

## Bureau Call

5 September 2018

17:00-19:00 (Geneva time)

# MINUTES

### A. Participants:

Bureau Members:

#### *Present*

- Mr. Ray Pilcher (Chair)
- Mr. Clemens Backhaus
- Mr. Neil Butler
- Mr. David Creedy
- Mr. Jacek Skiba
- Ms. Felicia Ruiz
- Mr. Clark Talkington

#### *Apologies*

- Mr. Sergazy Baimukhametov
- Mr. Yuriy Bobrov
- Mr. Hasan Erdoğan
- Mr. C. Ozgen Karacan
- Mr. Milanko Savic
- Mr. Sergey Ivanovich Shumkov
- Mr. Igor Yashchenko
- Mr. Zhixin Jin

Secretariat:

- Mr. Michal Drabik

### B. Draft agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Update by the Secretariat
  - a. WMC
  - b. Workshop in Colombia
  - c. Other activities
3. The annual session and the Group's involvement in the 27<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee.
  - a. Agenda for the annual meeting
  - b. Agenda for the GMI Coal Subcommittee meeting
  - c. Participation in the 27th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy
4. Seminar in Ukraine (9th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development)
5. Work on AMM
6. Any other business
7. Next meeting / call

#### 1. Adoption of the agenda

- The agenda was adopted.

## **2. Update by the Secretariat:**

### **a. WMC;**

- The Secretariat reported on a seminar organized jointly with GMI that took place on Wednesday, 20 June within the framework of the World Mining Congress in Astana, Kazakhstan.
  - The event was described as successful. There were approximately 50 participants. 21 presentations were delivered, all of which are posted on the UNECE [webpage dedicated to the event](#).
- The Bureau members who participated in the event shared the Secretariat's view. High attendance and good quality of discussion were observed and appreciated.

### **b. Workshop in Colombia**

- The Secretariat reported on a workshop organized jointly with GMI that took place on Tuesday and Wednesday, 24-25 July, in Bogota, Colombia.
    - The event was described as successful. There were approximately 50 participants. 18 presentations were delivered, all of which are posted on the UNECE [webpage dedicated to the event](#).
  - The Bureau members who participated in the event shared the Secretariat's view. A good quality of discussion was observed and appreciated.
  - The Chair observed that there is no data to understand the amount and distribution of gas in active mines in the Colombia. He pointed out to several issues such as:
    - lack of full understanding of the geological and mining problems in the country;
    - lack of enforcement of the standards in place;
    - undefined methane ownership.
- The Chair remarked that the workshop helped to identify problems in Colombia and he stressed a need for further work in the country. He called the event to be a good first step.
- Mr. Skiba agreed with the Chair. He underlined that there is a necessity to reach directly to miners and mine operators, as they do not have a sufficient awareness of the risk posed by methane. He also pointed out to the lack of regulation assuring adherence to the established standards and good practices. Consequently, he suggested to include in the report from the event a part that would be directed to the Government and encouraging it to strictly enforce, under the threat of penalty, the existing rules.

## **3. The annual session and the Group's involvement in the 27<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee**

- The Secretariat provided the Bureau with detailed information about the scope and schedule of the upcoming 13<sup>th</sup> session of the Group of Experts on CMM, and the 27<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.
- Ms Ruiz provided a description of the GMI Coal-subcommittee meeting that will take place on the first day of the 13<sup>th</sup> session of the Group.

## **4. Seminar in Ukraine (9th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development).**

- The Bureau discussed whether to organize a seminar on CMM within the framework of IFESD, as requested by the Ukrainian Government.
- The secretariat reminded that the Group agreed to deliver such event, responding positively to an invitation made by Mr. Yashchenko at the informal Bureau meeting in Toronto.
- Mr. Creedy observed that the problems in Ukraine go far beyond CMM, and therefore questioned the capacity of the Group to provide help that is needed in the country. He pointed out that a change of culture from strict regulation to principled based approach is necessary if the best practices advocated by the Group are to have any impact.
- Mr. Butler agreed with Mr. Creedy.

