



**Economic and Social
Council**

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
Thirteenth session, 19-21 November 2003

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTEENTH SESSION

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting on Wednesday, 19 November 2003, at 10 a.m.*

Main issues to be discussed

- Energy Security Forum debate on the interaction of energy security risks with global financial markets and investments in the energy sector;
- Renewable energy sources and sustainable energy development in the UNECE region;
- Review of special initiatives, technical assistance projects and the activities of subsidiary bodies in the field of energy;
- Roundtable on investments in the electric power sector to be held jointly by the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Electric Power on 19 November following the opening session of the Committee.

* New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings held at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the attached registration form also available from the website of the UNECE IREED Division (<http://www.unece.org/ie>) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, at the latest two weeks prior to the session, either by fax (+41 22 917 0038 or 917 0227) or by e-mail (Frederic.romig@unece.org). Prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Villa Les Feuillantines, 13, Avenue de la Paix (a map is attached) for the issuance of an identification badge at least one hour prior to the beginning of the meeting. In case of difficulty, please contact by telephone the UNECE secretariat (internal extension 74140 or 72410). **Please Note:** Online registration for all meetings to be held 17-21 November is now possible via the Quick Links section on the IREEDD website homepage at: <http://www.unece.org/ie>.

The following sessions will also be held, during the same week, in conjunction with the Committee: **Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal in Sustainable Development**, 17-18 a.m. November; **Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Electric Power**, 18 p.m.-19 a.m. November

On-Line Registration for the delegations to the Committee session and related meetings is available directly via the following link: <http://www.unog.ch/ece/meeting1/RegStep1.asp>

1. Adoption of the agenda (ECE/ENERGY/52)
2. Bureau of the meeting
3. Matters arising from the fifty-eighth session of the Commission related to energy activities (E/2003/37; E/ECE/1406; ENERGY/2003/4)
4. Facilitating investment in the electricity sector in the transition economies (ENERGY/GE.2/2003/3; ENERGY/GE.2/2003/4)
5. Renewable energy sources and sustainable energy development in the UNECE region (ENERGY/2003/1)
6. Energy Security Forum: the interaction of energy security risks with global financial markets and investments in the energy sector (ENERGY/2003/2)
7. Special initiatives and capacity building in support of sustainable energy development:
 - (a) Guidelines on Reforming Energy Prices and Subsidies (ECE/ENERGY/54)
 - (b) United Nations International Framework Classification for Energy Reserves/Resources (ENERGY/GE.3/2003/3/Add.1)
 - (c) Blue Corridor: Use of Natural Gas as a Motor Fuel for International Trans-boundary Goods Traffic (ENERGY/2003/8)
8. Review of activities of subsidiary bodies:
 - (a) Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project (ENERGY/WP.4/2003/8, ENERGY/WP.4/2003/9, ENERGY/WP.4/2003/10 and ENERGY/WP.4/2003/11)
 - (b) Working Party on Gas, related Ad Hoc Group of Experts and Gas Centre (ENERGY/WP.3/2003/2 and ENERGY/WP.3/GE.5/2003/2)
 - (c) Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal in Sustainable Development (ENERGY/GE.1/2002/3 and ENERGY/GE.1/2003/2)
 - (d) Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Electric Power (ENERGY/GE.2/2002/2 and ENERGY/GE.2/2003/1)

9. Regional Advisory Services, including sub-regional activities, in the field of energy:
 - (a) Regional advisory activities (ENERGY/2003/3)
 - (b) Project on rational and efficient use of energy and water resources under the auspices of the Special Programme for Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)
10. ECE programme of work in the field of energy:
 - (a) Programme of work including the work programme of subsidiary bodies (ENERGY/2003/5)
 - (b) Calendar of meetings (ENERGY/2003/6)
11. Cooperation and coordination with other bodies:
 - (a) Principal Subsidiary Bodies of the Commission
 - (b) Other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the business community (ENERGY/2003/7)
12. Other business
13. Adoption of the report

ANNOTATIONS

Item 1

In accordance with the rules of procedure of the Commission, the first item on the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda.

