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COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Tenth session, 31 October - 2 November 2000
Item 10(a) and (b) of the provisional agenda

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2001-2002

Note by the secretariat

1. This draft programme of work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy is prepared in the light of the decisions of the Commission at its fifty-fifth session and the decisions of the Committee at its ninth session.
2. The draft programme contains the programme elements that the Committee itself implements and those programme elements of each subsidiary body, namely the Working Party on Gas, the Steering Committee of Energy Efficiency 21 Project, Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal and Thermal Power, and Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Extension of European Electricity Interconnection, which are of overall importance from the Committee 's perspective. The detailed programmes of work of its subsidiary bodies are contained in the reports of those bodies.
3. The Committee will consider various proposals, including the recommendations of the International ECE Task Force on follow-up to CSD-9, and adopt its own programme of work and that of its subsidiary bodies.
4. This document is intended to facilitate the work of the Committee and not to prejudice in any way its decisions.

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PROGRAMME OF WORK 2001-2002

OVERVIEW – PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

Related programme elements and implementing bodies

(C: Committee; WP.G: Working Party on Gas; EE 21: Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project; GE.C: Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal and Thermal Power; GE.E: Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Extension of European Electricity Interconnections; G.C: Gas Centre)

06.1. NORMATIVE ACTIVITIES IN ENERGY FIELD INCLUDING LABELLING, CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS AND RELATED LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

Work to be undertaken: To develop and implement norms and standards, and to harmonize legislation, regulations and policies in the field of energy in order to promote sustainable energy development, such as:

- the United Nations International Framework Classification for Reserves/Resources: Solid Fuels and Mineral Commodities (C)
- the definitions for Reserve/Resource Classification of Energy Commodities - Petroleum, Natural Gas, Coal and Uranium (C)
- the international codification system for low-rank coals (C)
- the development of energy efficiency standards and labelling systems (C, EE 21)

Note: The development of norms, standards and classification and labelling systems as well as the harmonization of legislation, regulations and policies across all ECE countries would be the responsibility, and in the programme of work, of the Committee. Implementational aspects as well as the provision of technical assistance to transition countries to assist them to meet standards, norms and guidelines could be delegated by the Committee to its subsidiary bodies and their technical assistance programmes.

Work methods: To carry out the above normative activities at annual sessions of the Committee and through task forces, Ad Hoc Expert Groups, seminars, workshops and special studies.

06.2. OPENING AND LIBERALIZATION OF ENERGY MARKETS; PRICING POLICIES AND SUPPLY SECURITY (C,WP.G, G.C, GE.C AND GE.E)

Work to be undertaken: To assess the major developments and new trends in the restructuring and liberalization of energy markets, inherent challenges and opportunities associated with the opening up of energy markets and to address issues related to the implementation of the

regulatory, trading and technical aspects of market liberalization with a special focus on the strategic impact of the opening up of energy markets.

Work methods: Overview of the experience of member countries at annual sessions of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies; analysis and workshops.

6.3. DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL SUSTAINABLE ENERGY STRATEGY FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY (C)

Work to be undertaken: To contribute a regional perspective to the preparations and lead up to the annual session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2001(CSD-9) which will address energy-related sustainability issues.

Work methods: To proceed with:

- (i) a High-Level Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Sustainable Energy in a Competitive Market: Forging Partnerships, to be held in conjunction with the tenth session of the Committee;
- (ii) a declaration and/or statement, including recommendations on sustainable energy development, to be submitted to CSD-9 as an ECE contribution;
- (iii) the establishment of an Intergovernmental Task Force, with sub-regional representation, to guide the work on this issue between the ninth and tenth sessions of the Committee.

Once constituted, the Intergovernmental Task Force identified and assessed the following five energy policy subject areas:

- energy availability and security of supply
- energy intensity and efficiency
- energy pricing, subsidization and the internalization of externalities
- cleaner fossil fuels, renewable energy and research & development
- market opening, liberalization and economic efficiency.

