



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

ENERGY/WP.3/AC.1/2002/1  
24 September 2002

ENGLISH

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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE  
COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY  
WORKING PARTY ON GAS**

Task Force on the “Blue Corridor” Project  
Warsaw (Poland), 27-28 June 2002

**OUTCOME OF THE FIRST MEETING**

**I. MANDATE**

1. The meeting was held following decisions of the recent sessions of the UNECE Working Party on Gas (January 2002) and Inland Transport Committee (February 2002) with a view to assessing the technical and economic viability of the “Blue Corridor” project and modalities of its implementation.

**II. VENUE**

2. The meeting was held at the headquarters of the Polish company “Energorojekt” at the invitation of the Clean Air Foundation (Poland), who was the principal host of the meeting.

**III. ATTENDANCE**

3. The meeting was attended by 25 participants from the following 13 member countries of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE): Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey and United Kingdom.

4. The following non-governmental organisations were represented: Clean Air Foundation, European Natural Gas Vehicle Association (E.N.G.V.A.) and Vernadsky Ecological Foundation.

#### IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

5. The bureau of the meeting, in consultation with the UNECE secretariat has nominated the Officers for the project, as follows\*:

Chairman: Mr. Andrey Andreevsky (Vernadsky Foundation)

Vice-Chairpersons: Mr. Jeffrey M. Seisler (E.N.G.V.A.)  
Mr. Flavio Mariani (Italy)  
Mr. Evgeny Pronin (Russian Federation and CIS).

6. On behalf of the UNECE secretariat, the following officers were identified as coordinators/focal points:

Mr. Alexandre Chachine (Sustainable Energy Division) and

Mr. Christopher Smith (Transport Division)

#### V. MAIN ISSUES DISCUSSED

7. Mr. A. Andreevsky (Vernadsky Foundation) made a comprehensive presentation of the project and outlined the main goals of the Task Force Group. He also demonstrated a video film on the project which was specifically designed by the Vernadsky Foundation for the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, August-September 2002).

8. All participants present at the meeting took part in the discussions. They presented the current state and future prospects of NGV development in their respective countries and made their comments and appraisal of the proposed project.

9. Mr. J. Seisler (ENGVA) presented a detailed overview of the NGV development worldwide with special emphasis on the European NGV market. He also stressed that the aim of the Blue Corridor project was in line with EU Commission policy to reduce drastically, in the near future, the number of cars in Europe using diesel and gasoline, replacing them with alternative fuels, in particular NGVs.

#### VI. MAIN DECISIONS TAKEN

10. There was a general consensus with regard to the importance and attractiveness of the project. All participants underlined their interest and intention to work on the project.

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\* Other experts wishing to participate in the work of the bureau are welcome.

11. Three pilot corridors were proposed for the assessment of the project, e.g. “Kaliningrad – Warsaw”, “Moscow – Berlin” and “Berlin – Rome”. After extensive discussions it was decided to select the two latter corridors for further consideration. However, experts are invited to express their views on the proposed corridors or put forward other proposals (with justification).

12. The meeting invited Mr. Sakir Arikan (Botas, Turkey) to prepare a list of parameters that will help to assess the characteristics of the pilot corridor (e.g. traffic flow density, number of NGV's per time unit, etc.).

13. Delegations are invited to send to the secretariat, before 1 September 2002, their proposals with regard to parameters that will be used for the assessment of the viability of the project.

14. The Task Force Group and the UNECE Gas Centre agreed to develop a website page for the Blue Corridor project, using the facilities of the Gas Centre. It was decided to put all presentations made at the meeting onto the new web page. In this regard the secretariat requested participants who made presentations to send them to Geneva, preferably before 1 August 2002.

15. Delegations were invited to consider hosting the next meeting of the Task Force, which is planned to be held in late October – early November 2002. Mr. J. Seisler (E.N.G.V.A.) kindly made a standing offer to use their new offices near Amsterdam for the meeting.

#### **VII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

16. Delegations expressed their appreciation and thanked Mrs. L. van Der Marel, President of the Clean Air Foundation, for the excellent organization of the meeting.

17. The representatives of the Vernadsky Foundation and the UNECE secretariat also appreciated the opportunity to make a presentation of the Blue Corridor project at the Polish Ministry of Environment, on 27 June 2002.