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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Gas

Fourth session

Geneva, 27 and 28 March 2017

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the fourth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Monday
27 March 2017¹

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Opening remarks
3. Election of officers
4. Round table on gas supply, transit and demand
5. Methane emissions: a challenge to the sustainability credentials of gas
6. Activities and priorities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and its Committee on Sustainable Energy

¹ Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations need to either register online or complete the registration form posted to the website of the ECE Sustainable Energy Division (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=43277>) and transmit it to the ECE secretariat, if possible at least two weeks prior to the session, either by e-mail (natural.gas@unece.org) or fax (+41 22 917 0038). Prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves, at least 45 minutes prior to the beginning of the meeting, at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix opposite the Red Cross Building (see the map on the Energy Division's website) for the issuance of an identification badge. Registration is open every work day at the Pregny Gate from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The secretariat can be contacted by telephone (extension 73158 or 71499).



7. Best practice guidance on the role of natural gas in increasing the uptake of renewable energy
8. Best practice guidance for liquefied natural gas
9. Removing barriers to the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel
10. Recent developments and medium- and long-term prospects and policies in the gas industry – country updates and activities of international organizations
11. Renewal of mandate and work plans for 2014–2017 and 2018–2019
12. Preparations for the fifth session
13. Other business
14. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations
15. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

1. In accordance with the rules of procedure of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the first item on the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda. The documents for the session will be published on the ECE Sustainable Energy Division natural gas website², as soon as they become available.

Item 2: Opening remarks

2. Opening remarks will be delivered.

Item 3: Election of officers

3. At its third session held in April 2016, the Group of Experts elected a Bureau to serve for two years. The Group of Experts will be informed of any nominations received and/or other changes to the Bureau since its third session.

Item 4: Round table on gas supply, transit and demand

4. The Group of Experts on Gas is mandated to provide a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on ways to promote the sustainable and clean production, distribution, and consumption of gas in the ECE region. Experts from leading gas exporting, transit and importing countries will provide their perspectives on the state of play of the natural gas business in the short and medium terms in a round table format. The round table will present the gas supply and demand outlook for Europe and its impact on upstream, mid-stream and downstream investments. The discussion, covering both pipeline and liquefied natural gas, will also outline near-term transit risks and suggest possible solutions.

² http://www.unece.org/energy/se/docs/natural_gas.html

Item 5: Methane emissions: a challenge to the sustainability credentials of gas

5. The Group of Experts established a Task Force to work on developing best practice guidance on managing methane emissions along the gas value chain. Subsequently the Committee on Sustainable Energy requested a dialogue on methane management in the extractive industries. The focus of the Committee's work is on developing best practices on the monitoring, measurement, recording, and reporting of methane emissions in the extractive industries. The secretariat has initiated a survey of current practices which, if the results are available in time, will be presented and discussed at the meeting of Group of Experts on Gas. A discussion will be held on the impact of methane emissions from the natural gas supply chain on the sustainability of natural gas in global energy systems. Stakeholders from ECE member States, the gas industry, international and non-governmental organizations and academia will provide their insights on how managing such emissions can increase the sustainability credentials of gas and help achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

6. A number of good practices and case studies on reducing methane emissions along the value chain will be presented. The ideas and conclusions emerging from the discussions will be used as the building blocks of a future Best Practice Guidance in Managing Methane Emissions in the Gas Value Chain, which is one of the deliverables of the 2014–2017 work plan of the Group of Experts. The Group of Experts will be updated on the progress of its Task Force working on methane emissions as well as the Task Force on Methane Management in Extractive Industries operating under the Committee on Sustainable Energy and will discuss possible next steps.

Item 6: Activities and priorities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and its Committee on Sustainable Energy

7. The secretariat will inform the Group of Experts on the relevant decisions and outcomes of the twenty-fifth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy held on 28–30 September 2016 and 19 January 2017.

8. Synergies between various subsidiary bodies of the Committee will be explored.

Item 7: Best practice guidance on the role of natural gas in increasing the uptake of renewable energy

9. The Group of Experts established a Task Force to work on developing best practices on the role of natural gas in significantly increasing the uptake of renewable energy in the ECE region, and to help achieve the objective of access to energy for all in the ECE Region. This work is to be carried out in close collaboration with the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy. The Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity has requested to join this activity. The Group of Experts will be updated on the progress made and will discuss possible next steps. The ideas and conclusions emerging from the discussion will be used as the building blocks of future best practices on the role of natural gas in significantly increasing the uptake of renewable energy, which is one of the deliverables of the 2014–2017 work plan of the Group of Experts.

