

Bureau Meeting Reports - BMR N. 2014/3+4

ECE Committee on Sustainable Energy

Extended Bureau Meeting, Geneva, 27 June 2014 09.00-13.30;

Bureau Call, 7 July 2014, 14.00-15.00

Report of the Meeting on 27 June 2014

Present:

Bureau Committee on Sustainable Energy

Jürgen Keinhorst, Acting Chair; Sergio Garribba, Vice-Chair; Talyat Aliev, Vice-Chair;

Jean-Christophe Füeg, Vice-Chair; Ambassador Esen Aydogdyev on behalf of

Yagshygeldi Kakayev, Vice-Chair; Sarah Duhr, Germany

By phone: Nataliia Boitsun, Vice-Chair

Extended Bureau

Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency: Maria Raytcheva, Ministry of Economy and Energy of the Republic of Bulgaria, nominated Bureau Member

Group of Experts on Gas: Lucía Mora Ruiloba, Enagás, S.A, Spain, on behalf of the Chair

Secretariat (ECE Sustainable Energy Division)

Scott Foster, Director, Viktor Badaker, Oleg Dzioubinski, Charlotte Griffiths, Stefanie Held,

Branko Milicevic, Gianluca Sambucini

Immediate actions:

- Secretariat to refine Q2 report and send to all Bureau Members, Extended Bureau, and missions
- Secretariat to organise the next Bureau call on **7 July 2014** to further discuss the Sustainable Energy Week in November, and in particular the refined theme and draft agenda for the next Committee meeting
- Secretariat to provide a matrix that allows to track progress of work programme implementation and deliverables at next meeting
- Russian Federation to contact the Chair of the Gas Centre

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda

1. The agenda was adopted as reflected in the report.
2. The Director presented Stefanie Held, newly appointed Section Head for UNECE's Sustainable Energy Section and new Secretary to the Committee on Sustainable Energy (the Committee). The Bureau thanked Gianluca Sambucini for his dedicated work to the Committee for the past years.
3. The Director informed the Bureau that a letter of appreciation had been sent to Mr. Gjerde to thank him for his crucial role in the Bureau and the Committee.

Item 2. Minutes of the last Bureau Meeting

4. The Minutes had already been approved by written procedure. No additions were proposed.

Item 3. Sustainable Energy Sub-programme Quarterly Report Q2 2014

5. The Director presented the second Quarterly Report detailing the activities of the Sustainable Energy subprogramme. This informal document is submitted to the Bureau of the Committee to assist the Bureau in its oversight of activities under this subprogramme. Challenges reported include: finalisation of draft work plans, staffing and recruitment.

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6. The Bureau approved the format, requested an update at the end of Q2 and subsequent circulation of both Q1 and Q2 reports to the Extended Bureau and the member States for information.
7. For the next edition, the Bureau suggested to add a section with recommendations from the Secretariat to the Bureau related to potential actions/guidance for the expert groups.

Item 4. Report on EXCEOM meetings, status of work plans and extra-budgetary projects

Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency

8. The Bureau took great interest in the 5th *International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development*, planned for 4-6 November in Tunisia, and jointly organised by the 5 Regional Commissions. Bureau members commented on the proposed "*Hammamet Declaration/Joint Statement of the 5 Regional Commissions*" and recommended to make it action oriented and practical. Bureau Members further advised to involve the EXCOM at the appropriate moment in early fall. The Bureau discussed whether the declaration should be formally adopted by the Committee at its November session. The Bureau requested to be kept informed on process and content of the Declaration at its next meeting, so a decision could be made in this respect.
9. Regarding the draft work plan of the Group of Experts, Bureau Members advised to follow the successful example of the draft work plan of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy and to send the current version to the EXCOM for information, so work could start in the interim and before the first meeting of the Group of Experts in November. It was requested to discuss the draft work plan further in a subsequent call on 7 July 2014, to be organised by the Secretariat.

Group of Experts on Renewable Energy

10. The Bureau took note of the main outcomes from the informal preparatory meeting to the first session of the Group of Experts, held on 26 June 2014 in Geneva. Bureau Members recommended close collaboration with already established players in the field, notably the International Energy Agency, the International Renewable Energy Agency and the Renewable Energy Network for the 21st Century (REN21) in order to avoid duplication. Bureau Members further stressed the importance of combined efforts, reaching out to the UNECE region. No further comments were made regarding the draft work plan.

