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COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Working Party on Gas

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Item 8(a) of the provisional agenda

FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING PARTY

Programme of work for 2007-2010

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 sixteenth session of the Working Party;
- (b) The decisions and activities of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply and Use of Gas.

*The present document was submitted late due to resources constraints.

PROGRAMME OF WORK 2007-2010

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 UNECE 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 (1994-2007)

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 Executive 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 UNECE 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 UNECE 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 UNECE 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 consider updating the study.

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 discuss future work on this topic.

06.5.4.5 Use of gaseous fuels for motor vehicles (continuing)

Description: To consider further steps in the development of the Blue Corridor project on the use of natural gas as a motor fuel in international freight and passenger traffic. At the annual sessions of the Working Party on Gas to organise discussions on this topic together with representatives of other international organisations working in this field.

Work to be undertaken: To consider at annual sessions recent developments in European and world market of gas driven vehicles.

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)

Description: Assessment and evaluation of natural gas resources, reserves and production.

Work to be undertaken: To collect data, through the questionnaire on “ Natural gas – reserves, resources and exploration and development prospects in the UNECE region”.

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 - Diagnostics of Gas Transportation Lines and Risk Management (2004-2007)

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

Work to be undertaken: To consider replies to the questionnaire on Diagnostics of Gas Transportation Lines and Risk Management.

06.5.6.2 Methods for detection of gas leakages during extraction, transportation, distribution and storage of natural gas (1994-2007)

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

Work to be undertaken: To consider a revised draft questionnaire, prepared by the rapporteur from Ukraine.

06.5.6.3 Technological and ecological norms required for the design and operation of gas distribution networks (1999-2007)

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: To update this topic in two years' time.

06.5.6.4 Existing standards and regulations on permissible concentrations of harmful components in gaseous fuels and gaseous fuels combustion products (1999-2007)

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

Work to be undertaken: To update this topic in two years' time.

06.5.6.5 Gas networks balancing (2002-2007)

Description: Exchange of experience in balancing of gas transportation networks as an instrument to enhance security of gas supply.

Work to be undertaken: To present a lecture on this topic at the next session.

06.5.6.6 Technological standards and norms required for design and operation of NGV filling stations (2002-2007)

Description: Inventory of existing standards (national and international) on compressed natural gas filling stations.

Work to be undertaken: Review of a draft report, prepared by the rapporteur from Portugal.
