

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Session, Geneva, 25-27 April 2007

Item 8: Promoting sustainable development in the ECE region: Some decisive factors  
(a) Sustainable energy policies: the key to energy security

**Sustainable Energy Policies: the Key to Energy Security in the UNECE Region**  
**Friday 27 April: 10.00-13.00 hours**

**SPEAKERS BRIEFING NOTE**

**A. General Objectives of the UNECE's Programme of Work on Energy**

Over the past 60 years, the UNECE has offered a forum for governments of the UNECE region with different and sometimes conflicting interests, to meet and develop common understandings to resolve and move forward on international issues of mutual concern. In the area of energy, the UNECE seeks to reduce the instability of the global energy market and its negative impact on the world economy. It offers a key and neutral platform for member States to work on energy policies for securing reliable energy supplies, promoting the fuller integration of the energy infrastructure and energy systems of member countries, and facilitating the transition to sustainable patterns of energy development and use.

The key and over-riding policy objectives of the energy programme are three-fold: (i) ensuring energy security; (ii) addressing environmental concerns/global climate change related to energy production and consumption; and (iii) liberalization of energy markets.

Through its specific activities (both regular budget and extrabudgetary) on cleaner electricity production from coal and other fossil fuels, coal mine methane, energy efficiency, energy security, gas (including the fully extrabudgetary-funded UNECE Gas Centre), harmonization of fossil energy and mineral resources terminology and classification, and technical assistance services, the UNECE works to:

- ❑ Ensure sustained access to high quality energy services for all individuals in the ECE region;
- ❑ Enhance energy security and ensure the diversity of energy sources, including the promotion of investment to boost energy capacity;
- ❑ Take vigorous action to reduce the energy intensity and improve the energy efficiency of their economies;
- ❑ Reduce the health and environmental impacts resulting from the production, transport and use of energy;
- ❑ Maintain well-balanced energy network systems across the whole of the ECE tailored to optimize operating efficiencies and overall cooperation;
- ❑ Establish a policy framework and investment climate conducive to the introduction of cleaner and more environmentally friendly fossil fuel technologies;
- ❑ Implement an enabling environment for the development and use of renewable sources of energy and their more effective integration into the energy systems of member countries; and
- ❑ Improve the quantity, quality and transparency, as well as the dissemination of data and information, on energy resources, consumption, production, transportation and energy-related environmental effects.

The energy activities are undertaken through Working Parties, Ad Hoc Groups of Experts, Task Forces, conferences, seminars, workshops, special studies and the Regional Advisory Services.

## **B. Issues to be Addressed by Speakers**

Moderator: Jean-Christophe FÜEG, Special Representative for International Energy Affairs, Swiss Federal Office of Energy and Chairman, UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy

### **(i) Individual Presentations**

*Lead-off speaker*

- The Role and Significance of the Energy Policies of the Russian Federation within the overall context of Energy Security for the UNECE Region  
*Viktor KHRISTENKO, Minister of Industry and Energy, Russian Federation*
- The Role of the Corporate Sector in Facilitating Energy Security and Reduced Emissions: the View from Total  
*Thierry DESMAREST, President, Total*
- Global Energy Security and the Role of Biofuels  
*Gregory MANUEL, Special Advisor to the Secretary of State and International Energy Coordinator, United States Department of State*
- The Unsustainability of Current Energy Trends  
*Claude MANDIL, Executive Director, International Energy Agency*

### **(ii) Panel Session**

- The Future of Energy Security in Eurasia: the View from Georgia  
*Valeri CHECHELASHVILI, First Deputy Foreign Minister, Georgia*
- Turkey's Role as an Energy Supply Gateway and its Significance for Global Energy Security  
*Selahattin CIMEN, Deputy Undersecretary, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, Turkey*
- The Role of Governments and International Organisations in Promoting Energy Security: the View from the Energy Charter Secretariat  
*André MERNIER, Secretary General, Energy Charter Secretariat*
- Energy and the Global Economy  
*Gerlando GENUARDI, Vice President, European Investment Bank*

## **C. Specific Objectives of High-Level Energy Segment on 27 April**

To address the priorities for reinforcing sustainable energy policies in the UNECE region and the role for UNECE, including in:

- (a) facilitating an expert, technical dialogue on energy security among member States and setting the priority areas to be covered by such a dialogue;
- (b) identifying the investment and financing needs of the energy sector in the UNECE region and how best to create the appropriate environment, including policy and regulatory framework, to facilitate the required inward investment; and
- (c) providing a forum for enhanced cross-sectoral cooperation and consensus building on energy-related activities to promote the transition to more sustainable patterns of energy production and consumption and ultimately to deliver an improved environmental outcome for the UNECE region.

The discussions would also provide guidance to the Committee on Sustainable Energy regarding its future programme of work, and in particular, on which areas of energy security should first be taken up in its enhanced expert dialogue on the subject, so as to contribute to a prioritised implementation of its programme of work. At its annual session in November 2006, delegates recommended that the Committee on Sustainable Energy undertake a broadly shared intergovernmental expert dialogue on energy security in one or more of the following areas:

- (i) data and information sharing and increased transparency;
- (ii) infrastructure investment and financing;
- (iii) legal, regulatory and policy framework;
- (iv) harmonisation of standards;
- (v) research, development and deployment of new technologies, and
- (vi) investment/transit safeguards and burden sharing.

Other potential areas for discussion include:

- ❑ What should UNECE's role be in providing capacity building and technical assistance to the most disadvantaged ECE countries aimed at improving their populations' access to high quality energy services?
- ❑ How are the objectives of ensuring availability of energy at reasonable prices, energy security over the short, medium and long term and sustainable development reconciled?
- ❑ What is the best approach in dealing with the issue of climate change in the light of today's realities (e.g., lack of options to quickly switch to less carbon intensive energy sources over the medium term)? What can the UNECE contribute in this area?
- ❑ The best energy is the one that is saved. How can governments be more proactive in promoting energy conservation and improving energy efficiency? What should the role of the UNECE be?
- ❑ When is it appropriate and what is the proper balance between the use of economic instruments, including fiscal measures, voluntary measures and the regulatory approach to promote environmental objectives?

#### **D. Outcome of Energy Segment**

- (i) Establishment of guidelines clearly outlining the future work to be undertaken by UNECE in establishing a technical dialogue on energy security amongst member States and also setting priorities for this activity. Such a dialogue would take place under the Committee on Sustainable Energy and would encompass the promotion of sustainable energy policies in the region.
- (ii) Identification of the UNECE's role in facilitating an environment conducive to raising and channelling the required investment flows for energy infrastructure, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe.
- (iii) Outlining of potential opportunities for enhanced intersectoral cooperation and consensus building in the UNECE in the areas of energy, environment, transport and timber.