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## **ECE Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (GEEE)**

### **Bureau Call**

**Geneva, 19 January 2016, 11:00 – 12:00**

### **Bureau Call Report, 21 January 2016**

#### **Attendance**

##### **GEEE Bureau:**

Mr. Tim Farrell, Chair, Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency (C2E2)

Mr. Andrei Miniankou, Vice-Chair, Belarus

Mr. Zlatko Pavičić, Vice-Chair, Croatia

Mr. Christian Noll, Vice-Chair, Germany

Ms. Gabriela Prata Dias, Vice-Chair, Portugal

Mr. Aleksandar Dukovski, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Mr. Benoît Lebot, Vice-Chair, International Partnership on Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC)

Mr. Martin K. Patel, Vice-Chair, University of Geneva

##### **Secretariat, ECE Sustainable Energy Division (SED):**

Ms. Stefanie Held

Mr. Oleg Dzioubinski

Ms. Lisa Tinschert

Mr. Thomas Giehm (intern)

##### **Others:**

Mr. Thomas Fohgrub, Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations Office at Geneva

##### **Apologies received:**

Mr. Asaf Rzayev, Vice-Chair, Azerbaijan (was not possible to establish connection due to technical problems)

Ms. Maria Raytcheva, Vice-Chair, Bulgaria

Ms. Antonela Solujić, Vice-Chair, Serbia

Mr. Yusuf Yazar, Vice-Chair, Turkey

##### **Main discussion points**

Item 1 Chair's welcome.

Tim Farrell, Chair of GEEE, opened the conference call and welcomed the participants.

Item 2 Approval of the Agenda.

Chair proposed to approve the Agenda as presented. Agenda was approved as presented.

Item 3: Discussion on the modalities of implementation of the Work Plan of GEEE for 2016-2017.

**Item 3 (a): Proposals from Bureau members to lead specific activities under the Work Plan.**

Chair proposed to discuss activities one by one. The proposal was accepted.

Mr. Andrei Miniankou informed that Belarus is reviewing its priorities and will provide information on its interest in particular activities at a later stage.

The Chair and the Secretariat clarified that this was a preliminary discussion and expression of interest among Bureau members and they are welcome to become involved in any or all of the activities. They clarified that leading an activity did not mean they were responsible for delivering the activity outcome alone but rather bringing together and leading a team to achieve the results. It was indicated that all Bureau members would be aware of discussions and progress on the activities. The Secretariat noted that some representatives from the Group of Experts had also expressed their willingness to be involved in specific activities.

**Activity A: Exchange of know-how and best practices in selected economic sectors on how to significantly improve energy efficiency in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region**

An interest to be involved in the implementation was expressed by Mr. Zlatko Pavičić, Ms. Gabriela Prata Dias, Mr. Christian Noll, and Mr. Tim Farrell. More specifically, Ms. Gabriela Prata Dias expressed particular interest in sub-activities

*(b) Provide an effective platform for expanding already developed policies and measures across countries in the region based on the “Best Policy Practices for Promoting Energy Efficiency. A Structured Framework of Best Practices in Policies to Promote Energy Efficiency for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Development” developed by the Group of Experts. In particular, cooperate with the IEA on its Policies and Measures Databases on Energy Efficiency and on Building Energy Efficiency Policies;*

*(c) Identify an ECE member State from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia or South-Eastern Europe that could play the role of an energy efficiency leader and identify possibilities of developing joint programmes with leading institutions in Western Europe and disseminating experience on best practice in neighbouring countries; and*

*(d) Organize information sharing activities (workshops, seminars, roundtables, etc.) for exchange of experience on energy efficiency best practices and policies.*

Ms. Gabriela Prata Dias also informed of planned work with the Republic of Moldova under sub-activity (c) and with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on sub-activity (d). Mr. Aleksandar Dukovski confirmed joint plans with Portugal for sub-activity (d). Mr. Christian Noll also expressed interest in sub-activity (d) and informed of the planned event in Berlin in March 2016 (International Dialogue on Energy Efficiency in Industry) to which he will send invitations to interested members of the Bureau. Mr. Tim Farrell expressed his specific interest in sub-activity (g) Monitor and promote the results of World Bank's Readiness for Investment in Sustainable Energy (RISE) Initiative that will assess the legal and regulatory environment for investment in sustainable energy, which plans to include 31 ECE member States in 2015. It was agreed that Mr. Tim Farrell will share the list of 110

countries selected for the RISE Initiative. Mr. Zlatko Pavičić expressed his specific interest – with regards to economic sectors – in energy efficiency in industry.

It was agreed that for **Activity A, Mr. Zlatko Pavičić** will serve as an informal leader on behalf of the Bureau.

**Activity B: Exchange of know-how and best practices on the role of standards and guidelines to significantly improve energy efficiency in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region**

It was highlighted that this activity includes establishing a Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings of the UNECE Region. Discussion of this activity included **Item 3 (b) of the agenda: Identifying a co-chair for the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings.**

Mr. Oleg Dzioubinski clarified that the focus of Activity B is on energy efficiency standards in buildings, as the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings has been jointly established by the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the Committee on Housing and Land Management (CHLM). GEEE is appointed by the Committee on Sustainable Energy to lead this work on its behalf, which requires appointing a Co-chair to represent the Committee and GEEE. CHLM has already appointed its co-chair, Mr Marko Nokkala from Finland.

