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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE****INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**Working Party on Road Traffic Safety(Forty-fourth session, 6-8 April 2004,  
agenda item 5)**REVISION OF THE CONSOLIDATED RESOLUTIONS R.E.1 AND R.E.2****THE CASE FOR ROAD SIGNAGE FOR NATURAL GAS FUELLING STATIONS**Submitted by the European Natural Gas Vehicle Association (ENGVA)

Natural gas, as an economic, environmental fuel alternative in the transport sector is beginning to achieve early commercial acceptance in a growing number of countries around the world. Today there are over 3 million natural gas vehicles (NGVs) and about 6,500 fuelling stations in 59 countries worldwide. In Europe, where NGVs first began in the 1930s, there are over 500,000 NGVs and a growing network of more than 1550 fuelling stations where compressed natural gas (CNG) is available. Some of these are integrated into stations where petrol and diesel are sold and others are dedicated, CNG-only stations. As the CNG fuelling infrastructure continues to grow internationally and NGVs move across borders there remains one outstanding consumer-oriented problem: NGV drivers do not generally know where they can buy CNG because there is no recognizable, international standard for CNG fuelling station highway signage like there is for gasoline and diesel. Given the growth of NGVs in developed and developing countries, the time is right to let motorists know, with a common symbol, where they can get CNG.

Many countries where the NGV market is popular are creating their own logo or symbol representing CNG. In Italy, the country with the longest NGV history, there are blue and white, curve-lined 'Metano' logos at service stations. In Sweden there has been a move to initiate a CNG station logo using a curve-shape within a circle. Germany and Switzerland use their own *Erdgas* logos at fuelling stations, and Argentinean NGV drivers can see on service stations 'GNC' (for gas natural comprimido). The official signage in the United States is a silhouette of a fuel pump (much like the approved United Nations fuel pump sign for gas stations) with the letters CNG vertically down the centre. Some of these signs indicate 'branded' fuel at individual service stations. These tend to be trademarked by their creators. Still others have been designed by a

combination of national NGV industry stakeholders and reflect a specific country's name for CNG that they hope becomes commonly acceptable.

### **The NGV Industry Proposal**

On behalf of the worldwide NGV industry the International Association for Natural Gas Vehicles (IANGV) and the European NGV Association (ENGVA) would like to introduce, at this stage on a formal basis, the rationale for the development of an international standard for CNG fuelling station road signage. It is hoped that this proposal will be adopted as an amendment to the Vienna Convention within the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1). If this amendment can be agreed upon by WP.1 as a Consolidated Resolution it would enable the NGV industry to begin educating members and national governments around the world that it would be possible to begin using standard, acceptable signage for CNG fuelling stations. It is hoped that this would move forward toward adoption as a formal amendment of the Vienna Convention.

### **About the Proposed Signage**

ENGVA, on behalf of the European NGV industry and the IANGV developed a wide variety of logos that were considered by a group of our members. These were narrowed down to a single logo: a symbolic representation of a methane molecule consisting of one atom of carbon and four atoms of hydrogen (as suggested by the chemical symbol CH<sub>4</sub>). The symbol is simple, and has been created in two forms, both of which are designed to be incorporated into the existing international fuel pump sign for gasoline stations: one white lined for installation on a black background fuel pump and another done in black line for installation on a white background fuel pump. This has been done in consideration of the fact that some countries may want to distinguish the normal petrol station fuel pump logo from a CNG fuel pump. Thus, the CNG symbol maintains flexibility yet is a single logo. Additionally, there is space within the logo for letters, should a country wish to add these for their own purposes (i.e. in English, CNG or in French as GNV, etc.). Some people also suggested that the four atoms of the methane molecule representing the hydrogen fraction of natural gas also can be viewed symbolically as the various forms in which natural gas can exist for vehicular applications: compressed, liquefied, as a renewable resource biogas, or transformed into hydrogen, for the longer term.

The logo is distinct, simple and is designed to stand out on the existing international fuel pump sign in such a way that drivers, even passing by at high speeds, can distinguish the natural gas pump from the traditional, international fuel pump sign. And, the CNG logo can be easily added to existing fuel pump signs if countries so desire. Thus its versatility is completely optimized. The CNG signage is shown in Annex A. The stand-alone logo is shown in Annex B.