After assessing these priority subject areas, it decided to focus its attention on two of them, namely, (1) energy intensity and efficiency; and (2) energy pricing, subsidization and the internalization of externalities. Furthermore, the Task Force decided to structure the High-Level Forum around these two subject areas.

The objective of the Forum, which will be held on Wednesday, 1 November 2000, is to identify where there is agreement or, as the case may be, disagreement among the various stakeholders on issues, and to recommend approaches and steps which can be taken to facilitate the transition to a more sustainable energy future. The conclusions and recommendations from the Forum will be incorporated into the Declaration/Statement to be adopted by the Committee on Sustainable Energy for submission to CSD-9.

In-depth discussion and adoption of the Declaration/Statement will be taken up by the Committee on the following morning, Thursday, 2 November 2000.

06.4. RATIONAL USE OF ENERGY, EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION

(a) "Energy Efficiency 21" Project (EE 21)

Work to be undertaken: To develop projects to reduce the energy efficiency gap between actual practice and best technologies, and among ECE countries, in particular between the formerly centrally planned economies and the market economies. During its third three-year phase, special emphasis will be given to energy efficiency demonstration zones, training on project financing and management, small and medium sized company start-up including energy services companies, networking and information exchange, energy efficiency standards, and the development of business contacts.

Work methods: The programme will be implemented through national participating institutions, private sector companies, international financial institutions, commercial banks, international organizations, other multi- and bilateral technical assistance programmes and ad hoc groups of experts, as well as through meetings, training sessions, workshops and seminars.

(b) Energy conservation and efficiency developments, policies and prospects

Work to be undertaken: To harmonize and develop guidelines and strategies to enhance energy efficiency and conservation, and to develop joint activities with the Committee on Environmental Policy in the context of the European Energy Conservation Initiative.

Work methods: To be developed through exchange of information at annual session, ad hoc expert groups, and through workshops and special studies.

(c) Rational use of gas, including conservation and efficiency measures (WP.G)

Work to be undertaken: To enhance efficiency and conservation in the production and use of gas.

Work methods: Exchange of information and views on gas conservation measures, technical and economic aspects associated with equipment and appliances and their efficiency and through the study of new technical developments in the end-use of gas.

06.5. ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE INCLUDING INTERCONNECTION OF ELECTRIC POWER AND GAS NETWORKS

(a) European interconnection of electric power systems (C, GE.E)

Work to be undertaken: Annual review of the situation and prospects for European interconnections, cooperation with sub-regional organizations in the field of electric power interconnections.

Work methods: Exchange of information and views during annual sessions of the Committee, coordination of the activities and joint meetings with sub-regional organizations, and workshops.

(b) Interconnection of gas networks (WP.G)

Work to be undertaken: To promote gas interconnections and related investments, with particular attention to updating the Gas Grids Study, which was last produced in 1992.

Work methods: To implement the study update through an ad hoc group of experts composed of representatives of interested governments, the major gas companies and organizations.

06.6. COAL AND THERMAL POWER GENERATION IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT (GE.C)

Work to be undertaken: To provide an overview of the policies and programmes carried out in the member States for achieving environmental protection and sustainable development in coal and thermal power sectors; to promote technical cooperation among member States in applying clean coal technologies and practices throughout the coal-energy chain; to facilitate the development and implementation of projects in selected fields of coal mining, coal preparation and upgrading, rehabilitation of existing thermal power plants, increasing thermal efficiency and reducing SO₂, NO_x and other emissions, management and incentives for the utilization and disposal of residues, and by-products from coal mining and coal combustion, such as fly ash, CO₂; to explore new areas of clean coal combustion with biomass or municipal waste; to develop policy and technical recommendations for future directions for the orientation of decision-makers in energy.

Work methods: Assessment of the current situation, programmes and projects at various stages of implementation and on technical cooperation needs in the countries in transition; presentation of case studies of successful projects including technologies, incentives and financing mechanisms at the annual sessions of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal and Thermal Power; and workshops, technical advisory missions, study tours, feasibility studies and demonstration projects, subject to the availability of necessary financial resources.