Mr. Christian Noll proposed an expert with extensive buildings experience on this topic, Dr. Burkhard Schulze Darup. The German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) has agreed to his nomination already, however Dr. Burkhard Schulze Darup would require compensation for any travel expenses to agree to take up the position. As funding remains uncertain at this point, it was agreed that the appointment of Dr Shulze Darup as co-chair would be conditional on the availability of funds. Mr. Christian Noll agreed to provide Mr. Schulze Darup's short bio for distribution to the Bureau members. The final agreement to his nomination as co-chair shall be made by email.

Ms. Stefanie Held stated that the Executive Secretary of the UNECE, Mr. Christian Friis Bach considers this activity as one of the flagship projects of the UNECE. She also listed some potential donors for the project, including the Nordic Research Council. It was agreed that appointing a co-chair should be prioritized as it would significantly help in securing funding for this activity.

Mr. Aleksandar Dukovski and Ms. Gabriela Prata Dias informed that they are ready to share information on relevant developments in their countries for this activity and Mr. Dukovski also stated that it would be possible for his agency to cover participation of local experts working on standards. Mr. Martin Patel proposed to contribute information on the performance gap – the difference between the design and actual operational performance of buildings.

It was agreed that for **Activity B, Mr. Christian Noll** will serve as an informal leader on behalf of the Bureau.

**Activity C: Exchange of approaches and best practices for utilities and energy services companies to improve energy efficiency in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region, including quality of service regulation.**

Mr. Martin Patel informed that he is currently working on several projects linked with Activity C, although not in relation to the quality of service regulation. He indicated that he can contribute to parts of the activity. Mr. Oleg Dzioubinski informed that Mr. Scott Foster, Director of the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division, has expressed interest in Activity C and proposed to develop an initial

draft document as a starting point for this activity. Mr. Aleksandar Dukovski expressed his interest to be involved and to provide comments and share experience.

It was agreed that for **Activity C**, **Mr. Martin Patel** will serve as an informal leader on behalf of the Bureau.

**Activity D: Regulatory and policy dialogue addressing barriers to improve energy efficiency**

Mr. Aleksandar Dukovski stated that everyone in the Bureau is well positioned to contribute to this activity and expressed his commitment to make a significant contribution. Mr Tim Farrell also indicated an interest in this activity as it is also an area of interest of the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency. Mr. Benoît Lebot has expressed his willingness to share IPEEC's G20 work on mobilizing financial institutions for energy efficiency and unlocking finance. This work is not limited to G20 countries but is universally applicable, so it could have positive implications for all UNECE member States.

It was agreed that for **Activity D**, **Mr. Aleksandar Dukovski** will serve as an informal leader on behalf of the Bureau.

**Activity E: Facilitate engagement in the Global Energy Efficiency Accelerator Platform**

It was agreed that **Mr. Tim Farrell** will serve as an informal leader on behalf of the Bureau, as he represents the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency, which serves as SE4All's Energy Efficiency Hub and is hosting the Secretariat for the Global Energy Efficiency Accelerator Platform. Mr. Zlatko Pavičić expressed his opinion that everybody in the Bureau should participate in this activity.

**Consolidated list of informal leaders per activity:**

**Activity A:** Exchange of know-how and best practices in selected economic sectors on how to significantly improve energy efficiency in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region - **Mr. Zlatko Pavičić**

**Activity B:** Exchange of know-how and best practices on the role of standards and guidelines to significantly improve energy efficiency in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region - **Mr. Christian Noll**

**Activity C:** Exchange of approaches and best practices for utilities and energy services companies to improve energy efficiency in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region, including quality of service regulation - **Mr. Martin Patel**

**Activity D:** Regulatory and policy dialogue addressing barriers to improve energy efficiency - **Mr. Aleksandar Dukovski**

**Activity E:** Facilitate engagement in the Global Energy Efficiency Accelerator Platform - **Mr. Tim Farrell**

**Item 3 (c): Identifying additional resources to implement planned activities.**

Due to the technical disruptions in the call it was not possible to hold a detailed discussion on this item. Mr. Oleg Dzioubinski proposed that both the secretariat and the Bureau consider possible avenues for seeking additional resources. The Chair encouraged that the Bureau contact the Secretariat directly if they have any ideas or suggestions related to funding or resourcing any activities.

**Item 3 (d) Practical steps for implementation of specific items of the Work Plan.**

Due to the technical disruptions in the call it was not possible to hold a discussion on this item. Informal leaders for each activity, the secretariat and the Chair will work on practical steps for implementation and inform the Bureau and GEEE accordingly.

**Item 4. Dates of important events in 2016.**

It was agreed that the Secretariat will provide the dates in electronic communication. Dates are provided below.

18-22 April 2016. UNECE Energy Week. Includes Workshop on Scenario Building for the Pathways to Sustainable Future; Energy Dialogue for the UNECE Region; annual session of the Group of Experts on Gas. Further details to follow. Location: Geneva.

28-30 September 2016. Twenty-fifth session of the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy. Location: Geneva.

18-19 October 2016. Third session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency. Currently, a proposal to hold the session in Baku, Azerbaijan in the framework of the Seventh International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (and back-to-back with the third session of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy) is under consideration.

**Item 5 Other business.**

No other business was discussed.

The Chair thanked the Bureau for their participation and closed the call.