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**Economic Commission for Europe****Committee on Sustainable Energy****Group of Experts on Gas****First session**

Geneva, 14–15 April 2014

**Report of the Group of Experts on Gas on its first session****I. Introduction**

1. The first session of the Group of Expert on Gas was held on 14–15 April 2014.
2. This report summarizes the discussions on the work of the Group of Experts at its first session. All the documents and presentations of the session are available on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) website<sup>1</sup>.

**II. Attendance**

3. The meeting was attended by experts from the public and private sectors of the following ECE member States: Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America. A representative of the European Union (EU) also participated.
4. Experts from Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Mozambique, Nigeria, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates participated under Article 11 of the Commission's Terms of Reference.
5. The following organizations were represented: Association Royale des Gaziers Belges, Eurogas, International Group of Liquefied Natural Gas Importers (GIIGNL), NGVA Europe, the Society of International Gas Tanker and Terminal Operators (SIGTTO), International Gas Union (IGU), MarcoGaz, Moscow International Petroleum Club and the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies (OIES).

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<sup>1</sup> Official documents of the session are available at <http://documents.un.org/>. Unofficial room documents and presentations delivered at the meeting are available on the ECE website at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=34146>.



### III. Opening of the session

6. The meeting was opened by the Director of Sustainable Energy Division. He drew attention to the outcomes of the review of the 2005 ECE Reform, according to which the Group of Experts on Gas was established. The Group of Experts on Gas is mandated until December 2017, with the possibility of extension, to carry out concrete, results-oriented activities in the work areas and 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. The areas of work for the Group of Experts on Gas are policy dialogue and exchange of information and experience among ECE member countries on: gas-related issues of regional relevance, including the role of gas in the global energy mix; and the relation between natural gas and the environment.

### IV. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

*Documentation:* ECE/ENERGY/GE.8/2014/1

7. The provisional agenda as contained in the document ECE/ENERGY/GE.8/2014/1 was adopted with one amendment: that the election of Vice Chairs was postponed due to the late circulation of the nominations and pending further consultations among member States that are to be completed as soon as possible, making best efforts to complete these consultations by 9 May 2014<sup>2</sup>.

8. The representative of the European Union (EU) and its Member States agreed to the agenda with the following understanding:

- Regarding agenda items 3 and 7: to prevent duplication of work and to ensure that the activities of ECE have an added value, the secretariat will produce a background note (as requested in paragraph 17 of the Committee on Sustainable Energy report on its twenty-second session (ECE/ENERGY/91)) that maps the activities of other international actors on the activities that are included in the draft work plan of the Group of Experts, before the work plan is submitted for approval to the Executive Committee of ECE.
- Agenda item 5: a detailed annual budget and work plan of the Gas Centre will be submitted for approval to the Executive Committee of ECE as soon as possible.

### V. Election of officers (agenda item 2)

9. The Group of Experts elected its new Chair: Mr. Francisco de la Flor Garcia of Spain. The election of other officers was postponed pending consultations among ECE member States. At the time of the meeting the following nominations had been received: Mr. Natig Abbasov (Azerbaijan), Mr. Torstein Indrebø (International Gas Union), Mr. Jan Ingwersen (Denmark), Mr. Alexander Karasevich (Russian Federation) and Mr. Tamas Korosi (Hungary) as Vice Chairs<sup>2</sup>.

10. The elected Chair thanked and complimented Mr. Karasevich on the leadership he provided for many years in his capacity as the Chair of the Working Party on Gas.

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<sup>2</sup> Note by the secretariat: following consultations after the session, the election of the Vice Chairs was confirmed by member States.

11. The Chair introduced the ECE Study on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and the roundtable scheduled with important upstream actors in the LNG value chain. The Chair drew attention to the draft work plan for the Group that included four topics:

- (a) Best Practice Guidance to Reduce Gas Leaks in the Gas Value Chain;
- (b) Best Practices on the Role of Natural Gas in Significantly Increasing the Uptake of Renewable Energy in the Region and Helping Achieve the Objective of Access to Energy for All in the ECE region;
- (c) Best Practice Guidance for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), and;
- (d) Removing Barriers to the Use of Natural Gas as a Transportation Fuel.

