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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Working Party on Gas

First expert meeting on the update of the UNECE Study on “Underground Gas Storage in Europe and Central Asia”,

Palais des Nations, Geneva

Salle F-3

10:00 hrs, 20 June 2008

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

I. INTRODUCTION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Agenda item 1)

1. Director of the UNECE Division on Sustainable Energy and Secretary of UNECE Working Party on Gas will open the meeting and ask participants to elect the officers of the meeting

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda item 2)

2. The provisional agenda will be proposed for adoption.

III. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE EIGHTEEN SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY ON GAS RELATED TO UNDERGROUND GAS STORAGE ACTIVITIES¹
(Agenda item 3)

3. The eighteenth session of the Working Party on Gas, which was held on 22 and 23 January 2008 and attended by 82 representatives from the UNECE member-states as well as representatives of Algeria and the Islamic Republic of Iran participated under Article 11 of the Commission's Terms of Reference, took the following decision, among others, regarding its programme of work for 2008-2011:

“(a) Within the proposed programme of work, to approve the proposal by Mr. Karasevich, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply and Use of Gas, to launch ... the update of the UNECE Study on “Underground Gas Storage In Europe and Central Asia”; and

(b) To requests the delegations from Hungary and Romania to take the initiative for the update of the underground gas storage project;”

4. Given the dynamic trends in the natural gas industry in the region, the successful update of the Study could contribute to the better understanding of the current state and prospects of underground gas storage in Europe and Central Asia. In turn it could facilitate creation of a suitable regulatory framework in the region as well as reduce uncertainty for gas industry when making related decisions.

IV. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE LAUNCH OF UPDATE OF THE UNECE STUDY ON “UNDERGROUND GAS STORAGE IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA”;
(Agenda item 4)

5. Bearing in mind the initial UNECE study and changed regulatory and market circumstances in the natural gas industry in the UNECE region, participants will exchange their views on which approach to take towards the update of the UNECE Study on “Underground Gas Storage in Europe and Central Asia”. Submission in advance of related written proposals by participants to the UNECE secretariat before the meeting on 20 June 2008 is encouraged.

6. On the substantive matters, the issues to address concern the depth of the study, required level of details, methods of gathering data, production of maps, treatment of technical and confidential data and availability of final results.

7. On organizational issues, participants are expected to deal with the format of the study, establishment of the project body (ies), list of desired companies and member-states to take an

¹ Official documents of the session including the report are available at <http://documents.un.org/>.

active part in carrying out the study, methods of cooperation and communication, eventual use of extra-budgetary funds, milestones and time framework.

8. Participants would need to decide on the format and deadline for the production of the terms of reference for the Study, to be submitted in an extended version to the 19th annual session of the UNECE Working Party on Gas in January 2009.

V. ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE STUDY (Agenda item 5)

9. Participants would be asked to elect the officers of the study who would take the lead in further work including the definition of the terms of reference, communication with the UNECE Working Party on Gas, decisions on the time and place of the subsequent meetings and methods of work. The officers are supposed to keep informed the UNECE Working Party on Gas on the progress of the study including at the forthcoming annual session in January 2009.

VI. ADOPTION OF CALENDAR (Agenda item 6)

10. The execution of the study would require a provisional calendar of activities, specifying main phases and deadlines. Participants would be asked to propose and approve a provisional calendar which would allow the mobilization of all key experts and the timely finalization of the project.

VII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (Agenda item 7)

11. The expert group on the study is expected to adopt the report of its first meeting session on 20 June 2008.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda item 8)
