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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal in Sustainable Development
Sixth session, 17-18 November 2003

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SIXTH SESSION

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on 17 November 2003 *

Key Issues for Discussion

◆ *global and regional coal demand perspectives to 2030* ◆ *update on clean coal technologies and carbon sequestration* ◆ *opportunities for economies in transition to benefit from Kyoto Mechanisms through methane-related projects* ◆ *coal sector restructuring*

This session will be held during the same week as the following meetings:

- (a) Sixth session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Electric Power will be held on 18 p.m. November (provisional agenda ENERGY/GE.2/2003/1).
- (b) Thirteenth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy will be held on 19-21 November (provisional agenda ECE/ENERGY/52).
- (c) Roundtable on "Facilitating Investment in the Electricity Sector of the Transition Economies" will be organised jointly by the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Electric Power on 19 a.m. November (provisional agenda ENERGY/GE.2/2003/3).
- (d) Following the success and level of interest in the Energy Security event held in November 2002, a one-day Energy Security Forum will be held on 20 November.

* New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings held at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the attached registration form also available from the website of the UNECE IREED Division (<http://www.unece.org/ie>) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, at the latest two weeks prior to the session, either by fax (+41 22 917 0038) or by e-mail (charlotte.griffiths@unece.org). Prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Villa Les Feuillantines, 13, Avenue de la Paix (a map is attached) for the issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulty, please contact by telephone the UNECE secretariat (internal extension 74140 or 72410).

1. Adoption of the agenda (ENERGY/GE.1/2003/2).
2. Election of officers.
3. Approval of draft Terms of Reference (Annex to ENERGY/GE.1/2002/3).
4. Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, and matters for consideration by the Ad Hoc Group of Experts (ECE/ENERGY/49).
5. Demand, supply and prospects for coal in the UNECE region (ENERGY/GE.1/2003/1 and ENERGY/GE.1/2003/6).
6. Clean coal technologies and technological innovations – including activities and research being undertaken – to reduce greenhouse gas emissions arising from coal use.
 - (a) Coalbed (CBM) and coal mine methane (CMM), including a general overview of CBM and CMM (ENERGY/GE.1/2003/4); and opportunities for economies in transition to benefit from the Kyoto Protocol Mechanisms by undertaking methane-related projects (ENERGY/GE.1/2003/5).
 - (b) Carbon sequestration and hydrogen from coal;
 - (c) Best Available Techniques for Large Combustion Plants; and
 - (d) United Nations Development Account project “Capacity-Building for Air Quality Management and the Application of Clean Coal Combustion Technologies in Central Asia” (ENERGY/GE.1/2003/9).
7. Coal sector restructuring in the economies in transition (ENERGY/GE.1/2002/6 and ENERGY/GE.1/2003/8).
8. Investment issues in coal supply (ENERGY/GE.1/2003/7).
9. Opportunities for financing clean combustion in small and medium sized boilers in Central and Eastern Europe.
10. Promotion of coal
 - (a) Image of coal; and
 - (b) World Energy Council ‘Global Coal Study’ update.
11. Activities of and cooperation with various intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.
12. Programme of work
13. Any other business.
14. Adoption of the report of the meeting (ENERGY/GE.1/2003/3).

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 Ad Hoc Group of Experts will elect its officers. At its fifth session, it elected Mr. Sergey Klimov (Russian Federation) as Chairman and Messrs Celestin Alexandrescu (Romania) and Miroslav Wališ (Czech Republic) as Vice-Chairmen. It is proposed that this Bureau be re-elected.

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure for the Ad Hoc Group it is normal practice for a new Bureau to be elected every two years. It is therefore proposed that a new Bureau be elected to serve at the seventh session in 2004. Delegations are invited to put forward nominations for officers to serve on this Bureau.

Item 3

The Ad Hoc Group will review and approve the draft Terms of Reference of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal in Sustainable Development (Annex to the Report of the fifth session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal and Thermal Power, ENERGY/GE.1/2002/3). The Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal in Sustainable Development is the successor intergovernmental body to the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal and Thermal Power.

Item 4

An overview of recent activities within the work programme of the Committee on Sustainable Energy will be provided, with particular emphasis on those areas related to the production and use of coal, including for thermal power generation. This overview of the Committee's work is intended for the Ad Hoc Group of Experts' information and guidance.

