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PRESS RELEASE

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New directions for INOGATE Programme agreed during the Meeting of the INOGATE Working Groups

Brussels – Organised back-to-back with the Eastern Partnership Energy Security Platform meeting, the meeting of the INOGATE Country Coordinators and Working Group Members took place on 29-30 November 2012 with the aim of agreeing the main focus and new directions of the INOGATE Programme in 2013-2014. The meeting was organised by the European Commission with the support of the INOGATE Technical Secretariat (ITS).

The Partner Countries welcomed the new focus of the INOGATE Programme and specifically, the new ITS project to deliver real and verifiable impact as a consequence of its activities (e.g. investments made, jobs created, new legislation prepared, etc.). The Working Group members committed to assist the project team to the maximum extent in defining appropriate indicators for the activities and working with them to ensure that all activities would be translated into tangible results for the benefit of the citizens of the Partner Countries.

Another key direction of the ITS project is the improvement of the investment climate for sustainable energy, taking into consideration the investment priorities as set out by the Partner Countries themselves.

The ITS Project Team presented the 2011 Status Report which was accepted by the Working Group members as a sort of 'baseline' from which future progress can be measured, encouraged and supported where necessary with specific technical assistance from the INOGATE project and others. The Partner Countries remain committed to working with the INOGATE Programme to make progress in all four areas of co-operation.

The ITS Project Team presented the 2013-2014 Work Programme which is based on the priorities and needs identified by the project team during the many meetings and discussions held during the inception visits to all the Partner Countries during March to September 2012.

Implementation of the activities has already begun, for example, the demand-driven Ad Hoc Expert Facility (AHEF) was launched in July and has already received 46 applications for technical assistance support. The new area of INOGATE work on energy statistics was inaugurated with the establishment of the Energy Statistics Network in a relevant meeting on 25-26 September 2012. Also, a Biomass Study Tour to Slovakia was organised in October with a view to stimulating investments in this area.

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 meeting documentation can be found at the following link:

http://www.inogate.org/index.php?option=com_inogate&view=activity&cid=222&pid=72&Itemid=75&lang=en

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