classification and Codification systems which have been developed by the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its subsidiary bodies and their interrelation with the International Codification for Lignite and Sub-bituminous Coal Utilization.

7. Several delegations stressed the importance of and need for preparing the codification under discussion. The Codification will facilitate the utilization of lignites and sub-bituminous coals which are used in particular in ECE member countries in transition.

V. DISCUSSION OF THE DOCUMENT ENTITLED "INTERNATIONAL CODIFICATION SYSTEM FOR LOW-RANK COALS UTILIZATION" (agenda item 4)

8. The draft version of the document prepared by the Chairman of the Task Force, in accordance with the recommendations of the first meeting in Oporto, 1997 (ENERGY/WP.1/AC.22/2), was widely discussed, item by item.

9. Decisions: After an in-depth discussion, the participating countries agreed to introduce the following precisions and improvements in the draft version:

(a) To add a definition of "sub-bituminous coal";

(b) To specify that the indicated boundary between lignite and peat should be considered as provisional;

(c) To improve the Supplementary recommended parameters list (Annex II) by adding the following:

(i) The nitrogen content (db), determined in accordance with ISO standard 333.

(ii) Footnotes stating the possibility of carrying out detailed petrographic analyses, and the non applicability of the Hardgrove Grindability Index to the lignite range.

(d) To refine and up-date Annex IV in terms of current practice in low-rank coals utilization technologies.

VI. FOLLOW-UP (agenda item 5)

10. Decisions:

(a) That the ECE secretariat prepare and circulate a final version of the Codification at the next session of Committee on Sustainable Energy;

(b) To recommend that the Committee on Sustainable Energy approve the final version;

(c) To recommend that the Committee on Sustainable Energy submit the final version for a three-year practical trial period commencing in 2000.

VII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (agenda item 7)

11. The Task Force adopted the decisions of its second meeting on 20 September. A short report of the session will be prepared by the secretariat and circulated at the next session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy for approval.
