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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal in Sustainable Development
Eighth session, 2-3 February 2006

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE EIGHTH SESSION

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting on Thursday, 2 February 2006, at 10 a.m. *

This session will be held during the same week as the following energy-related meetings:

- (a) Second session of the **Task Force on the Economic Benefits of Improving Mine Safety through the Extraction and Use of Coal Mine Methane** will be held on 30 January 2006 (provisional agenda ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2006/5)
- (b) Second session of the **Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane** will be held on 31 January - 1 February 2006 (provisional agenda ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2006/1)

* Delegates are requested to complete the attached registration form also available from the Internet web site 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 by e-mail: (clark.talkington@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. In case of difficulty, please contact the UNECE secretariat by telephone (internal extension 74140).

1. Adoption of the Agenda (ECE/ENERGY/GE.1/2006/1).
2. Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, and matters for consideration by the Ad Hoc Group of Experts (ECE/ENERGY/65).
3. Demand, supply and prospects for coal in the UNECE region and globally.
4. Carbon capture and storage including current status, promising technologies, and key barriers to implementation.
5. Environmental sustainability of the coal industry, including clean coal technologies and technological innovations to reduce emissions arising from the use of coal.
6. United Nations Development Account “CAPACT” project (ENERGY/GE.1/2003/9 and ENERGY/GE.1/2004/4).
7. Report on the activities of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane, including the 2nd Session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts held on 31 January and 1 February 2006 (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2006/1).
8. Coal sector restructuring in the economies in transition (ENERGY/GE.1/2004/8).
9. Activities of and cooperation with various intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.
10. Programme of work.
11. Any other business.
12. Adoption of the report of the meeting (ECE/ENERGY/GE.1/2006/2).

Note: Simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Russian will be provided during the meeting.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Item 1

In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda. The documents for the session will be published in English, French and Russian and will be posted on the UNECE web site as soon as they become available at the following address: <http://www.unece.org/ie/se/docs/coal.htm> .

Item 2

An overview of recent activities within the work programme of the Committee on Sustainable Energy will be provided, with particular emphasis on those areas related to the sustainable production and use of coal, including for thermal power generation. This overview of the Committee's work is intended for the information and guidance of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts.

Item 3

The Ad Hoc Group of Experts will consider coal demand, supply and prospects in the UNECE region for 2005, 2006 and beyond, including the use of coal for electric power generation and the steel industry. Responses to the Questionnaire on the "Forecasts for the Supply of and Demand for Solid Fuels – 2005" (ENERGY/GE.1/2005/1) will be discussed. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts will also discuss the future of this Questionnaire considering the potential for duplication of efforts by other organizations to document and project supply and demand. Delegations are encouraged to prepare country reports on coal supply and demand, which should be submitted to the secretariat as early as possible before the session. It is recommended that the country papers include a short description of recent market developments.

Item 4

Coal-fired power plants are viewed as one of the largest sources of carbon dioxide emissions worldwide. Commercial carbon dioxide capture and storage is considered critical to the future success of the coal industry as the Kyoto Protocol comes into force. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts will consider its role in promoting this greenhouse gas mitigation option based on presentations from several experts in the field covering: global potential; available technological options and demonstration projects; environmental implications and risks such as leakage; ongoing initiatives at the national and international level; and implementation of the necessary policy and regulatory frameworks to implement capture and storage projects.

Item 5

Research, development and deployment of clean coal technologies (CCTs) and other technological innovations are vital to ensure coal's continuing role as a secure and abundant fuel source, but one that is environmentally acceptable. Specific areas relating to CCTs for discussion by the Ad Hoc Group of Experts include:

- (a) Demonstration of higher efficiency technologies such as Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle units;
- (b) Zero Emission Technologies and FutureGen;
- (c) The hydrogen-based power production;
- (d) The G8 process and its emphasis on cleaner coal technologies;
- (e) Any other issues relevant under this item will be discussed and presented.

The Ad Hoc Group of Experts may also consider other developments relating to the environmental sustainability of coal production and use. These include life cycle analysis comparing the greenhouse gas emissions of coal with emissions of other energy sources from production through consumption and deposition, and industry/government joint studies on the future sustainability of coal such as those prepared in Australia as part of the Coal 21 project or in South Africa as part of the Coaltech 2020 project.

Item 6

The outcome of the discussions of the second session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane held on 31 January and 1 February 2006 (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2006/1) will be presented by its Chairman. The report will also include an update on the work of the Task Force on the Economic Benefits of Improving Mine Safety through the Extraction and Use of Coal Mine Methane (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2006/5). Areas of collaboration/cooperation between the two Ad Hoc Groups of Experts will also be explored.

Item 7

The United Nations Development Account (UNDA) “CAPACT” Project on “Capacity-Building for Air Quality Management and the Application of Clean Coal Combustion Technologies in Central Asia” was approved for funding by the UN General Assembly in December 2003 by its resolution A/58/270. A background paper was prepared by the secretariat on the project for the sixth session (ENERGY/GE.1/2003/9), and an update provided at the seventh session in December 2004 (ENERGY/GE.1/2004/4). The meeting will be briefed on the current status of the project and will consider the applicability and transferability of the project to other countries or regions within the UNECE.

Item 8

The Ad Hoc Group of Experts will continue its assessment of coal industry restructuring in the economies in transition, but with particular emphasis on the economic and social impacts. Among the points of discussion will be the Questionnaire on the Major Indicators of Coal Sector Restructuring (ENERGY/GE.1/2004/8) and the responses provided by several member States. Time will also be provided for delegates to deliver brief reports on the restructuring activities in their respective countries. Delegations are encouraged to prepare country reports on the status of coal sector restructuring and any recent developments, which should be submitted to the secretariat as early as possible before the session.

Item 9

The Ad Hoc Group of Experts will be briefed on the activities of common interest of other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. These organizations are particularly encouraged to draw attention to issues that may have an impact on coal and/or thermal power in the UNECE region that are not covered on this agenda. Additionally, these organizations are invited to present their views and proposals with regard to future activities and areas of cooperation.

Item 10

The Ad Hoc Group of Experts will be given an opportunity to discuss and review the programme of work for 2006 and propose specific activities to be carried out during this period.

Item 11

Any additional issues that arise between the time of preparation of the provisional agenda and the holding of the meeting will be considered under this item.

Item 12

A report on the session will be prepared by the secretariat after the meeting, sent to the Bureau for approval and then circulated to member countries (ECE/ENERGY/GE.1/2006/2). In accordance with the recommendations of the Commission, the report of the session will be short and focused and address the key conclusions and recommendations.

ANNEX I

AD HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS ON COAL IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Eighth session, 2-3 February 2006, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

Opening on Thursday 2 February 2006 at 10 a.m.

REGISTRATION FORM

Each delegate attending the session is kindly requested to fill out the attached Conference Registration Form and return it by fax (+41 22 917 0038) or by e-mail at least two weeks, if possible, before the session commences, to:

Mr. Clark Talkington
Economic Affairs Officer
IREED Division
UNECE – Room 349
Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Telephone: +41 22 917 2671 and 917 4140
Telefax: +41 22 917 0038
E-mail: clark.talkington@unece.org
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Conference Registration Form

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An additional form is required for spouses.

Title of the Conference

ECE Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal in Sustainable Development – 8th Session, 2-3 February 2006

Delegation/Participant of Country, Organization or Agency, Company

Participant: Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐

Family Name

First Name

Date of Birth (Day/Month/Year) _____

Head of Delegation ☐

Observer Organization ☐

Participation

Delegation Member ☐

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