



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ENERGY/WP.3/2002/4

20 November 2001

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Working Party on Gas

Twelfth session, 22-23 January 2002

Item 7(a) of the provisional agenda

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK, 2002-2005

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 eleventh session of the Working Party;
- (b) The decisions of the eleventh session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy held in November 2001;
- (c) The decisions and activities of the Ad Hoc Groups of Experts undertaken since the last session of the Working Party.

GE.01-32501

PROGRAMME OF WORK, 2002-2005

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 (1994-2005)

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. Study of latest developments in gas industries, such as liberalization and privatization.

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

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 (1997-2002)

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 (1997-2002)

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 (1995-2002)

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

Work to be undertaken: Collection of geological data through the questionnaire, 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 (1992-2002)

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 (1998-200)

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

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 (1996-2002)

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

Work to be undertaken: Annual lectures and discussions on the new technologies applied in ECE countries. To undertake similar survey in two years= time.

06.5.6.2 Methods for detection of gas leakages during extraction, transportation, distribution and storage of natural gas (1994-2002)

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

Work to be undertaken: Annual lectures and discussions on emissions requirements. Update of the topic in two or three years= time.

06.5.6.3 Use of horizontal wells in underground gas storage (2000-2001)

Description: Review and analysis of methods and techniques used in drilling and operation of horizontal wells in underground gas storage.

Work to be undertaken: Consideration of replies to the questionnaire, prepared by the rapporteur from Hungary.

06.5.6.4 Technological and ecological norms required for the design and operation of gas distribution networks (1999-2002)

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 consolidated report.

06.5.6.5 Existing standards and regulations on permissible concentrations of harmful components in gaseous fuels and gaseous fuels combustion products (1999-2002)

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

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