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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY**

Working Party on Gas

Eleventh session, 23-24 January 2001

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

for the eleventh session to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
starting on Tuesday, 23 January 2001, at 10 a.m.

**MAIN ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED**

- Review of gas industries developments in ECE countries in 1999 and preliminary results for 2000;
- The Gas Centre - new challenges ahead;
- Security of energy supply for EU - the "Green Paper" (presentation by the European Commission);
- Pace of reforms in the gas industries in transition countries - latest developments;
- Activities of the Ad Hoc Groups of Experts on Natural Gas Resources and on the Supply and Use of Gas;
- Overview of worldwide natural gas vehicles (NGV) activities;
- Workshop in St. Petersburg;
- "Blue Corridor" project.

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Decisions of the tenth session 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 industries in economies in transition - the "Gas Centre"
4. Current developments and medium-term and long-term prospects and policies in the gas industry, including trade of gas:
  - (a) Review of the gas situation and prospects in the ECE region;
  - (b) Regional studies.
5. Activities of the Ad Hoc Groups of Experts:
  - (a) Twenty-fourth session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Natural Gas Resources;
  - (b) Second session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply and Use of Gas.
6. Overview of the activities of other international organizations in the field of gas.
7. Future activities of the Working Party:
  - (a) Programme of work for 2001-2004;
  - (b) Provisional calendar of meetings for 2001 and 2002.
8. Other business.
9. Election of officers.
10. 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 secretariat will report on the discussions and decisions adopted by the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its tenth session. In particular, it will present the ECE "Regional Contribution" to the ninth annual session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-9).

### Item 3

The Working Party will be informed of the results of the Gas Centre's operations in the year 2000. The secretariat will present the programme of work of the Gas Centre for 2001 as well as the outlook for its activities in the years to come.

### Item 4 (a)

Delegations will be invited to make statements on the gas situation and gas markets, including LPG, in 1999 in their respective countries and to include in their reports preliminary information on the 2000 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 4 (b)

The secretariat will inform delegations of the plans with regard to the study on Underground gas storage, Gas grids study and on the progress achieved in the implementation of the Gas Map project.

### Item 5

Delegations will be informed of the work carried out by the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Natural Gas Resources and on the Supply and Use of Gas in the year 2000 and their future programme of work.

Item 6

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. In particular, there will be the following presentations.

A representative of the European Commission will present a “Green Paper” dealing with security of energy supply to the European Union.

The Executive Director of the European Natural Gas Vehicle Association (ENGVA) will make an overview of NGV activities in the world.

A representative from VNIMI Institute (Russian Federation) will report on the preparations for the Workshop on “Geodynamic and environmental safety in the development, storage and transport of gas”, to be held in St.Petersburg from 27 to 29 June 2001.

A representative from the Vernadsky Foundation (Russian Federation) will make a presentation on a “Blue Corridor” project on the use of gaseous fuels in transboundary vehicle traffic.

Item 7

The Working Party will consider its programme of work for 2001-2004 and its calendar of activities for 2001-2002.

Item 8

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

Item 9

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

Item 10

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

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