The Ministry of Industry and Energy of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan organized a successful one day information session on the INOGATE programme

On 23 November 2007, the Ministry of Industry and Energy of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan held a one-day information session in Bishkek 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, Mrs. Gulsara Kasimova, Senior Specialist of the Gas and Heat Supply Department of the Ministry of Industry and Energy of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, with the support of the INOGATE Technical Secretariat.

The Deputy Minister Ms. Asanova, Acting State Secretary, Mr. Baetov, as well as heads of departments of the Ministry of Industry and Energy, Ms. Adikanova, Mr. Stamaliev and Mr Sadabayev, participated in the event.

The information session was attended by more than 25 participants - representatives from the Ministry of Industry and Energy, the State Inspection on Energy, State Energy Regulatory Department, Tacis Coordinating Unit, Consultants from the ongoing INOGATE projects, Oil, Gas and Electricity companies in Kyrgyzstan and from other associations involved in the energy sector.

The event was opened by the Deputy Minister of Energy Ms. Asanova, 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.

She stressed that Kyrgyzstan needs the support of the EU in the energy sector. In particular, support is needed to achieve sustainable energy supply in the country, to maintain affordable prices for the consumers and for the country to become a regional energy player. In this regard, the INOGATE Programme’s assistance is important and very much appreciated.

The Country Coordinator of Kyrgyzstan, Mrs. Gulsara Kasimova, presented a historical review 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 Kyrgyzstan in all the cooperation areas (market convergence, safety & security, sustainable development and investments). She also outlined the actions taken in Kyrgyzstan to achieve the objectives set out in the Astana Declaration.

The INOGATE representative Mr. Nikos Tsakalidis 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 INOGATE project in the region entitled “Development of Coordinated National Energy Policies” was held by Mr. Gorm – consultant of the project.

Other participants also held presentations:
- Mr. Baetov, first Secretary of the Ministry, presented the functions of the Ministry of Energy.
- Mr. Abdikalikov, Director of State Energy Regulator, presented the functions of the Regulator.
- Mr. Dikambayev, Director of Energy NGO “Energy”, presented the activities of his NGO.

During and after the presentations a number of questions were raised regarding the INOGATE Programme's structure, details of upcoming technical assistance projects, information on how INOGATE could provide support to the Country in developing the country's energy sector and how INOGATE helps to attract foreign investors. INOGATE representatives responded to these questions and explained how the various interested parties (Ministry, company, institution or association) can benefit from EU assistance. They also provided information and contact details for enquiring after specific assistance.

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.

The participants put forward a number of proposals and suggestions; in particular it was suggested that more technical assistance is needed in the areas of setting gas transportation tariffs, mitigation of gas losses, especially in the distribution part of the network, feasibility studies investigating the LNG transportation option. Support is also required in the electricity sector concerning metering, collection, quality of supply, etc.

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 representatives thanked all participants for their attendance and their active participation in this information event.