

DRAFT - Bureau Meeting Report - BMR N. 2013/2

ECE Committee on Sustainable Energy
Bureau Meeting
Geneva, 16 July 2013

Report of the Meeting

Present: Mr. Gunnar Gjerde, Chairman
Mr. Talyat Aliev, Vice-Chair
Mr. Sergio Garribba, Vice-Chair
Mrs. Marie-Louise von Münchhausen (on behalf of Mr. Jurgen Keinhorst, Vice-Chair)

Secretariat: Mr. Scott Foster, Director, SED
Mr. Gianluca Sambucini, CSE Secretary, SED

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda

1. The agenda was adopted as reflected in the report

Item 2. Operationalizing Document: status of the consultations

2. The SED Director summarised feedback received on the “operationalizing document” which was sent to Member States as part of the consultations undertaken by the Bureau from 24 April 2013. Written feedback was received from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany, and the European Commission, and informally from the Russian Federation. Main comments can be summarised as follows: (i) need to focus on concrete activities; (ii) need to be more modest in the scope of activities, to focus on specific topics for the next two years; (iii) support from the EC on energy efficiency and renewable energy;

Item 3 Programme for the UNECE Energy week (18-22 November 2013)

3. The Secretary provided an overview on the CSE Energy Week which will include the Ninth session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Coal and other Fossil Fuels (18 November); the Eighth session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane (19-20 November), and the Twenty-second session of the CSE on 21-22 November. There will be a meeting of the GMI Coal Subcommittee in conjunction with the CMM meeting, and UN Foundation would like to organize a side event on energy efficient housing on the 20th November. A Bureau meeting will take place on 20 November at 18:00 p.m. in the Director’s office and another Bureau meeting will take place on 22 November at 18:00, just after the Committee session.
4. Hospitality events: A working dinner will be included as part of the side event on sustainable urban development on 20 November. If resources are available and as has become established practice, a working lunch with the Bureau and the Director will take place on the first day of the CSE with speakers and selected guests. A cocktail reception is foreseen on 21st November at 18:00 p.m.
 - a. CSE Provisional Programme (21-22 November)
5. Bureau members present at the call agreed on the focus and the four segments identified for this year Committee session and reflected in the Provisional Programme (here attached) which will be sent to the CSE constituency from next week as first announcement; There was a consensus on the format of having a key-note speaker, a moderator and 3-4 panellist for each segment, to create a dynamic and interactive discussion;

6. A Bureau member expressed the need to link the discussion to the real activities of the Committee and to devote more time during the Committee session to the programme of work of the Committee; the Chair agreed with the expressed view.

b. Identification of Speakers/ Moderators/ Panellists

7. Bureau members agreed on the individuals already contacted, proposed or to be explored by the Secretariat. The Bureau also discussed the types of speakers needed to ensure a focused, constructive and interactive discussion. Bureau members were asked to provide potential names for key-note speakers, moderators and panellists to the secretariat by the 15 August. The Chair noted that the solicitation of speakers should be a primary responsibility of the Secretariat.

8. The Chair outlined how the identification of speakers should be done considering the special regional dimension the discussion should maintain in each of the four segments;

9. A Bureau member pointed out the importance of defining the role of key-note speaker and moderator/discussant. Specific questions will be prepared and known well in advance for each segment.

c. Renewal of Mandates/ ToR

10. The Director summarised the results of the EXCOM decision on 11 July related to the renewal of mandates of the CSE subsidiary bodies. For Energy, mandates have been extended under the existing terms of references, but these needed to be updated to reflect the reform review before the end of 2013. Bureau members are invited to make comments on the proposed draft ToR that were distributed to Bureau members by 26 July. Revised or new ToRs must be circulated among member States and CSE focal points for comments by the end of August so that a room document on the terms of reference can be prepared in the three languages. The intent is to have fully agreed text so that the document can be distributed at least ten days before the CSE session for endorsement at the session..

11. The Draft CSE and SBs ToR are initially developed considering these five different approaches: (i) where the outcome document addressed the topic directly and there has been no action by the subsidiary body, the updated ToR reflect the wording of the outcome document. This is the case for the CSE itself, the re-baptised working party on energy efficiency (but with smart grids removed), the new expert group on renewable energy, and the working party on gas; (ii) where the subsidiary body has acted and there are new ToR to be submitted to the CSE for approval. This is the case for CEP, CMM, and UNFC. The cases of CEP and CMM might be peculiar because of what happened regarding mandates at the April meetings; (iii) where there is no specific mention of ToR for the subsidiary body and there are no substantive changes. This is the case for FEEI; (iv) where there is no specific mention of ToR, and there are some changes as reflected in the operationalizing document. This is the case for GEE21 and the Gas Centre; (v) The Ad Hoc Group of experts on the supply and use of gas would be terminated, and the resources allocated to the new Expert Group on Renewable Energy (EGRE).

12. The Chair noted that the terms of reference for the CSE itself are not precise and do not reflect the full depth and breadth of responsibilities of the Committee. In particular, the subsidiary bodies should be in place to assist the Committee in its work, not the other way around.