Item 2

Elections for Bureau of the Committee.

Item 3

The Committee will be informed of matters arising from the fifty-eighth session of the Commission of relevance to the Committee.

Item 4

A number of UNECE economies in transition are facing a range of specific investment problems, with a lack of investment currently noted in the electricity generation sector. It has been estimated that some US\$ 10 billion investment is needed by this sector by 2012, in particular for rehabilitation of existing plants. If this investment is not forthcoming over this period then the regulated electricity market could be jeopardised. However, investment is clearly an issue for the UNECE region as a whole and not just the transition economies, as witnessed by the recent power failure in eastern Canada and the north-eastern part of the United States of America. Looking out to 2030 for the entire European electricity market, the International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates that to meet growing electricity demand the EU-15 will require some US\$ 1,100 billion of investment and the rest of Europe some US\$ 250 billion.

The Committee will have the opportunity to consider these issues and the terms of reference for the re-launched Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Electric Power following the Roundtable on Facilitating Investment in the Electricity Sector in the Transition Economies.

Item 5

At its meeting in June 2003, the extended Bureau of the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy discussed whether the UNECE should initiate a sub-programme on renewable energies, within its work programme on sustainable energy, and more specifically what should be the UNECE niche, amongst other international organisations working in this area. For this purpose, the Bureau requested the secretariat to put forward a proposal on enlarging the scope of the current programme activities by including a new sub-programme on renewable energies (RES) for discussion by the Committee on Sustainable Energy, at its thirteenth session.

This proposal is prompted by the growing political attention being given to renewables as a means of reinforcing environmental protection and ensuring sustainable development in the UNECE region. It is also partly in response to the Plan of Implementation flowing from the World Summit on

Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, in September 2002 and the Kiev Ministerial Declaration on the Environment. The extended Bureau also requested the secretariat to propose draft Terms of Reference outlining the objectives, scope, modalities and related working methods for carrying out the sub- programme. Following the Roundtable on Renewable Energy Sources and Sustainable Energy Development in the UNECE Region, the Committee will have the opportunity to discuss the proposed sub-programme and make proposals for its implementation.

Item 6

Energy security is emerging as a crucial issue for policy makers, energy industries and the general public. The recent electric power blackouts in North America, the attack on a French oil tanker near Yemen, sabotage and terrorist acts in major oil producing countries, such as Indonesia and Russian Federation, and the 11 September attacks in New York and Washington have contributed to a greater sense of vulnerability. These worries are heightened by company and policy failures such as the Enron bankruptcy, the Californian energy crisis and their subsequent financial crises.

Underlying these headlines are sober economic and strategic facts that call for greater attention to energy security by UNECE member States. Energy import dependence is rising in the UNECE region. At the same time, the cost of developing incremental sources of energy supplies is increasing. Supply routes are getting longer and are distinctly vulnerable to terrorist attack. The full implications of market liberalisation for energy security are unclear. Social and ethnic strife in a number of producing and transit countries are unresolved.

Clearly one of the key issues related to energy security is its impact on the global financial sector and investments in the energy sector. This year the Committee on Sustainable Energy initiates a dialogue within the Energy Security Forum among senior executives from major oil and natural gas companies, energy producers, international organisations and leading financial institutions to review energy security risks, financial market reactions and potential energy policy responses. The Committee will have the opportunity to discuss energy security risks and decide on how its dialogue with the global financial institutions may develop further.

Item 7

The Committee pursues a number of special initiatives under the auspices of its subsidiary bodies related to (a) norms, policies and practices, and (b) capacity building and training for the benefit of officials from countries with economies in transition. Special presentations will be given on three of these initiatives, namely, the (a) Guidelines on Reforming Energy Prices and Subsidies, (b) UN International Framework Classification for Energy Reserves/Resources and (c) the Blue Corridor Project.

