

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

19 January 2017, 14:00

## Minutes

### A. Participants

#### Attendees:

- Mr. Francisco de la Flor Garcia (Spain), Chair
- Mr. Torstein Indrebø (Norway), Vice-chair
- Mr. Boris Maksijan (Croatia),
- Mr. Alexandre Chachine, on behalf of Vice-chair Alexander Karasevich (Russian Federation)
- Mr. Michal Drabik, UNECE secretariat
- Mr. Rafael Huarte Lazaro, Executive Director of IGU, as a guest
- Ms. Charlotte Griffiths, UNECE secretariat
- Mr. Branko Milicevic, UNECE secretariat

#### Regrets:

- Mr. Tamas Korosi (Hungary), Vice-chair

### B. Summary of discussions and decisions

#### 1. Adoption of the agenda

The Bureau approved the conference call agenda without changes.

#### 2. Update on the 25th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

Chair de la Flor updated the Bureau on the events during the 25<sup>th</sup> session of Committee – in particular the discussion of the Ministerial Statement of the Astana Forum. Once agreed, the secretariat will circulate the final text of the Statement.

#### 3. Preparations for the GEG's fourth session (27-28 March 2017): programme, speakers, participants, side events

The secretariat informed the Bureau on the progress in session registrations – 53 registered participants as of 19 January. In addition, around 170 personalized invitation letters with the draft agenda sent in early January.

The Bureau discussed policy papers that could be presented during agenda item 4: “Round table on gas supply, transit and demand”, for example, IEA could be invited to present its recent work on this.

The Bureau decided to change the sequence of agenda items so that all four task force-related items are held on the first day, 27 March. The Bureau discussed the need to present a case study or two at each task force agenda item. These cases could come from both integrated (such as Gazprom) and more specialized gas companies (such as Enagas).

## **New timetable for the 4th session of the Group of Experts on Gas**

### **27 March 2017**

- 10:00 Item 1: Adoption of the agenda
- 10:10 Item 2: Opening remarks
- 10:20 Item 3: Election of officers
- 10:30 Item 5: Methane emissions: a challenge to the sustainability credentials of gas
- 13:00 Lunch break
- 15:00 Item 5: Methane emissions: a challenge to the sustainability credentials of gas (*continued*)
- 16:30 Item 7: Best practice guidance on the role of natural gas in increasing the uptake of renewable energy
- 17:00 Item 8: Best practice guidance for liquefied natural gas
- 17:30 Item 9: Removing barriers to the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel
- 18:00 Close of Day One
- 18:15 Reception

### **28 March 2017**

- 10:00 Item 4: Round table on gas supply, transit and demand
- 11:40 Item 6: Activities and priorities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and its Committee on Sustainable Energy
- 12:00 Item 10: Recent developments and medium- and long-term prospects and policies in the gas industry – country updates and activities of international organizations
- 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 (*continued*)
- 16:00 Item 11: Renewal of mandate and work plans for 2014–2017 and 2018–2019
- 17:00 Item 12: Preparations for the fifth session
- 17:20 Item 13: Other business
- 17:40 Item 14: Adoption of conclusions and recommendations
- 17:50 Item 15: Adoption of the report and close of the meeting
- 18:00 Close of the fourth session

#### **4. Update on Task Forces**

The Bureau was informed that Total accepted to lead Task Force B (gas and renewable energy). There were still uncertainties over who will be Total's focal point. The secretariat reached out to Mr François-Régis Mouton, Total's E&P Vice President for Oil&Gas Advocacy and GasNaturally Chairman, to discuss collaboration and invite him to the 4<sup>th</sup> session. On 19 January morning Chair de la Flor had a meeting with the recently-elected Chair of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy Mr. Nazir Ramazanov.

The secretariat and the Chair reached independently to DL NGV and invited them to join Task Force D (on gas in transport, in particular to help with the maritime portion). On 18 January a response came: DL NGV nominated Mr Jan Tellkamp to join the Task Force. The secretariat will reach out to Jan to see how DL NGV could help with the maritime portion of the gas in transport work. The Bureau was also informed of the changes in the management of NGVA Europe, as a new director to replace Matthias Maedje is to be hired.

#### **5. Collaboration with IGU**

The Bureau agreed that the primary role of the Group of Experts on Gas was to feed various recommendations and policy into the intergovernmental mechanisms, and not to develop them in-house from scratch. In this sense, IGU network of experts could assist the Group of Experts on Gas in developing various outputs of the Group's work plan, as defined by the 2015 MoU signed between the two parties. Mr Huerte informed the Bureau of the IGU's interest to deepen this collaboration. This matter will be further discussed at IGU sectoral meeting in early February.

#### **6. Methane management survey - feedback**

The secretariat informed the Bureau that on 13 January 2017 IGU sent the UNECE methane management survey to 287 members of its Strategy Committee.

#### **7. Draft work plan 2018-2019**

The Bureau agreed that 2018-2019 work plan should be carefully cross-checked against IGU's planned activities. The Bureau members will review the work plan and send their written comments before the next conference call.

Two written comments were received: from Boris Maksijan and from Alexandre Chachine on behalf of Alexander Karasevich. In his comments on the use of gas in transport, Vice-chair Maksijan stressed that it was necessary to consider maritime gas-powered transport within the ECE and also to work on defining road corridors with a network of refueling stations. Such projects could be done in collaboration with the European Union. Comments received from Kaarsevich/Chachine are attached as a document with track changes.

The next conference call will discuss the 2018-2019 work plan at length.

#### **8. Date of the next Bureau call**

The next call will take place around 8 February 2017.

#### **9. Any other business**

No other business discussed.

---