13. A Bureau member expressed concern about the proposal to change the Ad Hoc Group on the Supply and Use of Gas to an Expert Group on Renewable Energy and promised to revert with specific remarks.

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d. Preparation of the Biennial evaluation report 2012-2013, Programme of work 2014-2015, Biennial evaluation plan 2014-2015, and other parliamentary documents.

14. The Secretary referred to the parliamentary documents under preparation for the CSE and in particular to the BEP 2014-2015 (draft distributed) that will be finalized taking into account: 1) the achievement of strategic objectives and expected accomplishments of the strategic framework 2014-2015; and 2) approved by the General Assembly (Feb. 2012) and the proposed programme budget 2014-2015 which is under consideration in NY (Controller, ACABQ, Fifth Committee) before consideration for approval by the GA. Both the strategic framework 2014-2015 and the Programme Budget provide the basis for the preparation of the Sustainable Energy subprogramme.
15. The Chair noted that the biennial evaluation plans and reports serve no useful purpose: they are unreadable, they provide no basis for evaluation of the energy subprogramme, and they need to be changed substantially if they are to be of value. The Secretariat noted that a separate process was underway at UNECE to try to address the very points raised by the Chair.

Item 4. Update on activities

16. Given the length of the call, the Director offered to provide a written summary of activities. The summary is attached for information as Annex 1.

Item 5. Date of next Bureau meeting

17. The Secretariat proposes that next Bureau meeting takes place on 9th September. Bureau members can confirm it or propose the most convenient time for the call at the beginning of September by 16 of August.

Item 6. Any other business

18. None was raised.

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ANNEX 1 Sustainable Energy Activity Report Highlights

Events to date in 2013

1. Energy Efficiency

- a. International Training Courses on Business Planning for Energy Efficiency Projects held on 3-4 April 2013 in Almaty, Kazakhstan and on 20-21 June 2013 in Istanbul, Turkey.
- b. Meeting of Group of Experts on Global Energy Efficiency 21 (16 April 2013)
- c. Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 (17 April 2013)
- d. Meeting of Group of Experts on EE Investments for Climate Change Mitigation (18/4/13)

2. Education and outreach on UNFC on-going: there is a 2-page list of UNFC activities if requested.

- a. IAEA-UNECE UNFC Consultancy Meeting, Geneva, 22-23 April, UNFC Workshop, Geneva, 23 April, and IEGRC Fourth Session, Geneva, 23 - 26 April.
- b. Workshop on UNFC (Santiago, Chile, 9-12 July 2013) organized jointly by IAEA, UNECE, ECLAC and the Ibero-American Programme for Science, Technology and Development (CYTED).
- c. Task Force on Application of UNFC to Renewables is established and meets monthly to progress its work and have a timeline for deliverables ready for presentation to the CSE.

3. Gas Centre Activities

- a. Global Commodity Forum of UNCTAD, 18-19 March 2013: "Recommitting to commodity development as an engine of economic growth and poverty reduction". An ECE session was dedicated to the role of oil and gas companies in local development.
- b. 8th Task Force on Supply, Infrastructure and Markets, 15-16 May in Baku, Azerbaijan, hosted by SOCAR. Topic: Gas from the Caspian, with special focus on Southern Corridors to Europe.
- c. 9th Task Force on Supply, Infrastructure and Markets, in Italy, Rome, hosted by Edison/EDF, dates: 8-9 July. Topics: "The role of Natural Gas in the production of electricity"; "The role of Southern Europe in the gas market growth".

Upcoming events

1. September 17-19, Tbilisi, Georgia. Fourth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development.
2. September 19, 20 Symposium on Empowering Women in the Energy Industry.
3. Workshop on energy efficiency and energy saving national programmes and potential cooperation is planned under the "Enhancing Synergies in CIS National Programmes on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving for Greater Energy Security" project (funded by the Russian Federation) tentatively in October. Preparations for the workshop cannot start as we have not yet received the planned funding for 2013.
4. October 14-17 WEC/UNECE/ESCAP session on the role of fossil fuels in a green economy, including the 4th Industry Forum: WEC-UN Gas Centre Joint Seminar on Asia-Pacific Gas
5. Meeting of the Group of Experts on Global Energy Efficiency 21 (24-25 October 2013)
6. Meeting of the Group of Experts on EE Investments for Climate Change Mitigation (11-13 November 2013)
7. Meetings of CMM and CEP during energy week, including a meeting of the global methane initiative on November 19/20.
8. Side event on November 20 on Sustainable Urban Development.

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9. 3rd Task Force on Gas Markets and Regulation (Gas Centre), in Brussels, 5 December 2013. Topic: The European 2050 Roadmap.

Other:

1. UGS study has been posted. It will be edited, then re-posted over the summer.
2. NGV study will be posted imminently. It too will be edited, then re-posted over the summer.
3. LNG study is nearly complete, then it will be posted and edited.