12. The Chair advised that a number of requests had been received for the Group of Experts to also work on the development of unconventional gas resources. A draft work plan, including this fifth proposed activity, would be tabled for consideration by the Group of Experts.

## **VI. Matters arising from the twenty-second session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy related to the Group of Experts on Gas (agenda item 3)**

13. The secretariat updated the Group of Experts on the relevant outcomes of the twenty-second session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, 21–22 November 2013, outlining the new structure of the Committee's subsidiary bodies and their mandates. To avoid duplication of work and to ensure that the activities in ECE have an added value, the secretariat is to produce a background note (as requested by paragraph 17 of the Committee on Sustainable Energy report on its twenty-second session) that maps the activities of other international actors on the activities that are included in the draft work plan of the Group of Experts.

## **VII. Recent developments and medium- and long-term prospects and policies in the gas industry, including trade of gas (agenda item 4)**

14. An update was provided on recent developments and trends in gas markets. Representatives of Hungary, Gazprom, and the International Gas Union presented developments in their respective countries and organizations. The representative of the EU emphasized the role natural gas could play in accelerating deployment of renewable energy sources. In this regard he suggested to map communities in the ECE region that do not have access to modern energy services as a first step towards providing them with renewable energy that is backed up with natural gas.

15. The representative of NGVA Europe presented opportunities for using natural gas as a propulsion fuel for land-based and maritime transportation, emphasizing the importance of the need to improve the energy efficiency in spark ignited engines as well as the challenges in converting ships and long haul-trucks to LNG. He described global developments in the use of LNG for trucks in China, the United States and Europe. He explained the possible negative impact of the EU Directive for minimum taxation on present still under-developed natural gas markets and infrastructure.

## **VIII. Review of the work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Gas Centre (agenda item 5)**

16. The manager of the Gas Centre presented the recent activities, budget and work plan for 2014 of the Gas Centre.

17. The representative of the EU indicated that during the review of the 2005 ECE Reform an important question had been raised as to what extent the Gas Centre should be acting as a United Nations body. In the view of the mandate of the Gas Centre, that is, to allow for an interactive dialogue between the gas industry and the ECE member States, the Gas Centre should act as a United Nations body whenever it meets with representatives of the governments of the ECE member States, but it could not be considered a United Nations body whenever its members or any group of company representatives develop activities of their own such as the 2013 activities of the Gas Centre, which the secretariat had reported on. The private sector companies of the Gas Centre did not need, and should not carry, a United Nations flag when carrying out such activities. He moreover recalled that the Gas Centre is an extrabudgetary project and that there is thus a need for the annual work plan and budgets to be submitted for approval to the Executive Committee of ECE.

18. The representative of Gazprom drew the attention of the Group of Experts on Gas to the foundation documents of the Gas Centre which specify how the Centre functions and how its budget is established. He invited member States to participate fully, as envisaged from the outset, in the programme of activities of the Gas Centre.

## **IX. Review of the activities of other subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy related to natural gas (agenda item 6)**

19. The secretariat presented the activities of subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Sustainable Energy working on coal mine methane, cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels, energy efficiency, renewable energy and resource classification, with an emphasis on those activities that offer synergies with the work of the Group of Expert on Gas.

20. The representative of the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP29) secretariat provided an overview of developments in ECE vehicle regulations related to the use of natural gas and LNG for vehicle propulsion.

21. The representative of the EU raised the question of the possibility that the methane trapped under the Siberian permafrost could be irreversibly released if the permafrost was to defrost as a consequence of the increasing global temperatures. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change projects the increase to be between two and five degrees by 2100. He suggested that the Group of Experts on Gas could look into how these resources could be tapped early on, which would add to the resource base and prevent an uncontrolled release of methane that would accelerate global warming beyond any point of return.