- Ms. Ruiz recalled an event organized by the Group in Ukraine few years ago and expressed her concerns about the added value that another seminar can bring to the country. She suggested to use the Forum as an opportunity to learn more about the exact needs of the mining community in Ukraine. She said that gathering information at the Forum could lead to a good workshop in 2019, giving the Group an opportunity to closely tailor such an event to the actual needs on the ground.
- The Chair agreed that the situation in Ukraine is difficult. He suggested to focus the agenda of the future event on application of best practices and on approaching the issue from the policy/regulation side. He proposed to dedicate half a day to a discussion with the relevant stakeholders on the problems that they face. The Chair observed that the problems with regulation should not prevent the Group from helping the Ukrainians to address other problems related to mines and security that they have.
- Mr. Talkington said that the Group should consider to look at this matter in a broader terms, and suggested that the Bureau develops a standard procedure for deciding which invitations to organize events the Group accepts.
- Ms. Ruiz supported the idea presented by Mr. Talkington, and underlined that the Group is not obliged to organize anything simply because it was invited to do so. She said that in her view the decision should be made based on the added value that each event is likely to bring.
- The Chair observed that having a standard procedure in place would make it easier for the Secretariat to deal with the requests that it receives. In case of Ukraine, he expressed his concern that at the moment it might be already too late to decide not to deliver the promised event. He noted that such decision could be embarrassing to some people involved in the process.
- The Secretariat suggested to organize an event that would serve as a fact-finding mission for the next year's workshop.
- Mr. Creedy suggested to get ICE-CMM Poland involved in the event, pointing to the latter's good knowledge of the local conditions in Ukraine, and to the fact that Ukraine itself also considers opening ICE-CMM, and therefore interacting with the Polish Centre could provide the future local host with useful information.
- The Secretariat remarked that the proposal of Mr. Creedy cannot be discussed without ICE-CMM Poland being involved in the debate. The need for broader set of experts than just from Poland was also underlined. Finally, it was observed that the fact that the fact-finding mission may lead to the conclusion that the Group is currently unable to help the country with the problems that it faces, should not prevent the Group from organizing such event.
- Mr. Butler argued that it is regulation not engineering that poses a problem in Ukraine. Therefore, as he remarked, a fact finding mission should target decision-makers not workers. Having said that, he suggested inviting both, workers and the regulators, so the former can explain to the latter what their needs are.
- The Chair observed that the composition of the Group might not be suitable for delivering on the workshop that is needed. He suggested that the Group may need to recruit or contract experts that have a desired profile and knowledge. He also said that the exact scope of the event, as expected by the Ukrainian Partners, should be determined, i.e. whether it is to encompass the whole coal industry or focus solely on CMM.
- Mr. Butler argued that if the Group is to organize anything in Ukraine it should be a fact-finding mission. He also underlined that such mission should include a meeting with senior Government officers to whom the findings and recommendations of the mission are to be presented. Mr. Butler stated that before committing any further the Group should receive a support form a governmental figure that is able to assure that such meeting will take place. Otherwise he recommended not to deliver any event in the country.
- The Chair suggested that the mission should include a meeting with a Deputy Minister Boyko.
- Mr. Backhaus agreed that the problem in Ukraine is not with engineering but with regulation.
- Mr. Creedy observed that Mr. Yashchenko, who was unable to join the call, should be involved in the debate.

- The Chair requested the Secretariat to prepare a letter to Mr. Yashchenko informing him that there is no consensus in the Bureau about the delivery of the planned seminar, as there are doubts whether the Group is able to provide anything that would translate into tangible results. He suggested that the letter should explain that such hesitance results from the Group's lack of understanding of the plans for the future of the Ukrainian coal industry.
- The issue was decided to be further discussed at the 13<sup>th</sup> session of the Group.

## **5. Work on AMM**

- The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the Task Force working on the Best Practice document is behind the schedule. The necessity to discuss the issue and to develop a new timeline for work was underlined.
- The Chair said that he had had a conversation with the Chair of the Task Force and that he was informed that approximately 40% of the content is ready (contributions by Mr. Creedy, Mr. Butler, and Mr. Cote). However, there is a need for contributions from other Task Force Members. The Chair said to be surprised by the delay and stressed the necessity to move forward. He also highlighted a need for a new timeline taking into account the final deadline, the time necessary for the review by the editorial group and by EPA, as well as the time for finalizing the document by the Secretariat. The Chair suggested that the work on the content should be completed no later than in the second quarter of 2019. He also mentioned a possibility of appointing a new Chair of the Task Force.
- Mr. Butler said that the problem is not with input but with process management and therefore suggested to appoint somebody who will efficiently manage the process.
- The Chair called the current outline of the document very aggressive, pointing to the fact that it includes some very detailed and a manual-like material. He suggested to review the scope of the document and adjust it better to the time and the expertise that the Group has.
- Ms. Ruiz suggested to discuss the issue at the 13<sup>th</sup> Session.
- Ms Ruiz was requested to share with the Bureau the most recent version of the outline.

## **6. Any other business**

- Mr. Butler suggested developing a Geographical Regulatory Mapping of Carbon Incentives, identifying the existing incentives to capture and use CMM, their type, as well as the percentage of gas that is being captured and utilized in countries around the world.
- The Chair strongly supported the idea.

## **8. Date of the next Bureau call**

- The next meeting will take place on Monday-Tuesday, 24-25 September, in Geneva (13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Group).

## **9. End of the meeting.**

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

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