Item 5

The Ad Hoc Group of Experts will consider coal demand, supply and prospects in the UNECE region, including the use of coal for electric power generation. The World Energy Council will prepare a paper focussing on "Global and Regional Coal Demand Perspectives to 2030 and Beyond" (ENERGY/GE.1/2003/6), which will be presented for discussion at the meeting. The secretariat will prepare a background document based on the responses to the Questionnaire on the "Forecasts for the Supply of and Demand for Solid Fuels – 2003" (ENERGY/GE.1/2003/1). However, due to the availability of information this may only be issued as a conference room document at the time of the meeting. In addition, delegations are encouraged to prepare country reports on coal supply and demand, which should be submitted to the secretariat as early as possible before the session. It is recommended that the country papers include a short description of recent market developments.

Item 6

The Ad Hoc Group will continue to be updated on developments worldwide in the area of clean coal technologies and other technological innovations, including carbon sequestration and hydrogen from coal. Opportunities for the Ad Hoc Group to be actively involved in projects to reduce greenhouse gases from the use of coal as an energy source will be discussed.

- (a) Coalbed and Coal Mine Methane: undertaking projects in the area of coalbed and coal mine methane will result in economic, environmental and safety benefits, an improved image for coal and also the potential to bring in much needed foreign investment in transition economies. Two papers will be prepared on this topic; the first, jointly authored by the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Coalbed Methane Outreach Program (CMOP) and Mr. Karl Schultz, will provide general background information together with an overview of viable CBM and CMM projects in transition economies (ENERGY/GE.1/2003/4). The second paper, prepared by Mr. Schultz, will explore opportunities for economies in transition to benefit from the Kyoto Protocol Mechanisms by undertaking methane-related projects (ENERGY/GE.1/2003/5). The Ad Hoc Group will review and discuss this issue in the light of both documents and explore any future activities in this area.
- (b) Carbon Sequestration and Hydrogen from Coal:
- Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum: participants will be briefed on this Forum, an international climate change initiative that will focus on development of carbon capture and storage technologies.
 - The meeting will receive an update on general developments in the area of carbon sequestration since the Workshop on “Carbon Sequestration” organised by the Ad Hoc Group in Geneva, 19 November 2002.
 - Hydrogen from Coal: participants will discuss this topic, including whether this should be a future area of work for the Ad Hoc Group of Experts. A presentation will be made on the US “FutureGen – Sequestration and Hydrogen Research Initiative”, which is a government/industry partnership to design, build and operate a nearly emission-free, coal-fired electric and hydrogen production plant.
- (c) Best Available Techniques for Large Combustion Plants: attention is drawn to the “Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPCC) Draft Reference Document on Best Available Techniques (BATs) for Large Combustion Plants” (second draft, March 2003) issued by the European Commission Directorate General Joint Research Centre/European IPPC Bureau (<http://eippcb.jrc.es>). The document is available for download by accessing the following direct link: ftp://ftp.jrc.es/pub/eippcb/doc/lcp_d2_0303.pdf Alternatively, the document can be accessed via the European Power Plant Suppliers’ Association (EPPSA) website at: http://www.eppsa.org/BAT_LCP/BAT_LCP_frameseite.htm The Ad Hoc Group will be briefed on issues relating to BATs.

- (d) United Nations Development Account (UNDA) Project: a project proposal on “Capacity-Building for Air Quality Management and the Application of Clean Coal Combustion Technologies in Central Asia” has been short listed for funding under the Fourth Tranche of the UNDA. The project will be managed by the ECE, notably jointly by the Sustainable Energy Section of the IREED Division and the Environment and Human Settlements Division, in collaboration with ESCAP and the UNEP Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific. The objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity of air quality management institutions in Central Asia to implement the UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) and its protocols and to promote the deployment of appropriate clean coal combustion technologies for heat and power generation from solid fuels. The secretariat will prepare a background paper on the project (ENERGY/GE.1/2003/9). Following a briefing, the meeting will discuss ways in which the Ad Hoc Group might both benefit from the project and also facilitate its implementation.
- (e) Any other issues relevant under this Agenda Item will be discussed.

Item 7

The Ad Hoc Group of Experts will continue its assessment of coal industry restructuring in the economies in transition, but with particular emphasis on the economic and social impacts.

