

Conference Call of the Bureau of the Group of Experts on Gas

23 March 2017, 16:30

Minutes

A. Participants

Attendees:

- Mr. Francisco de la Flor Garcia (Spain), Chair
- Mr. Torstein Indrebø (Norway), Vice-chair
- Mr. Alexandre Chachine, on behalf of Vice-chair Alexander Karasevich (Russian Federation)
- Mr. Tamas Korosi (Hungary), Vice-chair
- Mr. Boris Maksijan (Croatia), Vice-chair
- Mr Dan Hooper (United States)
- Mr Michal Drabik, UNECE secretariat
- Ms Charlotte Griffiths, UNECE secretariat
- Mr. Branko Milicevic, UNECE secretariat

Regrets:

- Mr. Tamas Korosi (Hungary), Vice-chair
- Mr. Boris Maksijan (Croatia) , Vice-chair

B. Summary of discussions and decisions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with no changes.

2. Preparations for the fourth session on 27-28 March 2017 (programme, participants, speakers, sponsors)

The secretariat shared the list of registered participants (130 by 22 March) and the draft timetable with speakers as at 23 March. Given relatively high number of presenters, the secretariat informed all speakers of the time limitations and prepared bios of speakers to facilitate their introduction by moderators.

There was also a concern that, due to the length of the programme, it would be challenging to finish the meeting in time. The secretariat reiterated the importance of adopting the session report in the room before the end of the workday on 28 March.

An updated timetable is given below.

Tentative timetable and speakers

(As at 23 March 2017)

27 March 2017, Salle XXI, Palais des Nations		
Time	Agenda item	Speakers/Panelists
10:00	Housekeeping	Mr Branko Milicevic, Secretary, Group of Experts on Gas
10:05	Item 1: Adoption of the agenda	Mr Francisco de la Flor Garcia, Chair, Group of Experts on Gas
10:10	Item 2: Opening remarks	Mr Francisco de la Flor Garcia, Chair, Group of Experts on Gas Mr Scott Foster, Director, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE
	Keynote address by	H.E. Mr. Abbas Al-Naqi, Secretary General, Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC)
10:30	Item 3: Election of officers	Mr Branko Milicevic, Secretary, Group of Experts on Gas
10:40	Item 5: Methane emissions: a challenge to the sustainability credentials of gas	Part I: What do we know about methane emissions? Moderators: Mr Francisco de la Flor Garcia, Chair, Group of Experts on Gas Mr Scott Foster, Director, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE Panelists: Mr Christophe McGlade, International Energy Agency (IEA) Mr Paul Balcombe, Sustainable Gas Institute Mr Steve Hamburg, Environmental Defense Fund Mr Richard Mattus, UNECE consultant (survey results)
11:30	Coffee break, in front of Salle XXI	Sponsored by John Crane/Smiths Group plc
12:00	Item 5: Methane emissions: a challenge to the sustainability credentials of gas (continued)	Part II : Activities of international organizations and associations Panelists: Mr Andrei Vasilyev, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE Mr Jos Dehaeseleer, MARCOGAZ Mr Andrea Gerini, NGVA Europe Mr Andrew Clifton, SIGTTO Mr Dan Hooper, Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Mr Phil Swanson, Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) Mr Gert Müller-Syring, DBI (tbc) Mr Judd Robbert, GERG (tbc)
13:00	Lunch break	
14:30	After-lunch coffee, in front of Salle XXI	Sponsored by John Crane/Smiths Group plc
15:00	Item 5: Methane emissions: a challenge to the sustainability credentials of gas (continued)	Part III: Case studies Panelists: Ms Ann-Cathrin Vaage, Statoil Mr Konstantin Romanov, Gazprom Mr Claudio Rodriguez, Enagas