The Task Force on Reforming Energy Pricing established by the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the Committee on Environmental Policy, composed of energy and environment experts, has completed its guidelines for decision-makers on reforming energy prices to support sustainable energy development. The Guidelines on Reforming Energy Prices and Subsidies provide for raising energy prices in countries with economies in transition to levels approximating their “economic” value or to international market levels, in conjunction with measures to alleviate the full impact of higher energy prices on those least able to absorb higher prices. In addition, the guidelines provide for

UNECE countries to phase out subsidies, in a socially responsive manner. The guidelines that have been endorsed recently by the Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” in Kiev, Ukraine will be presented to the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

Delegates will be asked for their views on these initiatives and identify new orientations in the programme of work as well as to suggest new projects/initiatives.

Item 8

The Committee will review the activities of its subsidiary bodies, namely the Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project; the Working Party on Gas, its Ad Hoc Group of Experts and the Gas Centre; the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal in Sustainable Development; and the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Electric Power.

Item 9

The Commission has repeatedly reaffirmed the importance of UNECE’s operational and technical assistance as well as sub-regional activities, particularly for countries with economies in transition. Hence, the Committee will review UNECE’s activities delivered through the Regional Advisory Services; and the Special Programme for Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), namely the project on the Rational and Efficient Use of Energy and Water Resources in Central Asia.

Item 10

The Committee will adopt its programme of work including the work programme of its subsidiary bodies on the basis of a note prepared by the secretariat.

Item 11

The Committee will be briefed on the activities of common interest of other Principal Subsidiary Bodies and on cooperation with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including the business community.

Item 12

At the time the provisional agenda was prepared, there were no issues to be raised under this item.

Item 13

In accordance with the recommendations of the Commission, the meeting report will be short, business-like, and focus mainly on conclusions and decisions. In accordance with the decision of the Committee taken at its seventh session, it will be drafted in consultation with members of the Bureau and approved by it, before being circulated to countries.

ANNEX I

AD HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS ON COAL IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Sixth session, 17-18 a.m. November 2003

AD HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS ON ELECTRIC POWER
Sixth session, 18 p.m. – 19 a.m. November 2002

COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
Thirteenth session, 19-21 November 2003

**ROUNDTABLE ON FACILITATING INVESTMENTS IN THE ELECTRICITY
SECTOR IN TRANSITION ECONOMIES**
19 a.m. November 2002

**ROUNDTABLE ON RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN THE UNECE REGION**
19 p.m. November 2003

ENERGY SECURITY FORUM
20 November 2003

TIMETABLE

Monday, 17 November

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal in Sustainable Development
and	
3 p.m. - 6 p.m.	

Tuesday, 18 November

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal in Sustainable Development
3 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Electric Power

Wednesday, 19 November

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Committee on Sustainable Energy, Agenda items 1 to 4 Jointly with the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Electric Power <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roundtable on Facilitating Investment in the Electricity Sector in the Transition Economies
3 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Committee on Sustainable Energy, Agenda item 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roundtable on Renewable Energy Sources and Sustainable Energy Development in the UNECE Region

Thursday, 20 November

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Committee on Sustainable Energy, Agenda item 6

and

3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

- Energy Security Forum

Friday, 21 November

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Committee on Sustainable Energy, Agenda items 7 to 9

and

3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Committee on Sustainable Energy, Agenda items 10 to 13

ANNEX II

COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY Thirteenth session, 19 – 21 November 2003

REGISTRATION FORM

In view of the new security arrangements for access to the Palais des Nations, delegations are asked to inform the secretariat (UNECE Industrial Restructuring, Energy and Enterprise Development Division) of their exact composition. Access to the Palais des Nations will be granted only to those in possession of an identity card issued by the Safety and Security Section, Villa les Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (see map).

Each delegate attending the session is therefore requested to register no later than two weeks before the session commences. **On-Line Registration** for the delegations to the Committee session and related meetings is available directly via the following link: <http://www.unog.ch/ece/meeting1/RegStep1.asp>

Delegates may also fill out the attached registration form and return it by fax (+41 22 917 0227) or E-mail (Frederic.Romig@unece.org) to:

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Industrial Restructuring, Energy and Enterprise Development Division, Office 382
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
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Fax: +41 22 917 0227 and 917 0038
E-mail: Frederic.Romig@unece.org



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

ECE/ENERGY/52

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