## **X. Overview of the activities of other international organizations in the field of gas (agenda item 7)**

22. The representative of Eurogas proposed possibilities for collaboration between Eurogas and the Group of Experts in fostering a European gas market that encourages competitiveness, supports security of supply, stimulates energy efficiency and helps reduce

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. She provided details of Eurogas' road map to 2035, released in 2013, which indicates a possible competition between natural gas and coal in the years to come.

23. The representative of the International Group of Liquefied Natural Gas Importers (GIIGNL) provided details of the latest developments and activities related to LNG purchasing, importing, processing, transportation, and re-gasification. He emphasized the excellent track record in safety along the value chain of handling LNG.

24. The representative of the International Gas Union (IGU) described the work of IGU and its 15 Working Committees, Programme Committees, and Task Forces. The IGU presentation is posted to the ECE website<sup>3</sup>.

25. To prevent duplication of work and to ensure that the activities in the ECE have an added value, the secretariat is to produce a background note (as requested by point 17 of the Committee on Sustainable Energy report on its twenty-second session) that maps the activities of other international actors on the activities that are included in the draft work plan of the Group of Experts.

## **XI. Current state and prospects of liquefied natural gas in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe (agenda item 8)**

26. The lead authors of the four chapters of the ECE study: "Current state and prospects of LNG in the UNECE region" presented conclusions and findings of this study. Detailed presentations are available on the ECE website<sup>3</sup>.

27. The Acting Executive Secretary of ECE described the critical role of natural gas in ensuring reliable and responsible supplies of energy while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Engagement between industry and government is essential if workable investment conditions are to be instituted, and ECE is well-placed for that engagement. Natural gas could play its transformative role more effectively if LNG is able turn the world's regional natural gas markets into a truly global one. The statement of the Acting Executive Secretary is posted on the ECE website<sup>3</sup>.

28. A summary of comments made by participants will be made available on the natural gas web pages of the ECE website.

## **XII. Future activities of the Group of Experts on Gas (agenda item 9)**

29. After having discussed its future activities, the Group of Experts decided to carry out the four activities as outlined in the work plan that is annexed to this report. Given resource constraints, the Group of Experts decided not to pursue the fifth activity—development of best practice guidance for development of unconventional gas—at this time.

30. The Group of Experts decided to establish four Task Forces to take the lead in the proposed work activities:

- (a) Task Force on Reducing Gas Leaks in the Gas Value Chain;

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=34146>

(b) Task Force on the Role of Natural Gas in Significantly Increasing the Uptake of Renewable Energy in the ECE Region and Helping Achieve the Objective of Access to Energy for All in the ECE region;

(c) Task Force on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG);

(d) Task Force on the Use of Natural Gas as a Transportation Fuel.

31. The Task Forces will inform the Group of Experts on progress in their respective fields of work at the next meeting of the Group of Experts.

### **XIII. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations (agenda item 10)**

32. After discussions, the Group of Experts:

(a) Elected its Chair to serve in 2014–2015 and took note of the nominees for the Bureau, who will be elected as soon as consultations of ECE member States are concluded<sup>2</sup>;

(b) Requested that the ECE Gas Centre submit its detailed annual budget and work plan, including ideas on how to give form to its mandate to have an interactive dialogue with member States, for approval to the Executive Committee as soon as possible;

(c) Endorsed the study on the current state and prospects of LNG in the ECE region, requested that the Study Group update the study in light of comments received and, following approval by the Bureau, requested the secretariat to make the revised study available on the ECE website<sup>3</sup>;

(d) Recommended to the Committee on Sustainable Energy and to the Executive Committee to approve its work plan for 2014–2015, as given in Annex to this report, and invited the Chair to appoint members of the Task Forces, including as much as possible the major international actors in this area, who would take the lead in carrying out the four activities included in the work plan.

### **XIV. Dates of next meeting (agenda item 12)**

33. The second session of the Group of Experts is scheduled to be held on 20–21 January 2015.

### **XV. Adoption of the report of the meeting (agenda item 13)**

34. The report of the meeting was adopted subject to any necessary editing and formatting. The report will be posted to the ECE website<sup>3</sup>.

