

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Gas

Second session

Geneva, 20-21 January 2015

Item 9 of the provisional agenda:

Removing barriers to the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel

Draft Terms of Reference of the Task Force on removing barriers to the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. Increasing the shares of natural gas and bio-methane in the transportation fuel mix represent the easiest, most practical, and most realistic way to reduce pollution coming from the sector. Methane/hydrogen blends represent a huge potential for the transport sector, and represent an ideal bridge to more sustainable mobility using the existing natural gas/bio-methane distribution infrastructure. Natural gas—with its environmental, economic and availability advantages—will remain the only alternative to oil and diesel in the short and medium terms, and is the only primary fuel that is fully technically and economically applicable in any mode of transportation: on-road vehicles, scooters, heavy duty vehicles, ships, aircrafts, locomotives, and so forth. Using natural gas as a transportation fuel is a critical area for natural gas demand growth, with specific relevant benefits such as improving environmental impacts (CO₂, SO₂, and NO_x).

2. UNECE is an intergovernmental mechanism with the capacity and capability to help develop norms and standards, including best practice guidance, while offering a neutral and transparent platform. One example of such work is the recommendations concerning the transport of dangerous goods known as "Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods".

3. Another example are the UNECE recommendations recently submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on how carbon capture and storage in cleaner electricity production and through enhanced oil recovery could be used in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. These recommendations were developed through an inclusive dialogue by the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels. A similar approach could be taken by the Task Force on removing barriers to the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel.

II. Work and deliverables of the Task Force on removing barriers to the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel

4. The work of this Task Force on removing barriers to the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel is intended to:

- Analyse the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel from the perspective of energy infrastructure; and

- In collaboration with NGVA Europe, IGU, and the ECE Working Party on Pollution and Energy (GRPE), and other key stakeholders, prepare Recommendations on Removing Barriers to the Use of Natural Gas as a Transportation Fuel.
5. Work Methods: This work will require the engagement of experts as national and corporate representatives, and is expected to involve all stakeholders.
- A Task Force will be assembled under the direction of either the Chair or one of the Vice Chairs of the Bureau of the Group of Experts. The Task Force will include all stakeholders in the gas value chain, including a range of gas producers and transporters, system operators, distribution companies, academics, regulators, and ministry officials from member States;
 - Experts from IGU, IEA, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) bodies, national administrations, and the range of gas associations will be invited to join the Task Force;
 - The work to be undertaken, as listed above, will be laid out in a project management plan developed and agreed by the Task Force;
 - It is expected that the Task Force will work independently, supported both substantively and logistically by the secretariat, using electronic means of communication and meetings as needed in informal settings; and
 - The Task Force will provide quarterly updates on progress to the Bureau of the Group of Experts (which the secretariat will post to the website and circulate to the Permanent Missions in Geneva), and will report to the annual meeting of the Group of Experts.

III. Draft recommendations on removing barriers to the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel

6. To be discussed and agreed upon by the Task Force following their meeting on 20 January 2015. It will be then presented to the Group of Experts on 21 January 2015.