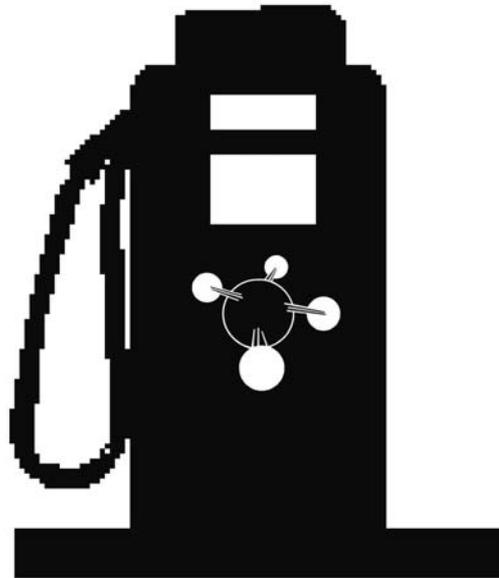
### **Natural Gas Vehicle NGOs Sponsoring this proposal**

Two non-governmental organizations with UN consultative status representing the natural gas vehicle industry are jointly sponsoring this amendment: the International Association for NGVs (IANGV) and the European NGV Association (ENGVA).

The IANGV, established in 1986 represents worldwide interests for the NGV industry. Most of the IANGV's membership consists of other regional and national NGV associations, whose individual and corporate members are, in turn, members of the IANGV. There also are individual country delegations that are IANGV members.

The European Natural Gas Vehicle Association (ENGVA) was established in 1994 to create a favourable legislative and regulatory environment to support the commercial expansion of NGVs in Europe. As of January 2004 it has 265 members representing 45 countries, mostly within Europe but also with a worldwide representation. These include natural gas companies, the major vehicle and engine manufacturers, NGV equipment manufacturers and service suppliers, and a range of cities, consultants and other NGV stakeholders.

**ANNEX A**

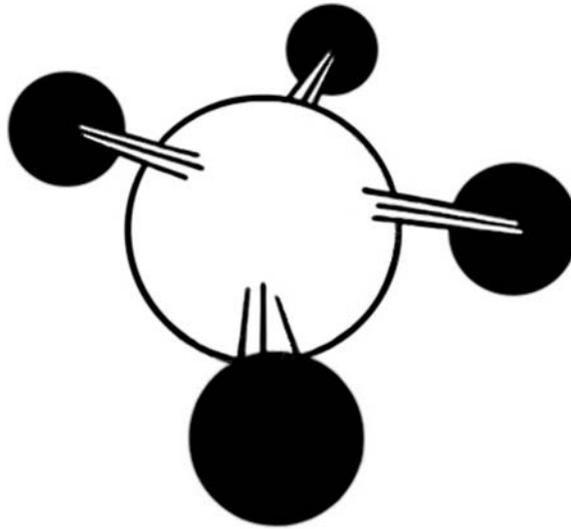


**International Fuel Pump Sign with White Line CNG Logo**

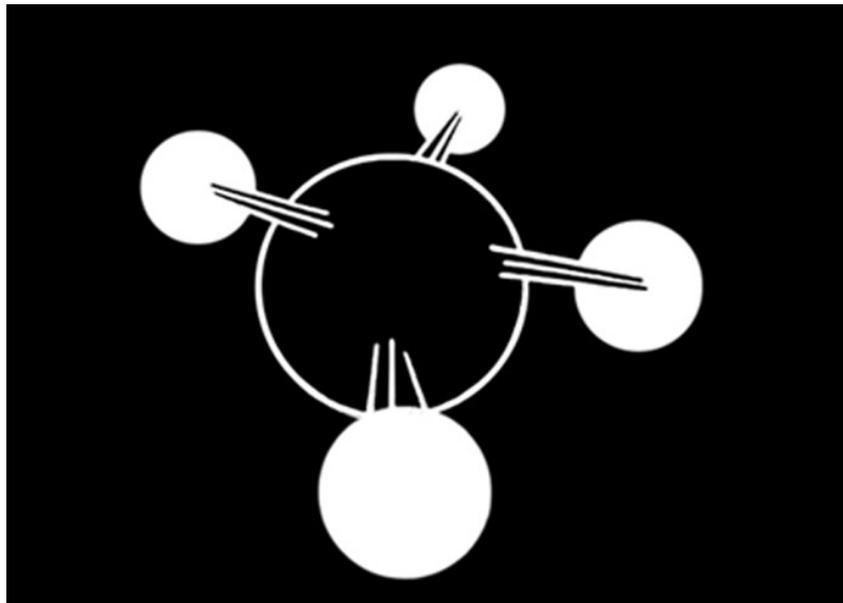


**International Fuel Pump Sign with Black Line CNG Logo**

**ANNEX B**



**Black Line for White Background**



**White Line for Black Background**

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