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ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR EUROPE

**UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy (CSE)  
Bureau Meeting  
Geneva, 15 March 2016, 9.30-16.00**

**Bureau Meeting Report - BMR Nr. 2016/1**

**Present, CSE Bureau:**

Mr. Jürgen Keinhorst, Chair

Vice-Chairs: Mr. Nazir Ramazanov, Mr. Sergio Garribba, Mr. Talyat Aliev, Mr. Jean-Christophe Füeg, Mr. Hemra Amannazarov for Mr Yagshygeldi Kakaev, Mr. Ihor Didenko, Mr. Francisco de la Flor Garcia, Mr. Jarad Daniels (by phone)  
Ms. Gunay Mustafayeva, Azerbaijan, Ms. Miriam Gutzke and Mr. Thomas Fohgrub, Germany, Mrs. Anna Klyukhina, Russian Federation

**Secretariat, UNECE Sustainable Energy Division (SED):**

Mr. Scott Foster, Director, SED, Mrs. Stefanie Held, Ms. Charlotte Griffiths, Mr. Gianluca Sambucini, Mr. Viktor Badaker, Mr. Oleg Dzioubinski, Ms. Lisa Tinschert, Mr. David Elzinga, Mr. Michal Drabik, Mr. Afonso Neves da Silva

**Apologies received:**

Mr. David MacDonald, Mr. Ray Pilcher, Mr. Barry Worthington, Mr. Tim Farrell, Mr. Ulrich Benterbusch.

**Main Bureau decisions:**

- 25<sup>th</sup> session of the CSE to be split in two parts to maximise the opportunity of consultation with member States in preparation of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Astana, Kazakhstan, and the energy ministerial Kazakhstan intends to hold in June 2017
- Dates for the 25<sup>th</sup> session: 28-30 September 2016 and mid-January 2017 (date requested by the secretariat but not yet confirmed)

**Immediate action points:**

- Circulate a mapping from the UNECE Environment Division about attaining sustainable development goals when available - secretariat
- Circulate an extract of the monthly SED budget to the Bureau - secretariat
- Re-circulate the paper *Electricity System Development – a focus on smart grids, overview of activities and players in smart grids* (GEEE/GE.6/2015/INF.2) to the Bureau – secretariat
- Circulate information about the outcomes from meetings held on methane management in March 2016 in Washington DC to the Bureau as soon as minutes are available - secretariat

### Main discussion points

#### Item 1 Welcome and adoption of the agenda

- The agenda was adopted as presented.
- Since the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the CSE the Bureau has two new members from Azerbaijan and Serbia. Bureau and secretariat briefly introduced themselves in a tour de table.

#### Item 2 25<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee (28-30 September 2016)

- 83<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM): In the absence of the Chair, the Director of SED presented the Chair's report to EXCOM on the outcomes from the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the CSE. The presentation focused on the achievements during the biennium 2014-2015 to set the stage for the 2016-2017 programme of work and related mandates and work plans for most of the CSE's subsidiary bodies. EXCOM approved all the recommendations arising from the 24<sup>th</sup> CSE session. The recommendations were summarized in attachment 2 in preparation of the Bureau meeting and the presentation with speaking notes was circulated to the Bureau for information. Following the presentation about CSE activities was a presentation by the Chair of the Committee on Housing and Land Management with a focus on joint activities in energy efficiency and under the auspices of the International Fora on Energy for Sustainable Development. The minutes of the 83<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Executive Committee will be distributed when available.
- The secretariat reported that it had presented the activities of the sustainable energy subprogramme to the March Coordination Meeting of the European Union and its Member States, regularly held in the context of EXCOM preparations. The presentation was favourably received. The Chair confirmed his intention to meet with the European Union's DG Energy in May 2016, a date request has already been sent to Brussels.
- Preparations of the 25<sup>th</sup> session: The secretariat stressed the obligation to hold meetings over 6 days in 2016 and 2017. The current proposal is to organise the 25<sup>th</sup> session in two parts: part 1 on 28-30 September 2016, in Geneva, in which a draft session report would be prepared and discussed with the CSE. Part 2 in mid-January 2017 (exact date to be confirmed) to approve the final report. This approach is proposed to optimise the input from and consultation with member States in the preparations of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Astana, Kazakhstan, and the energy ministerial Kazakhstan intends to hold on 11 June 2017. The Bureau approved this proposal with the caveat that final decisions about the approach would be taken during the 25<sup>th</sup> session.
- Bureau members commented about the structure of the 25<sup>th</sup> session, which should allow both political and technical expert discussions. It recommended limiting the high-level part to 1 day. Bureau members further informed of additional opportunities to consider for planning and outreach, namely the International Energy Forum high-level meeting in Algiers, COP22 (Morocco) and COP23 (an Asian location) and potential activities from the new SE4All office.

