



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ENERGY/WP.3/2000/1
23 November 1999

ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

WORKING PARTY ON GAS

Tenth session, 26-28 January 2000

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

for the tenth session to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting on Wednesday, 26 January 2000, at 10 a.m.

MAIN ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED

- Major results of gas industries developments in ECE countries in 1999;
- Activities of the UN/ECE Gas Centre ;
- Restructuring of the gas industries in transition countries;
- Ad Hoc Groups of Experts on Natural Gas Resources and on the Supply and Use of Gas;
- Presentation of the ECE Study on Underground Gas Storage in Europe and Central Asia;
- Natural gas and climate change - presentations by RUHRGAS and GAZPROM.

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Decisions of the Committee on Sustainable Energy of concern to the work of the Working Party.
3. 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"
4. Natural gas and climate change.
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 Ad Hoc Groups of Experts in the field of natural gas:
 - (a) Twenty-second session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Natural Gas Resources;
 - (b) First session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply and Use 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 2000-2003;
 - (b) Provisional calendar of meetings for 2000 and 2001.
9. Other business.
10. Election of officers.
11. Adoption of the report.

ANNOTATIONS

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 ninth session, and, in particular on the contribution of the Committee to the 9th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2001.

Item 3

The secretariat will report to the Working Party on the results of the operations of the Gas Centre in 1999. Delegations will be informed of the current status and programme of work of the Gas Centre for 2000 and beyond.

Item 4

The representatives of Ruhrgas and Gazprom will make a presentation of a joint project aimed at reduction of greenhouse gases, including carbon emissions trading, to meet the requirements of the Kyoto Protocol.

Item 5 (a)

Delegations will be invited to make statements on the gas situation and gas markets, including LPG, in 1998 in their respective countries and to include in their reports preliminary information on the 1999 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 as well.

Item 5 (b)

On Thursday, 27 January there will be a presentation of the Study on Underground Gas Storage in Europe and Central Asia, which was completed in 1999. The presentation of the Study made by experts responsible for the

different chapters will be followed by a general discussion open to all participants.

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 carried out by the two Ad Hoc Groups of Experts in 1999 and 2000 and their future programme of work.

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.

Item 8

The Working Party will consider its programme of work for 2000-2003 and its calendar of activities for 2000-2001.

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 ninth session in January 1999 Mr. Boleslaw REY (Poland) and Messrs. Noël COUPAYE (France) and Claudio SIMEONI (Italy) were 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.
