

The e7 expands to become the e8, embracing the electricity sectors of the G8 nations

June 1, 2006

The e7 – which comprises nine leading electricity companies from the G8 countries – has expanded to become the e8 to highlight the addition of RAO UES of Russia that became a full member of the group at the 14th Summit held in 2005.

The Chairmen of the e8, meeting in Evian, France, at their 15th Annual Summit, signed the new e8 Constitution and a new logo was unveiled to mark the occasion.



On the passage from the e7 to the e8, the group's outgoing Chairman, Pierre Gadonneix of EDF, remarked that "The birth of the e8 is not only symbolic, however; it is also the opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to sustainable energy development on a worldwide scale."

Under the chairmanship of EDF (France), the e8 chose to discuss the security of energy supply as its annual theme of reflection. The concerns of the Chairmen of the nine leading electricity companies from G8 countries mirror those of the G8, which will examine the same topic at its 2006 Summit to be held in St-Petersburg, Russia.

The e8 is ready to partner with the G8 on energy-related issues at the top of the global political agenda, by providing expert opinions on themes such as energy security and climate change.

In accordance with its mission, to play an active role in global electricity issues and to promote sustainable development, the e8 representatives intend to communicate the results of their discussions on this topic to their G8-country Sherpas prior to the upcoming G8 Summit.

Kansai Electric Power Company (Japan) assumes the Chairmanship of the e8 for the year 2006-2007.

Further information may be found on the e8 on its new website at www.e8.org.