		Mr Paul Hosking, John Crane Ms Rosanna Fusco, ENI (tbc) Mr Bernard Hoffait, Total (tbc)
16:30	Item 7: Best practice guidance on the role of natural gas in increasing the uptake of renewable energy	Mr Francisco de la Flor Garcia, Chair, Group of Experts on Gas Mr Nazir Ramazanov, Chair, Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (via video link) Mr Francois-Regis Mouton, Total Mr Wouter Koopman, Shell (tbc)
17:00	Item 8: Best practice guidance for liquefied natural gas	Mr Alexander Karasevich, Vicechair, Group of Experts on Gas Ms Natasha Udensiva, Columbia University Mr Alan Lau, Anglo Euro Developers Ltd Mr Victor Tunon, Gas Natural Fenosa
17:30	Item 9: Removing barriers to the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel	Mr Francisco de la Flor Garcia, GEG Chair Ms Radia Sedaoui, ESCWA Mr Jan Tellkamp, DNV GL Mr Kaloyan Tsilev, NGVA Europe
18:00	Close of Day One	
18:15	Reception	Sponsored by Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF)

28 March 2017, Salle XXI, Palais des Nations		
Time	Agenda item	Speakers/Panelists
10:00	Item 4: Round table on gas supply, transit and demand	Moderator: Mr Torstein Indrebo, Vicechair, Group of Experts on Gas Panelists: Mr Dmitry Sokolov, Gas Exporting Countries Forum Ms Ann-Cathrin Vaage, Statoil Ms Zsuzsana Selesz, DG Energy, European Commission Germany The Netherlands
11:20	Coffee break	Sponsored by Polish Oil and Gas Company (PGNiG)
11:50	Item 4: Round table on gas supply, transit and demand (continued)	Discussion by all, Q&A
12:50	Item 6: Activities and priorities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and its Committee on Sustainable Energy	Mr Scott Foster, Director, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE Ms Stefanie Held, Secretary, Committee on Sustainable Energy
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	Moderator: Mr Alexander Karasevich, Vicechair, Group of Experts on Gas Panelists: Mr Wael Abdel Moati, Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) Mr Christophe McGlade, International Energy Agency (IEA) Mr Kaloyan Tsilev, NGVA Europe

16:00	Item 11: Renewal of mandate and work plans for 2014–2017 and 2018–2019	Mr Alexander Karasevich, Vicechair, Group of Experts on Gas All
17:00	Item 12: Preparations for the fifth session	Mr Alexander Karasevich, Vicechair, Group of Experts on Gas Mr Branko Milicevic, Secretary, Group of Experts on Gas
17:20	Item 13: Other business	Mr Alexander Karasevich, Vicechair, Group of Experts on Gas
17:40	Item 14: Adoption of conclusions and recommendations	Mr Alexander Karasevich, Vicechair, Group of Experts on Gas
17:50	Item 15: Adoption of the report and close of the meeting	Mr Alexander Karasevich, Vicechair, Group of Experts on Gas
18:00	Close of the fourth session	

3. Update on room documents that will be presented at the session

The secretariat informed the Bureau on the progress in preparing room documents.

One room document is the Group's work plan for 2018-2019 that was being discussed and refined by the Bureau since December.

Another room document was prepared for UNECE by DNV GL. There are some copyright issue to be sorted out before this document could be published as a UN publication. The secretariat is in contact with DNV GL.

4. Discussion of the "Model Framework for Reducing Methane Emissions along the Gas Value Chain"

The Bureau discussed the Model Framework prepared by the secretariat. It was agreed that the requires more works and that it should at this time be circulated only among the Bureau members

5. Participation of the Group of Experts on Gas in the Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (11-14 June 2017, Astana, Kazakhstan)

The Bureau decided that the Group should participate in Astana, although not necessarily in a 'fossil fuel' workshop together with coal. Perhaps a better fit would be to organize a workshop together with renewable energy. In this way the Group's activities on interplay between gas and renewable could gain the needed momentum.

6. Date of the next Bureau call

The Bureau decided to meet in person on 23 March in Geneva, before the start of the 4th session.

7. Any other business

None.

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