PRESS RELEASE

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Harmonising Electricity and Gas Standards: INOGATE to focus on the creation of Technical Committees in Partner Countries

Brussels – Ten (10) Partner Countries took part in the Regional Seminar on Harmonisation of Electricity and Gas Standards organised by the INOGATE Technical Secretariat in Brussels on 29-30 January 2013. Participants included representatives of the National Standards Bodies, gas companies and electricity companies from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. The purpose of the seminar was to promote the use of harmonised standards, codes and best practices with regard to the equipment and infrastructure used in the electricity and gas sectors.

Since 2008 the INOGATE Programme has been closely working with its Partner Countries to promote harmonisation of electricity and gas standards with the technical standards implemented and used in the European Union. The lack of harmonised standards, codes and practices with regard to the equipment and infrastructure used in the electricity and gas sector has been identified by numerous studies and analyses as one of the main obstacles to closer cooperation between the EU energy markets and those of the INOGATE Partner Countries. To date, INOGATE has facilitated the adoption of 12 gas standards by the Partner Countries through the procedure of inter-state standards of the Euro-Asian Standardisation Council (EASC).

The specific target of INOGATE assistance is the creation or restructuring of Technical Committees in the Partner Countries – one for gas and one for electricity in each Partner Country interested in harmonising standards with the EU. In this way, a solid base is set up for future standardisation activities in the field of energy ensuring the sustainability of standardisation activities in Partner Countries.
The regional seminar provided an excellent forum for launching this ambitious two-year intensive work programme. Key note speakers included representatives of CEN-CENELEC\(^1\) and the British Standards Institution (BSI). One of the key outcomes of the seminar was that participants were provided with complete information on the role, management and activities of Technical Committees and as a result, agreed to work with INOGATE in the direction of setting up the relevant Technical Committees.

INOGate is an EU-funded programme promoting international energy co-operation between the European Union and the Partner Countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. It works to support the EU policy frameworks of the Baku Initiative, the Eastern Partnership – Energy Security Platform, the Energy Community and the Central Asia Development Cooperation.

INOGate works in four key areas: convergence of energy markets on the basis of the EU principles, enhancing energy security, supporting sustainable energy development, and attracting investment towards energy projects of common and regional interest. INOGATE is one of the longest running EU programmes since 1996.

The full documentation on the regional seminar can be found at the following link:

http://tinyurl.com/standards-seminar

For more information contact:
INOGate Technical Secretariat (Kiev)
tel: +38 044 230 2754
e-mail: secretariat.kiev@inogate.org
www.inogate.org

\(^1\) CEN: the European Committee for Standardization; CENELEC: the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization – more info at http://www.cencenelec.eu/