

Bureau Call

14 December 2017

16:00-17:00 (Geneva time)

MINUTES

A. Participants:

Bureau Members:

Present

- Mr. Ray Pilcher (Chair)
- Mr. Clemens Backhaus
- Mr. Neil Butler
- Mr. David Creedy
- Mr. C. Ozgen Karacan
- Mr. Jacek Skiba
- Mr. Clark Talkington
- Mr. Zhixin Jin represented by Mr. David Creedy

Apologies

- Mr. Sergazy Baimukhametov
- Mr. Yuriy Bobrov
- Mr. Hasan Erdoğan
- Mr. Martin Hahn
- Ms. Felicia Ruiz
- Mr. Milanko Savic
- Mr. Sergey Ivanovich Shumkov
- Mr. Admir Softić
- Mr. Igor Yashchenko

Secretariat:

- Mr. Michal Drabik

B. Draft agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Follow up on the 12 Session of the Group of Experts on CMM
3. Survey on Bureau members' participation in the Group activities in 2018-2019
4. Best Practices and recommendations on AMM
5. Discussion on Work Plans of ICE-CMM in Poland and China
6. Group's involvement in the Global Methane Forum (04.2018 in Toronto)
7. Cooperation with Group of Experts on Clean Electricity Production
8. Evaluation
9. Transition of the energy sector project
10. COP23

11. Date of next Bureau call / meeting

12. Any other business

13. End of the meeting

1. Adoption of the agenda

- The agenda was adopted.

2. Follow up on the 12 Session of the Group of Experts on CMM

- The proposals to host International Centres on Excellence on Coal Mine methane (ICE-CMM) made at the annual session by Ukraine and Russia were discussed. Since so far neither of these countries has followed up on its offer, the Bureau decided not to undertake any steps before more information is provided.
- The potential workshops in Georgia, Turkey and Colombia were discussed.
 - The secretariat informed the Bureau that the formal letter expressing interest in hosting a workshop was received from Colombia, and that similar one is being awaited from Georgia, which has already signaled its interest informally.
 - The Bureau decided that workshops need to be closely tailored to the particular needs on the ground and directed to a pre-selected audience.
 - The secretariat was asked to follow up with Colombia, and to enquire Turkey whether its previously mentioned offer still stands.

3. Survey on Bureau members' participation in the Group activities in 2018-2019

- The Chair thanked Bureau Members for participating in the survey. He underlined that the Group needs a "champion" for each of its activities. At the same time, he assured that the Bureau together with the secretariat would provide all necessary support for successful organization and delivery of all of them. The Chair also underlined that the work has to be divided equally among all Bureau Members.
- The Bureau decided that the generic Terms of Reference (ToR) for workshops indicating obligations of a host country should be developed. Similarly, the Bureau decided to develop a generic questionnaire that is to be sent out before workshops to the targeted community.
- It was decided that after the division of labor between Bureau Members is completed in January 2018, the survey on activities will be sent out to the whole Group.

4. Best Practices and recommendations on AMM

- The Bureau discussed the scope of the document on AMM that the Group is to prepare in the upcoming millennium
 - It was observed that the subject of abandoning mines is very broad and multidimensional, and therefore the Group does not have either necessary expertise or resources to cover it fully. Consequently, the Bureau decided to adopt a narrow focus limited to methane emissions from abandoned mines and good practices for their efficient capture and utilization.
 - It was decided that the call of the task force on AMM would be arranged for January 2018 to discuss the issue in greater detail.
 - The secretariat was requested to ask the task force to develop ToR for the AMM document.

5. Discussion on Work Plans of ICE-CMM in Poland and China

- The Bureau approved the 2018-2019 Work Plan of ICE-CMM in Poland
- It was decided that the Bureau Members would provide secretariat with their comments on the Work Plan of ICE-CMM China by Wednesday, 20 December 2017. Should there be no

comments, the work plan will be automatically approved. Otherwise, the compiled comments will be sent to ICE-CMM China with request to adjust the document accordingly. In such case, the Bureau decided that the approval of the updated document would take place by written procedure in January 2018.

6. Group's involvement in the Global Methane Forum (04.2018 in Toronto)

- It was decided that the Group should prepare two sessions:
 - on cleaner electricity production from coal, together with GoE on CEP, and
 - a general session on best practices in CMM capture and utilization.
- The secretariat was requested to follow up with the GMF organizers.

7. Cooperation with Group of Experts on Clean Electricity Production

- Due to lack of time, apart from touching upon on the joint involvement in GMF, this issue was not discussed in greater detail.

8. Evaluation

- The secretariat informed that the management response to the evaluation had been prepared and that it would be sent out to the Bureau for its review shortly.

9. Transition of the energy sector project

- The Chair provided a short update on the project.
 - A *note verbale* from Kazakhstan was received expressing interest of two Ministries to be involved in the project.
 - It is expected that an additional staff member on secondment from Kazakhstan will join the secretariat in 2018 to act as a liaison between UNECE and the Kazakh Government. While the main focus of this person will be directed towards the Green Technology Centre, she would be also of help with the project on modernization.
- A need to have involvement of high level officials from the host Government and the operator of the selected industrial site was underlined.
- The Chair stressed that there is a need for having both an industry-wide top-down oriented strategy defining the broad goals of the project, as well as a bottom-up oriented implementation plan focused on delivery of particular tasks on a "micro" (site) scale.
- It was underlined that so far all options are open and all ideas are welcome. The fact that there are ongoing talks with Kazakhstan should not prevent engagement with other actors such as e.g. Poland or SCCG in China.

10. COP23

- Due to lack of time, this issue was not discussed.

11. Date of the next Bureau call

- The next call will be held in the second half of January 2018.

12. Any other business

- No issues were raised.

13. End of the meeting

- The Chair and the secretariat thanked participants for their time and involvement in the call.
- The meeting was closed
