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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal in Sustainable Development
Seventh session, 7-8 December 2004

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SEVENTH SESSION

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting on Tuesday, 7 December 2004, at 10 a.m. *

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

- (a) First session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane will be held on 6 December 2004 (provisional agenda ENERGY/GE.4/2004/1)
- (b) High Level Conference of the Energy Security Forum will be held on 10 December 2004

* 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: (charlotte.griffiths@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 (ENERGY/GE.1/2004/2).
2. Election of Officers.
3. Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, and matters for consideration by the Ad Hoc Group of Experts (ECE/ENERGY/53).
4. Demand, supply and prospects for coal in the UNECE region and globally (ENERGY/GE.1/2004/1 and ENERGY/GE.1/2004/4).
5. Clean coal technologies and technological innovations – including activities and research being undertaken – to reduce greenhouse gas emissions arising from the use of coal.
 - (a) Clean coal – building a future through technology (ENERGY/GE.1/2004/5)
 - (b) Exploiting synergies with renewables – coal and biomass co-firing
 - (c) Update on status of zero emissions technologies (ENERGY/GE.1/2004/8)
 - (d) Other issues
6. Coal and the environment – emissions standards and legislation and responding to new market arrangements (ENERGY/GE.1/2004/6 and ENERGY/GE.1/2004/7).
7. Coal mine methane and the UNECE extrabudgetary project “Facilitating Development of Coal Mine Methane Projects in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States” (ENERGY/GE.4/2004/1 and ENERGY/GE.4/2004/2).
8. United Nations Development Account “CAPACT” project (ENERGY/GE.1/2003/9 and ENERGY/GE.1/2004/4).
9. Coal in a Sustainable Society and Life Cycle Analysis.
10. Coal sector restructuring in the economies in transition ((ENERGY/GE.1/2003/8, ENERGY/GE.1/2004/8 and ECE/ENERGY/NONE/2003/16).
11. Activities of and cooperation with various intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.
12. Programme of work.
13. Any other business.
14. Adoption of the report of the meeting (ENERGY/GE.1/2004/3).

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

The Ad Hoc Group of Experts should elect a new Bureau or confirm the re-election of the Bureau of the previous session. At its sixth session, the Ad Hoc Group of Experts elected Mr. Sergey Klimov (Russian Federation) as Chairman and Messrs Celestin Alexandrescu (Romania) and Miroslav Wališ (Czech Republic) as Vice-Chairmen.

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure for the Ad Hoc Group it is normal practice for a new Bureau to be elected every two years. Delegations are invited to put forward nominations for Officers to serve on this Bureau.

Item 3

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 4

The Ad Hoc Group of Experts will consider coal demand, supply and prospects in the UNECE region for 2003, 2004 and beyond, including the use of coal for electric power generation and the steel industry. Barlow Jonker Pty Limited will make a presentation on the thermal coal sector. A presentation will also be made related to the coking coal sector. Responses to the Questionnaire on the "Forecasts for the Supply of and Demand for Solid Fuels – 2004" (ENERGY/GE.1/2004/1) will be discussed, together with the future of this Questionnaire. 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 5

The Ad Hoc Group will continue to be updated on developments worldwide in the area of clean coal technologies (CCTs) and other technological innovations, in particular in the area of research, development and deployment.

- (a) The World Coal Institute will prepare a paper “Clean Coal – Building a Future through Technology” (ENERGY/GE.1/2004/5) and will present an overview of this paper at the session.
- (b) Opportunities for coal to exploit synergies with renewable energy sources, including through co-firing, will be discussed. A presentation will be given by UNDP on opportunities for co-firing biomass with coal within the context of coal mine/thermal power plant restructuring using the 2,800 MW Obrenovac complex in Serbia and Montenegro as an example.
- (c) Alstom Power will deliver a presentation on “The Transition towards Zero Emission Power Generation – Technology Implications”.
- (d) The meeting will be updated on the status of carbon sequestration initiatives worldwide as well as hydrogen research, development and demonstration and the role of hydrogen in the global energy economy.
- (e) Any other issues relevant under this item will be discussed and presented.

Item 6

Environmental stewardship is a key responsibility of the coal industry and this involves responding in a proactive manner to new market arrangements and also to existing and emerging emissions legislation.

- (a) The IEA Clean Coal Centre will present an overview of national and international emission legislation, using the trends from the past to predict how strategies may develop in the future, and considering the possible impact on clean coal technology routes towards zero emissions.
- (b) A paper will be prepared by Energy and Environmental Capital on “The Coal Industry: Responding to Markets for Environmental Attributes” (ENERGY/GE.1/2004/6). The key aspects and conclusions of this paper will be presented at the session.
- (c) A paper will be prepared by Energy Edge Limited on “Coal Marketing in Europe – Time to Look at Strategy”, which looks at the two sets of policies and legislation that pose the greatest challenge to coal’s desirability as a fuel source in its history and discusses how the coal industry might overcome these challenges and turn them into opportunities (ENERGY/GE.1/2004/7).

