The Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Tajikistan organized a successful one day information session on the INOGATE programme.

On 20 November 2007, the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Tajikistan held a one-day information session in Dushanbe 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. Rashid Gulov, deputy chief engineer of the state electricity joint stock holding company “Barki Tochik”, with the support of the INOGATE Technical Secretariat.

The head of administration and head of departments of the Ministry of Energy, Ms. Gaybulayeva, Mr. Malikov (head of oil & gas department), Mr. Abdurahimov (head of coal department), and the head of the international economic relations department of “Barki Tochik”, Mr. Jugeliev, participated in the event.

The information session was attended by about 25 participants - representatives from the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Economy and Trade, the Antimonopoly agency, the Oil, Gas and Electricity companies in Tajikistan and from other associations involved in the energy sector of Tajikistan.

The event was opened by the head of administration and head of departments of the Ministry of Energy, Ms. Gaybulayeva, 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 the Republic of Tajikistan has benefited significantly from the cooperation with the EU in the energy sector. In particular, she described the most recent projects funded by the EU within the INOGATE Programme and noted that these projects fully support the priorities of the country in the energy sector. The Republic of Tajikistan is keen to become a regional player in the electricity market and in this context the enhanced regional cooperation with all neighboring countries within the INOGATE Programme enables the country to achieve this goal.

The Country Coordinator of Tajikistan, Mr. Rashid Gulov, 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 Tajikistan in all the cooperation areas (market convergence, safety & security, sustainable development and investments). He also outlined the actions taken in Tajikistan to achieve the objectives set out in the Astana Declaration.
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

The participants raised a number of questions regarding the project cycle within the INOGATE Programme and how the projects are financed, details of upcoming technical assistance projects, information on how INOGATE can contribute to the studies related to oil & gas exploration in Tajikistan. They were keen to hear how INOGATE could support the country to develop its role as an electricity trader in the region through the utilization of hydro power, and how INOGATE could assist Tajikistan in utilizing renewable sources of energy. Interest was also expressed regarding a Trans-Caspian gas corridor and its benefits to the region.

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 and shared with the participants experiences from the European internal energy market.

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 representative of the Antimonopoly agency (who acts as a regulator) briefed the participants on the activities of the agency and recent developments in the area of energy regulation, in particular in respect to tariffs regulation and customer protection.

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.