Expert Group on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels

11. The Director briefed the Bureau on the status of the position paper *Recommendations to the UNFCCC on how CCS in cleaner electricity production and through enhanced oil recovery could be used in reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions*. The Acting Chair requested sufficient notice to the Bureau and the Committee in case formal decisions were needed during the next meeting of the Committee. Bureau Members recommended the mapping of the landscape of who is doing what in CCS as an added value to the current debate on CCS.
12. The Bureau was informed about the status of the project examining the efficiency of power plants in the ECE region.

Expert Group on Resource Classification

13. The Bureau was informed about the recent activities of the Expert Group, in particular the positive feedback received about the work on resource classification, which is now focussing on how to apply the framework classification to renewable energy resources.
14. The Bureau was advised that the Committee will be requested at its November meeting to endorse the Bridging Document between the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency/IAEA Uranium Classification and UNFC-2009 prepared and approved by the Expert Group.

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Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

15. Poland offered to host an international centre of excellence for methane management and implementation is ongoing. The Bureau was further informed that as a response to the deadly coal mine explosion in Turkey in May 2014, UNECE offered to Turkey the development and implementation of best practice guidance in methane management for coal mines. A room document for the upcoming Group of Experts meeting will be developed. The Bureau recommended being transparent in the process.

Group of Experts on Gas

16. The Director informed the Bureau that the draft work plan of the Group of Experts had been approved by EXCOM *at referendum* and also by the Bureau of the Group of Experts.
17. Bureau Members discussed the importance of the relationship between renewable energy and gas, as it is a substantive part of the draft work plan. Bureau Members recommended the importance for the Committee to be involved in such cross-cutting areas given its role in taking a holistic view on energy. The Bureau further recommended adding unconventional fuel sources and shale gas to discussions for the Committee in November.

Gas Centre

18. After the Director had provided an overview of the situation related to recent decisions by the Members of the Gas Centre to potentially leave UNECE and also informed about the staffing situation of the Gas Centre, the Bureau exchanged views about the importance of Gas Centre activities for the work on gas at large. Bureau Members recommended not to be hasty with decisions and to explore all options, including coordinating the activities of the Gas Centre with those of the Group of Experts on Gas. The Russian Federation offered to contact the chair of the Gas Centre to propose a conversation with the Bureau and the Chair of the Group of Experts on Gas about mutual interests in maintaining the Gas Centre, so that an informed decision about the Gas Centre could be taken. The Bureau requested to be kept informed about the development.

Item 5. Observations by Extended Bureau Members

19. No observations were made. The Secretariat had not received written contributions from other Extended Bureau Members.

Item 6. Governance Structure of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

20. The Bureau agreed that the document by the Acting Chair and the Secretariat on the Governance Structure of the Committee, and circulated to the Bureau for information at this meeting, should serve as an informal guideline for the work of the Committee.
21. The Chair requested that the Bureau receive notification of decisions and recommendations well in advance of meetings. The focus of the Sustainable Energy Division should be to implement the work programmes and to produce concrete results.
22. The 10 week rule was confirmed for submission of official documents for translation into UNECE languages.
23. Quarterly Reports are to continue as discussed under item 3.

Item 7. Discussion of the Sustainable Energy Weeks

24. The Director provided an overview of both Sustainable Energy Weeks (20-23 October 2014 and 17-21 November 2014), which are very different in nature and intense in coverage of subjects. A workshop on renewable energy resource classification will be organized by the Expert Group on Resource Classification on 17pm-18am November 2014.
25. The Theme for the 23rd session of the Committee was introduced. The Secretariat stressed the importance of attracting high-level thought leaders that would agree to discuss sustainable energy in an urgent, more direct and practical way, leading to action-oriented recommendations

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and increased involvement of the member States. The subsequent Bureau recommendations are as follows: Theme needs more positive language, in particular as far as energy efficiency and renewable energy is concerned. The event needs to give the Committee visibility and provide reference to all expert groups. Administration being an important part should not be at the end, rather be integrated in a continuous process, and important discussions and decisions should not be proposed on Friday afternoon. The role of the Committee as a decision making body should be reinforced. Formal presentations should be limited in order to encourage interactive conversations and increased dialogue with member States.