## Annex

### Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Gas for 2014–2015

#### I. Introduction

1. Annex VII of the Executive Committee's decision on Terms of Reference of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and Mandates and Terms of Reference of its subsidiary bodies (ECE/EX/2013/L.15) mandates the Group of Experts on Gas to provide a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on ways to promote the sustainable and clean production, distribution, and consumption of gas in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region. The areas of work of the Group of Experts are policy dialogue and exchange of information and experiences among ECE member countries on gas-related issues of regional relevance, including the role of gas in the global energy mix, and the relation between natural gas and the environment. Concrete activities that member States agreed for the Group of Experts included studies, delivered in a timely way, on the sustainable and clean production, transport, and use of gas, including on issues that emerge from natural gas market studies carried out in the past, and methods of preventing gas losses and leakages during production and distribution. The mandate is approved until December 2017, with the possibility of extension.

2. In accordance with the agreed mandates and terms of reference, the Bureau of the Group of Experts on Gas recognized the need for concrete, results-oriented activities that meet the needs of member States, and that build on issues that have emerged from natural gas market studies carried out in the past.

#### II. Concrete activities

3. At its first session<sup>4</sup> held in April 2014, the Group of Experts recommended the following four concrete activities be included in its work plan for 2014–15 (see paragraph 30 of the Meeting Report ECE/ENERGY/GE.8/2014/2):

##### A. Best Practice Guidance in Reducing Gas Leaks in the Gas Value Chain

**Description:** In many ECE member States, there is an opportunity to improve efficiency in the gas supply chain from source to use. The differences between the volumes of gas produced at the source and the volumes delivered to end users show significant variances across ECE member States. Reducing the differences by improving the performance among laggards will improve the overall energy efficiency, gas affordability and producers' competitiveness. It will also reduce methane emissions from leaks in the gas value chain. Since methane is a potent greenhouse gas, reducing emissions will have a significant positive impact on the environment. The proposed activity is therefore to prepare the building blocks for developing Best Practice Guidance in reducing gas leaks in the gas value chain.

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<sup>4</sup> The Group of Experts on Gas held its first meeting in Geneva, 14–15 April 2014.

**Work to be undertaken:**

- Prepare a systematic assessment of gas leakage rates across the full value chain, i.e., in gas production, transport, distribution, and use in ECE member States. The assessment will also include a review of approaches to measuring, monitoring, and reporting leakage rates. This work, will be undertaken by a task force of experts in collaboration with international organisations such as the International Energy Agency (IEA), national governments of the ECE member States and all other relevant stakeholders, including organizations of producers, transporters and distributors of gas such as the International Gas Union (IGU), and associations of system operators, and academia, and will be based both on any available sources including on statistics from the system of national accounts that are reported through national and international organizations (such as IEA or the World Bank) and on collaboration with producers and transport and distribution system operators and regulators, and, if needed, on a questionnaire;
- Review the range of gas technology, pipelines, and infrastructure construction and maintenance techniques deployed across the ECE region, with special focus on the best and worst performers, to explain the differences in leakage rates and to identify opportunities for improvement;
- Review the different options and techniques that exist and costs associated with reducing leakages throughout the gas chain; and
- Prepare Best Practice Guidance in Reducing Gas Leakage Rates throughout the gas chain, taking into account, when implementing it, the local conditions for use by industry, regulators, and policy-setters.

**Deliverables:**

- Performance benchmarking on gas leakage rates across the ECE region;
- Draft Best Practice Guidance in Reducing Gas Leakage Rates.

**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.



**Timeline:**

- Endorsement of this activity in the work plan by the Group of Experts and the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and approval by the Executive Committee: April/May 2014;
- Establishment of Task Force: May 2014;
- Development of detailed project plan by Task Force: June 2014;
- Systematic assessment of gas leakage rates in ECE member States: December 2014;
- Review of techniques deployed across the ECE region: June 2015;
- Preparation of Draft Best Practice Guidance in Reducing Gas Leakage Rates: December 2015;
- Approval of Best Practice Guidance in Reducing Gas Leakage Rates: April 2016;
- Publication of Best Practice Guidance in Reducing Gas Leakage Rates: October 2016.

