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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Working Party on Gas

Tenth session, 26-28 January 2000

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK, 2000-2003

Note by the secretariat

This draft programme of work, prepared by the secretariat, has been drawn up taking the following into account:

- (a) The decisions of the ninth session of the Working Party;
- (b) The decisions of the ninth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy held in November 1999;
- (c) The decisions and activities of the Ad Hoc Groups of Experts undertaken since the last session of the Working Party.

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PROGRAMME OF WORK, 2000-2003

PROGRAMME ELEMENT 06.1.4      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

Description: Problems and issues associated with the creation of, transition to, and operation of a market-oriented gas industry and gas enterprises, institutional factors, promotion of investment opportunities and adjustment to economic and social needs.

Work to be undertaken: Exchange of information and experience, improvement of contacts and exchange of technical and economic knowledge, preparation of reports and studies on specific issues, promoting and strengthening of cooperation with other international governmental and non-governmental organizations, holding of workshops, seminars, informal meetings, etc.

Specific subjects for workshops or informal meetings may focus on market instruments of market-oriented gas industries; and basic principles of transition to market-oriented economies.

06.1.4.1      Promotion and development of a market-based gas industry in economies in transition (1994-2004)

Description: Exchange of knowledge, experience and information on a systematic, cooperative and coordinated basis between gas industries and Governments on market-based policies, regulatory framework, instruments and principles in the gas industry. Exchange of information, views and experience on the development, application and adaptation of gas pricing principles and practices in a market-oriented gas industry, including factors related to market adaptation of gas enterprises. Training seminars will be organized by Governments and enterprises on this topic on a periodic basis.

Work to be undertaken: Implementation of the programme of work of the technical cooperation programme "Gas Centre", namely, human resources development, networking, database building, preparation of the training manual etc., approved by the Advisory Board. Establishment of a reliable and accessible communications system among gas industries, related governmental agencies, international financial and development institutions and the banking sector in the ECE region. A specific description of the programme is contained in a project document. A detailed programme of work is approved by the Advisory Board of the Gas Centre at its annual meetings.

PROGRAMME ELEMENT 06.5.4: DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GAS INDUSTRY, INCLUDING TRADE  
AND INTERCONNECTIONS/EXTENSION OF GAS NETWORKS

06.5.4.1 Future role of gas (natural gas and liquid petroleum gas (LPG)) in meeting energy requirements (continuing)

Description: Periodic examination of problems associated with gas (natural and LPG) markets, their development and supply prospects, the future role of gas in meeting the energy requirements of the ECE region, including national policies affecting energy and gas in particular, and fuel substitution. Identification of specific issues for intergovernmental cooperation.

Work to be undertaken: Quantitative analysis and assessment of gas supply and demand; identification of issues for intergovernmental cooperation, consideration of problems relating to the following: prospects of gas industry growth and adjustments to market conditions and fuel competition, the position of gas versus other forms of energy in the overall energy balance and evaluation and assessment of fuel competition. Periodic organization of symposia, seminars, informal meetings and workshops on the subject.

06.5.4.2 Developments in gas availabilities and consumption (continuing)

Description: Consideration of the gas situation in the ECE region and its prospects. Exchange of views on annual developments of gas markets, factors affecting gas marketing availability of indigenous supplies, forecast of gas demand for five years and other points of interest.

Work to be undertaken: At its annual sessions, the Working Party on Gas considers the information provided by Governments and reviews the gas situation and gas markets in the ECE region, including reports of interest by other governmental and non-governmental organizations.

06.5.4.3 Underground storage of gas in Europe and Central Asia (continuing)

Description: Consideration of all ranges of issues, including economic issues related to the underground storage of natural gas and LPG, assessment of existing storage availabilities and long-term projections with regard to underground storage developments.

Work to be undertaken: To decide on the future work on this subject.

06.5.4.4 Interconnections and extension of gas networks in Europe  
(continuing)

Description: To study existing and future requirements of gas pipeline networks in Europe in the further development of gas markets and trade in

Europe, and measures to promote and develop such interconnections/extension, including infrastructure developments related to the LPG industry.

Work to be undertaken: To undertake an update of the study on gas networks in Europe produced by the Working Party on Gas in 1992.

06.5.4.5 Use of gaseous fuels for motor vehicles (continuing)

Description: To study various aspects related to the use of CNG, LPG and LNG for transportation.

Work to be undertaken: At the annual sessions of the Working Party to have in-depth discussion of the topic. To invite representatives of other international organizations working in this domain to make presentations of their activities.

06.5.4.6 Natural gas and environment (continuing)

Description: To study various aspects of the interrelationship between natural gas and environment.