Item 7

- (a) The UNECE extrabudgetary project “Facilitating Development of Coal Mine Methane Projects in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States” (ENERGY/GE.4/2004/2) will be introduced. This project, which is being funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) and the UN Foundation, is due to commence activities in the first quarter of 2005. The project is being supported and promoted by both the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal in Sustainable Development and the newly launched Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane (CMM).
- (b) The outcome of the discussions of the first session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on CMM held on 6 December 2004 (ENERGY/GE.4/2004/1) will be presented by its Chairman. Future areas of collaboration/cooperation between the two Ad Hoc Groups of Experts will also be explored.
- (c) The US EPA Coalbed Methane Outreach Program will present an overview of its national and international activities to reduce methane emissions from coal mining activities.

Item 8

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/C.5/58/L48. This three-year project, which is part of the Fourth Tranche of the UNDA, commenced activities in the second half of 2004. Further to the background paper prepared by the secretariat on the project for the sixth session (ENERGY/GE.1/2003/9), an update will be prepared, with particular emphasis on the work packages focusing on the clean coal technology aspects of the project (ENERGY/GE.1/2004/10). The meeting will be briefed on the project, including on the analytical review being prepared on the “Technical and Economic Status of Cost-Effective Clean Coal Technology Options and Prospects for their Implementation in Central Asia”.

The Ad Hoc Group of Experts will discuss the potential to extend the CAPACT Project to interested countries in the CIS and sources of financing that would facilitate this.

Item 9(a) Coal in a Sustainable Society (CISS)

The challenge for coal is to efficiently manage the resources on which communities depend in accordance with the principles of sustainable development, and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impacts. Attention is drawn to the “Coal In a Sustainable Society” (CISS) project, which commenced as an Australian Coal Industry Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) study into steel and electricity production. This study has been expanded into a two-year collaborative study by stakeholders (Stage 2) to include broader sustainability aspects such as social

and economic issues, as well as considering a wider range of technology options and stakeholder communications. A further Stage 3 programme is presently being planned, to include technology development and transfer, and show case projects. Full details of this project are available on the CISS website at: <http://www.ciss.com.au/>

(b) Life Cycle Analysis (LCA)

Studies have previously been undertaken on the life cycle of fossil fuels during the production of thermoelectric energy and these have detected the main weaknesses of coal, oil and gas during combustion. "SSC - Stazione Sperimentale per i Combustibili - S. Donato Milanese", a Public Research Laboratory in Italy, recently undertook a study on the pre-combustion of natural gas and coal entitled "Greenhouse Gases in the Life Cycle of Fossil Fuels: Critical Points in the Assessment of Pre-Combustion Emissions and Repercussions on the Complete Life Cycle. The results highlighted the level of pre-combustion greenhouse gas emissions, their repercussion on the complete life cycle and the high uncertainty of assessment mainly due to the site-specificity of sources of emissions during pre-combustion and the methodology followed. ASSOCARBONI will make a presentation introducing this study and its key findings.

Item 10

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.

- (a) Discussions will continue with regard to the questionnaire "Economic and Social Impacts of Restructuring of the Coal Industries of the Transition Economies" (ENERGY/GE.1/2003/8) and the preparation of a comprehensive report based on the responses. Responses submitted to the questionnaire will be reviewed.
- (b) Following agreement at the sixth session, the UNECE secretariat has prepared a questionnaire with regard to the dynamics of the major indicators of coal sector restructuring, including: coal production, number of mines and pits, employment levels, state subsidies, productivity trends and investments in the industry (ENERGY/GE.1/2004/9). A paper will be prepared by the secretariat for publication in 2005 based upon country responses to this questionnaire.
- (c) In addition, 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.
- (d) Attention is drawn to the paper on "The Coal Industry in the Russian Federation: Current Status and Future Trends in Structural Change" (ENERGY/GE.1/2003/11), which was prepared for and presented by the Russian Federation at the sixth session in 2003. This paper is now available in English (ECE/ENERGY/NONE/2003/16).

Item 11

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 12

The Ad Hoc Group of Experts will be given an opportunity to discuss and review the programme of work for 2005 and propose specific activities to be carried out during this period.

Item 13

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 14

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 (ENERGY/GE.1/2004/3). In accordance with the recommendations of the Commission, the report of the session will be short and focussed and address the key conclusions and recommendations.

ANNEX I

AD HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS ON COAL IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Seventh session, 7-8 December 2004, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

Opening on Tuesday 7 December 2004 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 no later than two weeks before the session commences, to:

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Economic Affairs Officer
IREED Division
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E-mail: charlotte.griffiths@unece.org
Website: <http://www.unece.org/ie>

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Family Name

First Name

Date of Birth (Day/Month/Year) _____

Head of Delegation ☐Observer Organization ☐

Participation

Delegation Member ☐NGO (ECOSOC accredited.) ☐

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