

Harmonisation of standards and practices in the Gas sector in Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan Project Final Conference, Brussels, 14 October 2009.



*Jeffery Piper (DG RELEX),
Conference Chair*

Over 70 participants, including (apart from the project team), the project's Task Manager Ms. Alia Baidebekova and representatives from the European Commission in Brussels, the project's beneficiaries from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan (which participated in the project as an observer), Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, the EU gas industry and other partner institutions, INOGATE country coordinators and representatives from ITS, attended the final conference in Brussels of the INOGATE project: "Harmonisation of standards and practices in the Gas sector in Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan"

The conference was chaired by Mr. Jeffery Piper (Task Force Energy Security/Nuclear Safety, DG RELEX) who gave a brief introduction welcoming participants. Mr. Azfar Shaukat, the project's Director, presented the project, outlining its objectives, actions and results. The main objective of the project was to support participating countries in mutually adopting international standards for gas transport and pipeline operation, including safety and environmental aspects.

A key milestone of the 19 month project was the creation of a regional working group (RWG), giving to the participating countries an opportunity to share opinions and expertise on standards at a high technical level, and at a high policy level, including Ministries and National Standards Organisations. Working in affiliation with CEN (European Committee for Standardization), the RWG performed a review of some 250 standards concentrating later on 4 priority European standards (EN 1776:1999, EN 1594:2000, EN 12186:1999, CEN/TS 15173:2006) forming a work platform. The translations of these standards will be available by the end of the project – they will be unofficial, which means they could be used but not authorized. Main achievement of the RWG was development of a plan to ensure sustainable platform for future regional cooperation. This includes signing the Memorandum of Understanding on standards harmonization between the beneficiary countries and development of a Road Map for harmonization for CEN gas supply functional standards. Additionally, the project had addressed itself to capacity building, including four national seminars and study tours to the Czech Republic and to the UK (St. Fergus Terminal, Scotland).

The response from the beneficiaries, representing the gas companies of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan (which participated as an observer) were positive. They all acknowledged the value of the project's achievements and most importantly recognised that to the harmonization process was given a good start. The EU experience on gas standards and creation of common technical rules shared with the participants the representatives of Marcogaz (Mr. Allesandro Cigni, Technical Advisor), CEN (Mrs. Diana Dus, Programme Manager), while the representative of OMV (Mr. Wolfgang Sporrer, Caspian Region Manager) gave a presentation on integrating central Asian gas into European gas markets.



Presentation by Azfar Shaukat

The conference demonstrated the clear contribution made by the project towards the objective of energy markets convergence which is one of the four pillars of the INOGATE Programme, as agreed by the Baku Initiative of 2004.