Work to be undertaken: Consideration of this topic at the annual sessions of the Working Party.

PROGRAMME ELEMENT 06.5.5      ASSESSMENT OF NATURAL GAS RESOURCES, INCLUDING GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL METHODS OF PROSPECTING FOR NATURAL GAS (continuing) (to be implemented by the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Natural Gas Resources)

Description: Assessment and evaluation of natural gas resources, reserves and production.

Work to be undertaken: Exchange of views, experience and other relevant information.

06.5.5.1 Relationship between the geology, reservoir behaviour and the ultimate recovery factor of gas fields (1997-2000)

Description: Exchange of information on recent technologies and related studies to increase gas recovery.

Work to be undertaken: To consider a draft consolidated report prepared by the rapporteur from Germany.

06.5.5.2 Application of enhanced seismic techniques, such as 3-D seismic, in prospecting and exploration of gas resources (1997-2000)

Description: Address issues related to new and emerging seismic techniques.

Work to be undertaken: To consider a draft consolidated report prepared by the rapporteur from the Netherlands.

06.5.5.3 Problems arising from the exploration of natural gas deposits located in abnormally high pressure and temperature conditions and extremely deep geological formations

Description: Exchange of information and experience on recent technical developments in methods of exploration of deep geological formations and problems encountered with their exploration.

Work to be undertaken: To suspend work on this topic until further consideration.

06.5.5.4 Developments and prospects of unconventional gas resources, such as tight formations, methane from coal seams, hydrates, etc. and problems encountered with their exploration and production

Description: Exchange of information and experience on production and utilization of gas from tight formations including economic, environmental, safety and other factors associated with this resource and other non-conventional gas resources.

Work to be undertaken: To suspend work on this topic until further consideration.

06.5.5.5 International Map of Natural Gas Fields in Europe (1995-2000)

Description: An update of the map prepared by the Meeting of Experts in 1985.

Work to be undertaken: Collection of geological data from the countries, preparation of the digital version of the map.

06.5.5.6 Assessment of natural gas resources and annual collection of data on natural gas reserves (1992-2000)

Description: Annual survey of natural gas reserves.

Work to be undertaken: Consideration of replies to the annual questionnaire on natural gas reserves.

06.5.5.7 Problems related to the assessment and development of gas condensate reserves and resources, including methods of enhanced condensate recovery

Description: Exchange of information on recent technologies related to the assessment and calculation of condensate reserves and resources and on problems encountered with the development of gas condensate fields.

Work to be undertaken: To suspend work on this topic until further consideration.

06.5.5.8 Economic and technical problems related to the development and exploitation of marginal gas fields (1998-2000)

Work to be undertaken: To consider replies to the questionnaire.

PROGRAMME ELEMENT 06.5.6      GAS TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS, STORAGE AND RATIONAL USE OF GAS(continuing)(to be implemented by the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply and Use of Gas)

06.5.6.1 Construction, management and maintenance of gas transmission systems: diagnostics of gas transmission lines (1996-2000)

Description: Study of various methods and techniques applied in the diagnostics of high-pressure gas pipelines in different countries.

Work to be undertaken: Consideration of a draft consolidated report prepared by the rapporteur from Slovenia.

06.5.6.2 Methods for detection of gas leakages during extraction, transportation, distribution and storage of natural gas (1994-2000)

Description: Study of various aspects related to gas leakages and methods of their detection.

Work to be undertaken: Consideration of a draft consolidated report prepared by the rapporteur from the Netherlands.

06.5.6.3 Problems related to occurrence and removal of solids during gas extraction from the underground storage facilities (1994-2000)

Description: Study of various aspects of underground storage of gas and related problems. Exchange of experience in solving problems associated with the removal of solids during gas extraction from the underground storage facilities.

Work to be undertaken: Consideration of a draft consolidated report prepared by the rapporteur from Hungary.

06.5.6.4 Technical and ecological norms required for the design, construction and operation of local gas distribution systems, including household gas installations (1999-2000)

Description: To review existing norms, standards and techniques related to the design, construction and operation of gas distribution networks and household gas appliances.

Work to be undertaken: Consideration of a draft questionnaire prepared by the rapporteur from the Russian Federation.

06.5.6.5 Existing standards and regulations on permissible concentrations of harmful components in gaseous fuels and gaseous fuels combustion products (1999-2000)

Description: To review and study standards and regulations applied in countries.

Work to be undertaken: Consideration of a draft questionnaire prepared by the rapporteur from Poland.

06.5.6.6 Use of horizontal wells in underground gas storage.

Work to be undertaken: To consider inclusion of this topic in the programme of work.

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