

Bureau Meeting Report – GERE BMR N. 2016/2

**UNECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE)
Geneva, 6 September 2016**

Report of the Meeting

Present:

Mr. Ulrich Benterbusch (Germany), Chair
Mr. Nazir Ramazanov (Azerbaijan), Vice-Chair
Ms. Iryna Osipava on behalf of Mr. Andrei Miniankou (Belarus), Vice-Chair
Mr. Željko Jurić (Croatia), Vice-Chair
Mr. Paolo Frankl, Vice-Chair, and Ms. Ute Collier (IEA)
Mr. Jeffrey Skeer (IRENA), Vice-Chair and other colleagues
Ms. Christine Lins, Vice-Chair, and Mr. Martin Hullin (REN21)

Ms. Margalita Arabidze (Georgia), candidate as Vice-Chair (GERE session, Baku, 20-21 October)
Mr. Thomas Fohgrub, Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN Geneva

Secretariat:

Mr. Gianluca Sambucini, GERE Secretary, SED
Ms. Lisa Tinschert, Junior Professional Officer, SED

Item 1. Chair's welcome

1. The Chair of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, Mr. Benterbusch, started the call of the Group of Experts with welcoming the call participants.

Item 2. Approval of the agenda

2. The agenda was adopted as proposed and reflected in the current report.

Item 3. Preparation for the Baku events and draft timeline of the GERE session;

3. The Chair and the Secretariat summarized the key renewable energy components in the provisional programme of the 7th International Forum on Sustainable Energy, the International Conference on Renewable Energy (18-21 October) and went through the details of the annotated provisional agenda of the Third session of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (20-21 October);

4. The Chair focused the discussion on and pointed out the role and active participation of key partners, notably REN21, IEA and IRENA as reflected in the timeline of the GERE session which is indicated in the current version of the Forum's programme.

5. IEA and REN21 representatives pointed out their role in the discussion related to tracking progress made in the renewable energy uptake, how their recent respective work can provide an update of the information provided by the UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report. The

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IEA representative pointed out that least-cost solutions for a clean energy future will have to go through an effective combination of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

6. The discussion among Bureau members and IRENA's representatives clarified that the Central Asia Regional Consultation coordinated by IRENA will be an opportunity for the organization to present IRENA's work on renewable energy potential, the various tools and mechanisms offered by the organization and to give the opportunity to experts from countries of Central Asia to underline the challenges and the needs for the development of renewable energy in their respective country.

Item 4. Election of officers (Chair and Vice-Chairs) for next term of the GERE Bureau;

7. The Group of Experts will be invited to elect members of the Bureau as appropriate. The Secretary briefed the Bureau members that Belarus and Georgia have nominated their candidates through official Verbal Note. The moment this report has been drafted, Ukraine has indicated their candidate to the UNECE Secretariat through a Verbal Note. Countries already represented in the current Bureau, except for Bulgaria, are expected to indicate a candidate for the election or re-election at the forthcoming GERE session.

8. The Chair expressed his intention not to continue in his role within the Bureau, unless there is need to cover this role for an intermediary period, for the next term due to the new assignments within the German Ministry of Economy and Energy. IEA and REN21 representatives have confirmed their intention to continue in their role within the Bureau and IRENA has indicated a new representative to be part of the GERE Bureau.

Item 5. Future mandate and work plan: 2018-2019;

9. The Chair and the Secretary invited Bureau members to reflect on the future GERE work, in particular the renewal of its mandate and the work plan 2018-2019. The Group of Experts will convey a set of conclusions and recommendations for consideration by the second part of the twenty-fifth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on 19 January 2017 and by twenty-sixth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on 26–28 September 2017.

10. Bureau members supported the idea that the Group of Experts would consider during its Third session to adopt a written procedure process, overviewed by the Bureau of the Group of Experts and with the secretariat support, in order to expedite submission of documentation for endorsement by the Committee on Sustainable Energy, including on the renewal of mandate and approval of the Work Plan 2018-2019 of the Group of Experts.

Item 6. Key messages to the Committee on Sustainable Energy and key elements for the Conclusions and Recommendations,

11. The Bureau expressed positive view on the draft Conclusions and Recommendations considered during the call and to be considered by the forthcoming session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on the Group of Experts. The Chair proposed that these draft conclusions and recommendations - with the addition of a recommendation on the synergies between renewable energy and energy efficiency - are considered by the Committee on

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Sustainable Energy for possible approval in September, and represent the basis for the conclusions and recommendations to be agreed by the Group of Experts in October in Baku.

Item 7. AOB

12. There was no other business