Item 8: Best practice guidance for liquefied natural gas

10. The Group of Experts established a Task Force to work on developing best practices for liquefied natural gas (LNG). The Group of Experts will be updated on the progress made and will discuss possible next steps. The ideas and conclusions emerging from the discussion will be used as the building blocks of a future Best Practice Guidance for Liquefied Natural Gas, which is one of the deliverables of the 2014–2017 work plan of the Group of Experts.

Item 9: Removing barriers to the use of natural gas as transportation fuel

11. The Group of Experts established a Task Force to develop recommendations on removing barriers to the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel. The Group of Experts will be updated on the progress made and will discuss possible next steps.

Item 10: Recent developments and medium- and long-term prospects and policies in the gas industry – country updates and activities of international organisations.

12. Representatives of ECE member States, the gas industry and international governmental and non-governmental organizations will be invited to present developments in 2016 and the first quarter of 2017 in their countries' gas industry operations and markets. Representatives are requested to provide electronic versions of any presentations or material to the secretariat in advance and in one of the ECE three working languages (English, French, or Russian).

Item 11: Renewal of mandate and work plans for 2014–2017 and 2018–2019

13. The Group of Experts will review its work plan for 2014–2017, including the status of the deliverables and any challenges encountered.

14. The mandate of the Group of Experts expires on 31 December 2017. The Group of Experts will discuss its Mandate and Terms of Reference and propose activities for its 2018–2019 work plan. The draft work plan for 2018–2019 prepared by the Bureau and circulated prior to the meeting will serve as the basis for the discussions.

15. The Group of Experts will discuss and agree on the procedures needed to enable the submission of all relevant documents to the Committee on Sustainable Energy for review and approval at its twenty-sixth session, September 2017.

Item 12: Preparations for the fifth session

16. The Group of Experts will discuss preparations for its fifth session. Possible topics for the substantive portion of the session will be proposed and discussed. The fifth session of the Group of Experts is to be scheduled in early- or mid-2018.

Item 13: Other business

17. The meeting may discuss other issues that arise before or during the session and that fall within the scope of the Terms of Reference of the Group of Experts. To the extent possible, delegates are encouraged to notify the secretariat or the Chair in advance of any issue they may wish to raise under this agenda item.

Item 14: Adoption of conclusions and recommendations

18. The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt conclusions and recommendations as may be agreed.

19. Where possible the draft conclusions and recommendations will be circulated to participants and Geneva Permanent Representations at least ten days before the start of the meeting.

Item 15: Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

20. The Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will summarize the agreed conclusions and recommendations. The Expert Group will be invited to adopt its report based on a draft prepared by the secretariat in cooperation with the Bureau of the Group of Experts, following which the Chair will close the meeting.

III. Tentative timetable

20. Below is a tentative timetable. It is subject to change; if required an updated timetable will be posted on the ECE Group of Experts on Gas website³.

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
27 March 2017	
10:00	Item 1: Adoption of the agenda
10:10	Item 2: Opening remarks
10:20	Item 3: Election of officers
10:30	Item 4: Round table on gas supply, transit and demand
13:00	Lunch break
15:00	Item 5: Methane emissions: a challenge to the sustainability credentials of gas
18:00	Close of Day One
18:15	Reception

³ http://www.unece.org/energy/se/docs/natural_gas.html

28 March 2017

10:00	Item 6:	Activities and priorities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and its Committee on Sustainable Energy
10:30	Item 7:	Best practice guidance on the role of natural gas in increasing the uptake of renewable energy
11:00	Item 8:	Best practice guidance for liquefied natural gas
12:00	Item 9:	Removing barriers to the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel
13:00	Lunch break	
15:00	Item 10:	Recent developments and medium- and long-term prospects and policies in the gas industry – country updates and activities of international organizations
16:20	Item 11:	Renewal of mandate and work plans for 2014–2017 and 2018–2019
16:50	Item 12:	Preparations for the fifth session
17:00	Item 13:	Other business
17:20	Item 14:	Adoption of conclusions and recommendations
17:30	Item 15:	Adoption of the report and close of the meeting
18:00	Close of the fourth session	
