The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan organized a successful one day information session on the INOGATE programme.

On 4th December 2007, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan held a one-day information session in Astana on the enhanced energy cooperation between the EU, the Littoral States of the Black and Caspian Seas and their neighbouring countries, which is being supported by the INOGATE Programme.

The information event was organized by the Country Coordinator, Mr. Amantay Suyessinov, Deputy Director of the Oil Industry Department of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources of Kazakhstan. The Deputy Director of the Gas Industry Department of the Ministry Mr. Imashev, as well as the Director of Electrical Power and Coal Industry Department Mr. Nesipkul Bertisbayev and the Director of the Department for Legal Provision and International Cooperation of the Ministry of Environmental Protection participated in the event. The Delegation of the European Commission to Kazakhstan was also represented by Ms Alia Baidebekova.

The information session was attended by about 20 participants - representatives from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Agency for Natural Monopolies Regulation, consultants from the ongoing INOGATE projects and high officials from Oil, Gas and Electricity companies in Kazakhstan.

The event was opened by the Vice Minister of Energy Mr. Bolat Akchulakov, who underlined the importance of energy cooperation with the EU, as well as of the INOGATE programme and invited all participants to contribute to this event. He stressed that, the agreement reached in the Astana conference is of high importance to the Republic of Kazakhstan. He noticed also the importance of the energy security the renewable energy recourses utilization and the energy efficiency issues. These issues were discussed by the President of Kazakhstan during his recent visit in Brussels. He also highlighted that Kazakhstan fully supports all INOGATE actions.

The Country Coordinator of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Mr. Amantai Suyesinov, presented a historical review of the energy cooperation dialogue from the Baku Conference to the Astana Ministerial Conference, the objectives of the Astana Declaration, the main topics of the agreed Energy Road Map and the priorities of the Republic of Kazakhstan in all the cooperation pillars (market convergence, safety & security, sustainable development and investments). He also outlined the actions taken in Kazakhstan to achieve the objectives set out in the Astana Declaration.
NOGATE representative Mr. Kyriakos Morfis held a presentation on the INOGATE work programme, focusing on the following topics:

- INOGATE Programme - new context and main objectives
- Work Programme for 2007-2008 - activities performed and planned
- The roles of the stakeholders in this initiative (Ministry of Energy, Country Coordinator, Working Group Members, regulators, energy companies, energy agencies and international financial institutions)
- EU support to the partner countries for regional cooperation, policy and institutional reform, including ongoing and upcoming technical assistance projects
- Additional support provided through other programmes

A short presentation of the ongoing in the region INOGATE project “Development of Co-ordinated National Energy Policies” was made by Mr. Gorm Bang Andersen, Senior Energy Expert of the project.

Also Mr. Suleyman Narimanov gave a presentation of the ongoing INOGATE project “Emergency priority actions for security and improvement of exploitation conditions for gas transportation systems in Central Asia”.

During and after the presentations a number of questions were raised regarding the INOGATE programme structure, the details of upcoming and ongoing technical assistance projects. It was stated that the EU assistance on issues relevant to the energy regulation will be welcome, since a new law on energy regulation recently adopted in Kazakhstan.

It was also stated that Kazakhstan would be interested in receiving the EU experience and know-how as this is expressed in the EU standards and practices, the translation of which will be quite helpful. INOGATE representative informed all participants that the main EU directives on gas, electricity and renewables are under translation and soon will be available in the Russian language.

The participants were also interested in the market convergence process and in the forthcoming 3rd Ministerial Conference. INOGATE representatives described the main steps and key issues of the market convergence process.

It was also explained how INOGATE monitors the measures taken by the partner countries in relation to the objectives set out in the Astana Declaration. The participants were informed that a Monitoring Report will be produced for submission to the Ministers before the 3rd Ministerial Conference.

All the participants agreed that the energy efficiency, energy conservation and utilization of renewables are considered in Kazakhstan essential parts of a sustainable energy strategy. It was also stated that currently a Sustainable Development Programme is running, while a new law dealing with energy saving and energy efficiency issues is under elaboration and soon will be ready for adoption.

The INOGATE representatives provided the participants with relevant contact information, as well as with advice on where the participants could find and download additional information on the INOGATE website.
All participants expressed their gratitude for the organization of this information session and proposed to hold similar events in the future to update the stakeholders on the activities of the INOGATE programme.

The Country Coordinator and the INOGATE representative thanked all participants for their attendance and their active participation in this information event.