

## **Bureau Meeting Report – GERE BMR N. 2015/3**

**ECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE)  
Geneva, 17 September 2015**

### **Report of the Meeting**

#### **Present:**

Mr. Ulrich Benterbusch (Germany), Chair  
Mr. Thomas Fohgrub, Mission of Germany in Geneva  
Mr. Andrei Miniankou (Belarus), Vice-Chair  
Mr. Zeljko Juric (Croatia), Vice-Chair  
Mr. Oliver Frank, DENA  
Mr. Paolo Frankl, IEA  
Mr. Martin Hullin on behalf of Ms. Christine Lins, REN21

#### **Secretariat:**

Mr. Gianluca Sambucini, GERE Secretary, SED  
Ms. Ani Gabrielyan, Intern, SED  
Ms. Yana Daneva, Intern, 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. Progress on the REN21 Status Report**

3. The REN21 representative briefed the Bureau Members with key information on the current state of the UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report (Status Report). The on-going preparation processes are carried out in accordance with the schedule. Conducted peer review contributed substantively to the final draft of the Status Report, which is currently open for public review. The REN21 representative informed Bureau members that the key messages and findings emerging from the Status Report will be presented in upcoming events, particularly during the Sixth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Yerevan, Armenia, on 29 September - 2 October 2015, the Second GERE session and the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, Geneva, Switzerland, on 12-13 October and 18-20 November 2015, respectively. The launch of the status report is foreseen by December 2015 within the context of COP21/ UNFCCC in Paris.

4. The GERE Secretary introduced two additional points related to Status Report. First, a parliamentary document summarising the project, objectives, key findings and messages is available for the discussion at the GERE session in October. Second, the GERE Secretary added that the Status Report is trying to close information and data gap on renewable energy

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development with a focus of 17 countries of the UNECE region. Data gathered are confirming the positive progresses made in the last years in UNECE countries although much more can be done. The necessity to extend this work of the Status Report to the rest of the UNECE region should be considered and decided by the GERE within the coming session.

5. The GERE Secretary and the REN 21 representative made clarifications on the revision process of the Status Report. At the first stage, the Status Report has been considered by the Expert Review Board consisting of a selected group of experts, which will subsequently be considered by a broader number of experts. Meanwhile, the Status Report reflects the methodology used for the REN21's Renewables Global Status Report. Data and information are gathered through ad hoc questionnaire sent to formal and informal sources, which are often responsible in their own area for both energy efficiency and renewable energy. This information was incorporated into the Status Report to supplement other data and information already available from other sources, including from the IEA.

### **Item 4. Brief update on the implementation of the Work Plan 2014-2015/Draft Work Plan 2016-2017**

6. Bureau Members were updated about the implementation of the Work Plan 2014-2015. Key deliverables are (i) the Status Report under preparation with REN21 and IEA to create a baseline for the progress made on renewable energy in UNECE countries. Progress made in the preparation of the status report was extensively discussed in the previous agenda item (ii) the identification of communities with no access to energy in UNECE countries. The analysis of the questionnaires send out for the Status Report confirmed the Member states covered by the Status Report have 100% access to the electricity, with exception of few communities; information on those communities has been provided in the status report (iii) the identification and dissemination of best practices, high-impact measures and procedures for an energy transition towards significantly increasing use of renewable energy is facilitated through the development of a cooperative tool. As requested by the Chair, a revised draft paper developing a menu of technologies and policies to promote them as practical tool for the exchange of information was sent to Bureau members after the second call, revised in accordance with the comments received and posted on the website for consideration and additional comments. Additional resources would need to be explored at and after the GERE session to use this tool in practical terms, within a due time frame.

### **Item 5. Status of the organization of the GERE session, on 12-13 October 2015/ key sessions and speakers/contributions from Bauru members/Participation in 2016 activities**

7. The GERE Secretary provided information to the Bureau Members regarding the various agenda items foreseen in the provisional agenda for the second session of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy to be held in Geneva, 12-13 October 2015. Bureau Members discussed the possibilities to contribute with the Status Report to COP21 in December as outcome from the GERE session. The opportunity to engage members of the Task Force on Gas and Renewable Energy of the Group of experts on Gas were also discussed and a meeting (either on 13 October PM or another date to be defined) between the GERE Bureau and this

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Task Force will be explored in the coming weeks. The Chair asked to the UNECE secretariat to circulate a version of the provisional programme with confirmed speakers during the week following the Bureau call.

8. The IEA representative confirmed his participation in the session devoted to the RE status in our region and to the report under preparation. He has offered to make a presentation on the IEA Medium-Term Renewable Energy Market Report 2015 which will be launched on 2 October. Chair and Bureau members welcomed this proposal.

### **Item 6. Key elements to be included in the draft Conclusions and Recommendations and to be conveyed to the Committee on Sustainable Energy**

9. The Chair of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy and the GERE Secretary invited Bureau Members to send their suggestions on possible conclusions and recommendations related to the various agenda items. The Chair and the secretariat will work at the draft conclusions and recommendations to be considered at the GERE session and, as agreed, submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its 24<sup>th</sup> session in November. Draft C&Rs will be posted on the UNECE website ten days before the discussion at the GERE session.

### **Item 7. Postponement of the joint workshop with IRENA scheduled on the 13 and 14 October**

10. The joint workshop with IRENA scheduled on the 13 and 14 October, 2015 was cancelled by IRENA on 15 September due to delay in the overall project start and implementation. Possible alternative dates will be explored in due time and communication will be provided, if available, at the GERE session in October.

### **Item 8. Bureau meeting at the GERE session (tentatively scheduled on 12 October, 18:15)**

11. The Bureau agreed to hold Bureau meetings on 12 October (in the afternoon, 18:00-19:00) and, as appropriate, on 13 October (afternoon, 15:00-17:00) within the GERE session, 12-13 October 2015.

### **Item 8. AOB.**

12. There was no other business