26. The Acting Chair proposed a call on 7 July 2014 to further discuss the theme, keynote speakers and Agenda of the Committee meeting.

Item 8. Bureau plan of work up to the Annual Meeting

27. The Acting Chair confirmed his wish to have a follow-up call on 7 July 2014 to finalise discussions about the Sustainable Energy Week (17-21 November).
28. The Acting Chair requested a progress report on implementing the work plans and deliverables at the next meeting of the Bureau.

Item 9. Other business

29. The Acting Chair encouraged a result-oriented approach to the work of the Committee. In case of comments, suggestions or concerns, he invited to be contacted directly.

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Report of the Call on 7 July 2014

Present:

Bureau Committee on Sustainable Energy

Jürgen Keinhorst, Acting Chair; Sarah Duhr, Germany

Written comments received from Sergio Garribba, Vice-Chair

Secretariat (ECE Sustainable Energy Division):

Scott Foster, Director, Stefanie Held, Gianluca Sambucini

Item 1. Endorsement of Theme for the 23rd Session of the Committee

30. The revised theme for the 23rd Session of the Committee was adopted with modifications. In particular it was suggested to add a subtitle to provide a sense of action and progress. The title now reads: *Energy for Sustainable Development: Trends and Milestones*. The latest version will be sent to the Bureau and the Extended Bureau for information.

Item 2. Proposed outline, speakers and list of official documents

31. The Acting Chair proposed the following changes to the refined draft outline of the Sustainable Energy Week in November 2014: Morning of 20 November: Grouping of Energy efficiency and Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels; afternoon 20 November: Grouping of Coal Mine Methane, Gas and Resource Classification; morning of 21 November: Renewable Energy; afternoon 21 November: Administration and decision making. The main argument for this change was to give all expert groups equal visibility during the 2.5 day meeting. Progressive decision making will be maintained.

32. The list of high-level keynote speakers was refined with the proposals received and as attached to the minutes. In particular, it was stressed to invited regionally balanced presence, including high-level representatives from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and the Russian Federation.

33. The Secretariat stressed the need for funding of the high-level speakers lunch and reception on 19 November 2014 and would contact key funders over the summer.

34. Official documents need to be discussed by the Bureau before 8 September 2014, the deadline for official document submission.

35. A question raised was if the Committee could approve a declaration or communique that could be sent to EXCOM for consideration to encourage more high-level participants to come? This could further be debated during the next meeting of the Bureau in the context of the "Hamamet Declaration/Joint Statement" potentially resulting from the 5th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (see § 4).

Item 3. Endorsement of the revised draft work plan for energy efficiency

36. The Bureau was consulted on next steps in the development of the draft work plan for the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency. Extensive comments can be expected from the European Union. It was recommended to consult with the nominated Bureau members for the Group of Experts and present a revised draft work plan for discussion in the next Bureau meeting.

Item 4. Dates for next calls and meetings

37. Dates for next meetings and calls were confirmed by the Acting Chair as follows:

- a) **25 August 2014, 15.00-18.00, call** (note: The original suggestion was a physical meeting on 26 August 2014, which has subsequently changed due to the availability of the Acting Chair. The Bureau has already received a note to this effect);
- b) **16 September 2014, 09.30-13.30, physical meeting, Geneva.** Objective: Tracking progress of work plan implementation; discussion of outstanding items before Committee meeting;

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- c) **28-31 October 2014, date tbc, phone conference.** If required by Bureau;
- d) **18 November 2014, Bureau dinner in preparation of the Committee, 19.30-21.30 tbc** (and instead of Bureau breakfast, depending on travel plans);
- e) **19 November 2014, Bureau breakfast, 07.00-09.30, Palais des Nations, room 384;**
- f) **21 November 2014, Bureau lunch, 13.00-15.00.** Objective: Feedback, conclusions and meeting report.

Item 5. AOB

38. No other issues were raised.