**B. Best Practices on the Role of Natural Gas in Significantly Increasing the Uptake of Renewable Energy in the ECE Region and Helping Achieve the Objective of Access to Energy for All in the ECE Region**

**Description:** In order to increase the uptake of renewable energy sources, there is a need to have a reliable source of energy and capacity when the renewable energy sources are not available. There is also a need for rapid-response capacity to maintain balance in power networks in light of oscillations in the output of intermittent energy sources. Gas could be such a source. This activity would be based on a policy dialogue and exchange of experiences and practices on the role of natural gas in enabling renewable energy policies. That dialogue could lead to development of guidance on best practices and policies on the role of natural gas in significantly increasing the uptake of renewable energy in the ECE region and helping achieve the objective of access to energy for all in the ECE region. This work, undertaken from the perspective of the natural gas industry and gas-fired power plant operators, would complement and take into account the work to be undertaken by the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy in developing best policy practices for renewable energy. Relevant lessons could be learned from the development policies carried out by a majority of ECE countries in the past years.

**Work to be undertaken:**

- One of the activities of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy will be to identify those communities in the ECE region that, at present, have no access to energy, and suggest ways to ensure that these communities have access to renewable or alternative sources of energy as soon as possible. Energy companies could be asked to help to achieve that objective as part of that work. The Group of Experts on Gas will assess the role that natural gas could play in providing that access in supporting renewable energy uptake (which in no way means that natural gas could not provide access in its own right);
- Review the range of technology options for improving energy access, including an assessment of commercial feasibility;
- Prepare a systematic assessment of the consequences of renewables uptake in the energy mix for the amount of back-up capacity and energy that is required. The

assessment will include an analysis of utilization rates of gas-fired power plants vis-à-vis renewables in ECE member States;

- Conduct an analysis of the economics of gas-fired power in the context of green policies on renewables and gas. The analysis should include an assessment of the impacts of support schemes on the gas sector and on system management;
- Prepare a Best Practice Guidance on the Role of Natural Gas in Significantly Increasing the Uptake of Renewable Energy in the ECE Region and Helping Achieve the Objective of Access to Energy for All in the ECE region; and

**Deliverables:**

- Assessment of the economic and technical feasibility for natural gas to support renewables providing energy access throughout the ECE region;
- Assessment of the systemic consequences of renewable energy uptake;
- Economic analysis of natural gas in a context of green policies; and
- Best Practices on the Role of Natural Gas in Significantly Increasing the Uptake of Renewable Energy in the ECE Region and Helping Achieve the Objective of Access to Energy for All in the ECE region.

**Work Methods:** This work will require the engagement of experts as national and corporate representatives.

- 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. Members of the ECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy will be invited to participate. The Task Force will include stakeholders from the gas industry, civil society, academia, regulators, and ministry officials from member States;
- Experts from relevant international actors such as the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), IEA, IGU and gas associations will be invited to join the Task Force;
- The work to be undertaken 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 (that the secretariat will post to the ECE website and distribute to the Geneva delegations) and will report to the annual meeting of the Group of Experts.

**Timeline:**

- Endorsement of this activity in the work plan by the nominated bureau of the Group of Experts and the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, and approval by the Executive Committee: April/May 2014;
- Establishment of the Task Force: May 2014;
- Development/approval of detailed project description/terms of reference by Task Force: June 2014;
- Assessment of the systemic consequences of renewables uptake: April 2015;
- Economic analysis of natural gas in a context of green policies: April 2015;

- Initial Draft Best Practices on the Role of Natural Gas in Supporting Renewables Uptake: November 2015;
- Approve Best Practices on the Role of Natural Gas in Supporting Renewables Uptake: November 2016;
- Publish Best Practices on the Role of Natural Gas in Supporting Renewables Uptake: June 2017.

