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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY**

Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

First session, 6 December 2004

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST SESSION**

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
starting on Monday, 6 December 2004, at 10 a.m. \*

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

- (a) Seventh session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal in Sustainable Development will be held on 7-8 December 2004 (provisional agenda ENERGY/GE.1/2004/2)
- (b) Global Energy Security Summit will be held on 10 December 2004

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\* 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](mailto: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.4/2004/1).
2. Election of Officers.
3. Review and approval of draft Terms of Reference (Annex I to this Agenda).
4. Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, and matters for consideration by the Ad Hoc Group of Experts (ECE/ENERGY/53).
5. UNECE extrabudgetary project on “Development of Coal Mine Methane Projects in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States” funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (ENERGY/GE.4/2004/2).
6. Facilitating global cooperation in the development and implementation of profitable coal mine methane projects.
7. International Methane to Markets Partnership to enhance clean energy sources and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
8. Activities of and cooperation with various intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other related bodies.
9. Programme of work.
10. Any other business.
11. Adoption of the report of the meeting (ENERGY/GE.4/2004/3).

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/coal/cmm.html>.

### Item 2

The Ad Hoc Group of Experts should elect a Bureau for this newly established intergovernmental body, which in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for UNECE Ad Hoc Groups of Experts will serve for a period of two years. Delegations are invited to put forward nominations for Officers to serve on this Bureau.

### Item 3

The Ad Hoc Group of Experts will review and, if applicable, approve the draft Terms of Reference of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane (Annex I to this Agenda). The Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane is a newly launched intergovernmental body established under the Committee on Sustainable Energy. Under this item the Ad Hoc Group of Experts needs to discuss and agree whether the Group should remain solely focused on CMM or also cover Abandoned Mine Methane (AMM).

### Item 4

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 sustainable energy production and consumption and development of projects resulting in the mitigation of GHG emissions. This overview of the Committee's work is intended for the information and guidance of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts.

### Item 5

The UNECE extrabudgetary project on "Development of Coal Mine Methane Projects in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States" will be introduced (ENERGY/GE.4/2004/2). This project, which is financed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) and potentially also the UN Foundation, is scheduled to commence activities in the first quarter of 2005. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts will explore other potential sources of parallel financing for the project, together with opportunities to further promote the project. Discussions will also focus on potential synergies and collaboration with existing initiatives to develop CMM projects in the region as identified by the project.

Item 6

Cooperation and collaboration is required at the global level in order to facilitate development and financing of CMM projects.

The meeting will discuss obstacles to the development and financing of such projects, creating incentives for profitable CMM recovery and the future role the Ad Hoc Group of Experts might play in these areas, including in enhancing cooperation at the UNECE and global levels.

Item 7

The US EPA announced in July 2004 that the United States would join efforts with Australia, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, United Kingdom, and Ukraine to develop and promote cooperation on the recovery and use of methane. This initiative, entitled the *International Methane to Markets Partnership*, will deliver significant energy, safety, and environmental benefits through the recovery and use of methane, while reducing global GHG emissions. The Partnership will focus on deploying cost-effective technologies in landfill gas-to-energy projects, methane recovery projects in coal mines, and improvements in natural gas systems. The United States will commit up to US\$ 53 million over the next five years to facilitate the development and implementation of methane projects in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

The Ad Hoc Group of Experts will be briefed on this Partnership and also on the outcome of the interministerial meeting hosted in relation to the initiative by the United States in Washington DC, 15-17 November 2004. The meeting will discuss how the Ad Hoc Group of Experts might become involved with or support this Partnership – a key objective of the Partnership is to involve the private sector, multilateral institutions and non-governmental organizations.

Item 8

The Ad Hoc Group of Experts will be briefed on the activities of common interest of other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and related bodies. These organizations are particularly encouraged to draw attention to issues that may have an impact on the development and commercialization of CMM projects 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 9

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 10

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 11

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.4/2004/3). 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 MINE METHANE****DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane, an intergovernmental body launched in December 2004 to specifically support the activities of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal in Sustainable Development in the area of coal mine methane (CMM), is established for a period of two years by the Committee on Sustainable Energy. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts will carry out, under the Committee's guidance, activities related to development and profitable recovery and use of CMM, with a specific focus on the three pillars of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental – avoidance and management of CMM emissions mitigates climate change, improves mine safety and productivity, and generates revenues and cost savings.

The tasks of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts are:

- (a) to promote and provide support where applicable to the UNECE extrabudgetary project on “Development of Coal Mine Methane Projects in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)”. This project, which is financed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) and the UN Foundation, will run for three years commencing in 2005;
- (b) to seek to facilitate financing of CMM projects in Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS, including through actively engaging in a dialogue with the international finance community to understand their needs and the barriers to funding of CMM projects in this region;
- (c) to provide a forum for exchange of information and experience on ongoing activities in the area of CMM development and for enhanced collaboration and cooperation thereof;
- (d) to identify and seek to mitigate the problems associated with the creation of incentives for CMM recovery;
- (e) to explore opportunities for the CMM sector, in particular in UNECE member States with economies in transition, to participate in and benefit from the various public and private greenhouse gas emissions markets;
- (f) to identify any significant new developments affecting CMM, in particular in UNECE member countries; and
- (g) to seek to strengthen inter-agency cooperation and to cooperate and collaborate with all stakeholders, including other governmental and non-governmental organizations and the business community/private sector, in order to realise the above objectives.

## **ANNEX II**

### **AD HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS ON COAL MINE METHANE**

First session, 6 December 2004, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

Opening on Monday 6 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:

Ms. Charlotte Griffiths  
Economic Affairs Officer  
IREED Division  
UNECE  
Palais des Nations  
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Telephone: +41 22 917 1988 and 917 4140

Telefax: +41 22 917 0038

E-mail: [charlotte.griffiths@unece.org](mailto:charlotte.griffiths@unece.org)

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## Title of the Conference

ECE –IREED Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, 6 December 2004

## 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 ☐NGO (ECOSOC accredited.) ☐

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Observer Country ☐Other (please specify below) ☐

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