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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY**

Working Party on Gas

Thirteenth session, 21-22 January 2003

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTEENTH SESSION**

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
starting on Tuesday, 21 January 2003, at 10 a.m.

**MAIN ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED**

- Review of the latest developments in the gas industry of UNECE countries;
- Common European Economic Space – New Challenges for the Energy Sector (Round Table);
- The Gas Centre – a focus on the security of gas supply;
- Upstream gas activities – the future of the Ad Hoc Groups of Experts on Natural Gas Resources;
- International transport of goods by gas-driven vehicles - “Blue Corridor” project – an update;
- Natural gas and environment.

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Decisions of the twelfth 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 UNECE region:
  - Promotion and development of 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:
  - Review of the gas situation and prospects in the UNECE region.
5. Activities of the Ad Hoc Groups of Experts:
  - (a) Twenty-fifth session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Natural Gas Resources;
  - (b) Fourth 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 2003-2006;
  - (b) Provisional calendar of meetings for 2003 and 2004.
8. Other business.
9. Election of officers.
10. Adoption of the report.

## ANNEX I

### 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 decisions adopted by the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its twelfth session. In particular, it will report on the progress achieved in the preparation of a new classification framework system for energy commodities, such as coal, petroleum, natural gas and uranium.

#### Item 3

The Working Party will be informed of the results of the Gas Centre's operations in 2002, in particular of its Task Forces on Gas Transportation Tariffs and on the Security of Gas Supply. The secretariat will also present the programme of work of the Gas Centre for 2003 and an outlook for its activities in the years to come.

#### Item 4

Delegations will be invited to make statements and present preliminary results of the gas industry and gas market operations in 2002, in their respective countries, 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.

#### Item 5

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

At the last session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Natural Gas Resources in June 2002, delegations discussed in detail efficiency and an overall performance of this Group and agreed to bring this issue to the attention of the session of the Working Party on Gas, in order to be able to take a final decision on the future of this Group of Experts.

Item 6

Various international governmental and non-governmental organizations will make presentations on their activities which are of relevance to the Working Party. Delegations will also be informed of the progress in the “Blue corridor” project, aimed at construction in Europe of transboundary motor vehicle corridors adapted for the use of gaseous fuels.

Item 7

The Working Party will consider its programme of work for 2002-2005 and its calendar of meetings for the period 2003-2004.

Item 8

A Round Table on the “Common European Economic Space – New Challenges for the Energy Sector” will be organized during the morning session on 21 January 2003. It will provide delegates with an opportunity to consider new challenges (legal, commercial, etc.) for the energy and gas sectors, in particular, that will emerge as a result of EU enlargement.

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 twelfth session Mr. Boleslav Rey (Poland) and Messrs. Noël Coupaye (France) and Ferdinand de Lichtervelde (Belgium) were 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.

## ANNEX II

### WORKING PARTY ON GAS Thirteenth session, 21 - 22 January 2003

#### REGISTRATION FORM

In view of the security arrangements for access to the Palais des Nations, delegations are asked to inform the secretariat (UNECE Sustainable Energy Division) of their exact composition. Access to the Palais des Nations will be granted only to those in possession of an identity card issued by the Safety and Security Section, Villa les Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (see map).

Each delegate attending the session is therefore requested to fill out the attached registration form and return it by fax (+41 22 917 00 38/917 0430) or E-mail ([alexandre.chachine@unece.org](mailto:alexandre.chachine@unece.org)), not later than two weeks before the session commences, to:

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