

Bureau Meeting Report - BMR N. 2014/2

ECE Committee on Sustainable Energy

Bureau Meeting

Geneva, 10 April 2014

Report of the Meeting

Present:

Mrs. Sarah Duhr on behalf of Mr. Jurgen Keinhorst, Vice-Chair

Mr. Sergio Garribba, Vice-Chair

Mr. Jean-Christophe Fuög, Vice-Chair

Ambassador Esen Aydogdyev on behalf of Mr. Yagshygeldi Kakayev, 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. Chair/ Governance issues

2. Following the decision of the Chair of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, Mr. Gjerde, to resign, Bureau members present at the call agreed that Mr. Keinhorst would be Acting Chair until a new Chair is elected in November 2014.
3. The Bureau requested the secretariat to contact all Bureau members for confirmation of Mr. Keinhorst in the role of Acting Chair.
4. The Bureau requested the secretariat to send a letter of appreciation to Mr. Gjerde, thanking him for the active contribution to the work of the Bureau and the Committee on Sustainable Energy.
5. The SED Director briefed the Bureau Members on the Governance note circulated before the call on the operational guidelines for the Bureau of the CSE.
6. The Bureau agreed that the circulated guidelines were an informal document to be considered only internally for reference and clarification for the Bureau members. The document's status as an informal document should be reflected in any subsequent version.

Item 3. Status of Work Plans

7. The Director briefed the Bureau on the status of the work plans to be submitted for consideration and approval to the EXCOM meeting on 29 April, in particular on the work plans of the Groups of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels, Coal Mine Methane, Gas and Renewable Energy.
8. The Bureau requested the secretariat to revise the Work Plan of the CEP Group of Experts to better reflect a balance between the activities and resources related to carbon capture and storage and those related to the efficiency of the existing fleet of conventional power plants in the UNECE region.

Bureau Meeting Report - BMR N. 2014/2

9. The secretary of the Committee briefed the Bureau on preparations for establishment of the new Group of Experts on Renewable Energy in November. Candidates to the Bureau and Experts were indicated by member States at the end of March. A brainstorming meeting with those nominated experts and other stakeholders is planned to take place on 17 June 2014.
10. The Bureau requested the secretariat to specify more clearly the role of bio-mass in the work plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy.

Item 4. Quarterly Reports

11. The Director briefed the Bureau on the first draft of the quarterly reports.
12. The Bureau requested that there be a clear distinction made between the events organized and led by UNECE and those where UNECE staff only contributed or participated.
13. The Bureau also requested to have a more results-oriented type of report, with more information on the resources involved, including XB, and specifying the name of the staff responsible for the specific activity.
14. The Director suggested that as a number of activities that are undertaken do not fall under a specific group and as the Committee will play more and more an active role, with specific activities to be implemented under the Bureau guidance, the report will include a summary on other activities of SED and the work of the Committee.
15. The Bureau requested that the quarterly report be harmonized in terms of format, and that they be shared with EXCOM for information.

Item 5. Audit of Projects

16. The Director briefed the Bureau on the audit undertaken on selected projects in the Sustainable Energy Division. In the future, there will be an opportunity to improve the reporting of all XB projects through a more systematic and comprehensive reporting system recently put in place.

Item 6. Focus of CSE 2014 (19-21 November)

17. The Director proposed to focus next Committee session on “Reinventing Fire”, which is a means of reflecting that how the world produces, transforms, transports, and uses energy today is unsustainable. With this theme, the session would provide a baseline assessment of where the UNECE region stands today in terms of attainment of the Sustainable Energy for All goals and set the stage for a discussion both of what is needed to accelerate attainment and how UNECE can contribute. [N.B., inasmuch as “reinventing fire” is the title of work done by a commercial firm on this topic, the Director ex-post suggests instead “Energy for Sustainable Development”].
18. The Bureau suggested also to take into account a potential focus on renewable energy as well as energy issues related to current political developments in the region.

Bureau Meeting Report - BMR N. 2014/2

Item 7. Energy Security

19. Bureau Members commented that due to the focus at UNECE on the Sustainable Energy for All objectives, there is a risk that the emerging geo-political dimension on energy may be missed by UNECE;
20. Ambassador Aydogdyev briefed the Bureau on the preparatory work for the High-level conference foreseen in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan in November 2014. The conference would address the topic of the General Assembly resolution on the reliable and stable transit of energy and its role in ensuring sustainable development and international cooperation.
21. If one of the outcomes of the high-level conference is a request for UNECE to be involved in an on-going Energy Security dialogue, the Director suggested that the Committee could consider assuming this role directly by establishing a Task Force under the auspices of one of the Vice-Chairs.

Item 8. Any other business

22. The SED Director briefed the Bureau on the restructuring of SED following the outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of UNECE.