- (a) Discussions will continue with regard to responses to the finalized questionnaire “Economic and Social Impacts of Restructuring of the Coal Industries of the Transition Economies” (ENERGY/GE.1/2003/8 and ENERGY/GE.1/2002/6).
- (b) The UNECE secretariat has previously collected data from countries with regard to coal sector restructuring, including: coal production, number of mines and pits, employment levels, state subsidies, productivity trends and investments in the industry. The most recent data series collected by UNECE was for the period 1990 to 2000. It is proposed that the meeting agree that delegations be requested to submit information in order to update this data series for publication in 2004.
- (c) In addition, delegations are encouraged to prepare country reports on the status of coal sector restructuring and any recent developments, which should be submitted to the secretariat as early as possible before the session.
- (d) Attention is drawn to the Regional Forum on “Social Aspects and Financing of Industrial Restructuring” jointly organised by the UNECE and the International Labour Organization in Moscow, 26-27 November 2003. A member of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts will make a presentation on the social aspects of coal sector restructuring at this event.

Item 8

Investment is an ongoing issue and constraint in the coal sector of the economies in transition. Continuing modernisation and rationalisation of existing mines, new capacity to replace uneconomic and less efficient mines and increasing productivity levels through changed management practices are all examples of areas for which investment is required. The International Energy Agency (IEA) will prepare a general paper on “Investment Issues in the Coal Sector” (ENERGY/GE.1/2003/7). This paper will be presented at the session by the IEA; however, the presentation will place increased emphasis on the transition economies.

Item 9

The secretariat will update the meeting on opportunities to organise a follow-up event to the Workshop on “Clean Coal Combustion in Small and Medium Sized Boilers in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE)” held in Brasov, Romania, 4-6 September 2002. At its fifth session, the Ad Hoc Group debated the proposal for the UNECE to organize a follow-up event focussed on “identifying appropriate financing sources”, however the suggestion was put forward that an event concentrating on improving national incentives may be more effective. It was agreed that all proposals from delegations regarding any follow-up event, including timing, venue and focus, should be submitted to the secretariat as soon after the November 2002 session as possible. Any future activities would then be explored based upon the feedback.

Item 10

Public acceptance of coal is an area requiring action at the global level by all sectors of the coal industry.

- (a) The World Coal Institute will brief the meeting on activities it is undertaking and/or facilitating to promote coal and improve coal’s image with both the general public and policymakers alike. Other organisations and delegations are encouraged to share activities they are working on in this area. The meeting will discuss ways in which the Ad Hoc Group might cooperate with and/or complement any ongoing or planned activities.
- (b) The World Energy Council (WEC) is preparing a major global coal study entitled “Sustainable Global Energy Development: the Case of Coal”. The Study is due to be finalised in 2003 and submitted to a peer review in 2004, after which it will be presented at the 19th WEC Congress in Sydney, Australia. Emphasis is made in the Study on the “image of coal” and the importance of action by the coal industry at the global level to promote coal and address issues relating to public acceptance and its poor image. A presentation will be made updating participants on the current status of the Study.

Item 11

The Ad Hoc Group of Experts will be briefed on the activities of common interest of other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. These organizations are particularly encouraged to draw attention to issues that may have an impact on coal and/or thermal power in the UNECE region that are not covered on this agenda. Additionally, these organizations are invited to present their views and proposals with regard to future activities and areas of cooperation.

Item 12

The Ad Hoc Group of Experts will be given an opportunity to discuss and review the programme of work for 2004 and propose specific activities to be carried out during this period. Attention is drawn to the Provisional Calendar of Meetings for 2004 prepared by the Committee on Sustainable Energy (ENERGY/2003/12).

Item 13

Any additional issues that arise between the time of preparation of the provisional agenda and the holding of the meeting will be considered under this item.

Item 14

A report on the session will be prepared by the secretariat after the meeting, sent to the Bureau for approval and then circulated to member countries (ENERGY/GE.1/2003/3). In accordance with the recommendations of the Commission, the report of the session will be short and focussed and address the key conclusions and recommendations.



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE - GENEVA

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Date:

Title of the Conference

UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy and related meetings, 17-21 November 2003

Delegation/Participant of Country, Organization or Agency

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Participant: Name Mr. ' Mrs. ' Ms. '

First Name(s)

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Participation Category

Head of Delegation: /	Observer (organization): /
Delegation Member: /	NGO: /
Observer Country: /	Other (Please specify below): /
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Participation from: until:	

In which language do you prefer to receive documents:

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Validity Until:

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Address in Geneva:

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Accompanied by spouse: Yes ' No '

Family Name (spouse):

First Name (spouse):

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