## C. Best Practice Guidance for Liquefied Natural Gas

**Description:** This activity would engage a dialogue on the contribution that natural gas could make to the transition to a sustainable energy future. The dialogue will involve comprehensive analysis of the costs and cost trends through the whole gas and LNG value chains, and discussion of possible best practice guidance. The impact of LNG on security and diversification of supply, flexibility, liquidity, prices, and competition and market integration can be significant. There are opportunities for improvement in LNG specifications, liquefaction plants, receiving facilities, local operating procedures, LNG tankers designs, and so forth. Some harmonization of LNG quality specifications is needed to ensure it is acceptable at all LNG terminals and to a majority of end users. Players throughout the LNG chain, including regulators, will be encouraged to standardize and exchange information. Such efforts would improve compatibility and efficiencies and maintain safety levels throughout the industry. Attention should be paid as well to the development of small-scale LNG that is flexible, has lower capital costs, and can service smaller markets.

**Work to be undertaken:** Building upon the findings and recommendations of the recently published ECE study on LNG and taking into account recent data and trends, assess the potential for LNG in the ECE region under an optimal policy framework as described above in the description. The work will be undertaken in collaboration with other relevant organizations such as the IGU, the IEA, and associations of system operators. This work will take into account developments of new LNG terminals in ECE member States.

### **Deliverables:**

- Comprehensive Assessment of Trends in Liquefied Natural Gas,
- Best Practice Guidance for Liquefied Natural Gas.

**Work Methods:** This work will require the engagement of experts as national and corporate representatives.

- 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 the range of stakeholders in LNG as well as regulators and ministry officials from member States;
- Experts from IEA, IGU and gas associations will be invited to join the Task Force;
- The work to be undertaken 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 (that the secretariat will post to the ECE website and distribute to

the Geneva delegations) and will report to the annual meeting of the Group of Experts.

**Timeline:**

- Endorsement of this activity in the work plan by the nominated bureau of the Group of Experts and the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, and approval by the Executive Committee: April/May 2014;
- Establishment of Task Force: May 2014;
- Development/approval of detailed project description/terms of reference by Task Force: June 2014;
- Draft Comprehensive Assessment of Trends in LNG: April 2015;
- Best Practice Guidance for LNG: April 2015;
- Approve Comprehensive Assessment of Trends in LNG: January 2016;
- Approve Best Practice Guidance for LNG: January 2016;
- Publish Comprehensive Assessment of Trends in LNG: October 2016;
- Publish Best Practice Guidance for LNG: October 2016.

## **D. Removing Barriers to the Use of Natural Gas as a Transportation Fuel**

**Description:** Natural gas and bio-methane represent the easiest, most practical, and most realistic way to reduce pollution coming from road transportation. 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 (CO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, and NO<sub>x</sub>). This activity would explore removing barriers to the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel in the ECE region.

**Work to be undertaken:**

- Analyze 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), prepare Recommendations on Removing Barriers to the Use of Natural Gas as a Transportation Fuel.

**Deliverables:** Recommendations on Removing Barriers to the Use of Natural Gas as a Transportation Fuel.

**Work Methods:** This work will require the engagement of experts as national and corporate representatives.

- 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 the range of relevant stakeholders, regulators, and ministry officials from member States;

- Experts from the ECE Working Party on Pollution and Energy (GRPE) and its Task Force on Liquefied Natural Gas Vehicles (TF-LNG) will be invited to participate;
- Experts from IGU and relevant associations of system operators will be also invited to join the Task Force;
- The work to be undertaken 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 ECE website make available to the Geneva Permanent Missions) and will report to the annual meeting of the Group of Experts.

**Timeline:**

- Approval of this activity in the work plan by the Group of Experts and the Committee on Sustainable Energy: April/May 2014;
  - Establishment of Task Force: June 2014;
  - Development/approval of detailed project description/terms of reference by Task Force: July 2015;
  - Draft Recommendations on Removing Barriers to the Use of Natural Gas as a Transportation Fuel: April 2016;
  - Approve Recommendations on Removing Barriers to the Use of Natural Gas as a Transportation Fuel: November 2016;
  - Publish Recommendations on Removing Barriers to the Use of Natural Gas as a Transportation Fuel: April 2017.
-