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- The Bureau discussed the objectives of the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> sessions under the overarching question how the CSE can play a role in the implementation of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The Bureau concluded that input from the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> sessions could enrich the discussions of the expert groups and would provide a unique opportunity for the expert groups to profile their work. The Bureau emphasised that work should only be undertaken if a clear value added could be demonstrated such as in the areas of methane management, cleaner electricity production and resource classification. In this context, the Bureau emphasised the importance of the UNECE region in the current global energy transition. It would therefore be absolutely crucial to add the regional aspects to the agenda and to build on the specific needs of economies with a high share of fossil fuels. The ongoing International Fora on Energy for Sustainable Development are an existing tool that should be strengthened in this context. Further a clear gap analysis would be needed in the long run to define the future strategic areas of the sustainable energy subprogramme.
- The project under the oversight of the Bureau Pathways to Sustainable Energy would therefore present an opportune occasion to determine baseline and objectives for the CSE and shape the gap analysis previously mentioned. The Chair recommended focusing attention on the outcomes of the Pathways project and deciding on next steps during the 25<sup>th</sup> session in September 2016.
- International Fora on Energy for Sustainable Development and energy ministerial: The Bureau agreed to the timetable for the preparations of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> International Fora on Energy for Sustainable Development as proposed in attachments 3, 8 and 9. The Bureau further emphasised that the energy ministerial at the auspices of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development would be held not as a UNECE ministerial but instead would be organised and hosted by Kazakhstan with the support of the UNECE secretariat on 11 June 2017. The Bureau recommended linking all discussions to the mandate of the energy-related SDGs and the implementation of the NDCs. The UNECE Environment Division is in the process of mapping involvement in the SDGs. The secretariat offered to circulate the results of such a mapping to the Bureau for information and as a basis for a similar approach in sustainable energy. Revised concept notes and discussion documents for all events will be circulated to the Bureau in the coming weeks to seek further guidance. Issues related to the international fora and the energy ministerial will be discussed further at the next Bureau meeting in June.

### Item 3 Budget and resources

- The secretariat was requested to explain the budgetary situation of the sustainable energy subprogramme. The SED Director explained that principally four funding streams were open to the subprogramme:
  - 1) Regular budget, for consultancy and staff travel for 2016 and 2017 travel was on the order of USD25k annually;
  - 2) Extrabudgetary (XB) resources, several projects are in the process of being submitted, including for the Expert Group on Resource Classification (EGRC), energy efficiency standards in buildings with the Committee on Housing and Land Management and

Pathways to Sustainable Energy. XB funding requires the approval of the UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM);

3) Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (RPTC) funds, currently used to bring experts from the UNECE region to Geneva to workshops organised on the topics of coal mine methane, gas, United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources and cleaner electricity production. RPTC funds require the approval of the UNECE Project Management Unit and can cover limited travel for experts from the region related to cooperation and capacity building;

4) United Nations Development Account (UNDA) projects, which are additional projects funded from the regular budget.

- The Director stressed that current activities are focused on delivering the approved programme of work 2016-2017 without additional resources, and that the efficiency, reach and impact of the regular programme of work are severely constrained by a lack of funds. The secretariat underlined the importance of voluntary contributions in form of goodwill (time, travel and sponsorship) of the community of experts that continues to support the work of the subprogramme, notably EGRC.
- The secretariat was requested to send a copy of the monthly financial spreadsheet to the Bureau for information.
- The Bureau recommended the importance of continued partnership agreements with others and recommended to explore the possibility of secondments and alternative forms of support to the work of the subprogramme.

### Items 4 and 5 Projects overseen by the Committee and Extrabudgetary Funding (XB)

- The Bureau of the CSE currently oversees three projects directly: 1) smart grids, 2) methane management, and 3) Pathways to Sustainable Energy.

1) Smart grids: The subject was originally assigned to the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (GEEE), but the GEEE in its second session in November 2015 recommended direct oversight by the Committee, as the primary focus of the GEEE projects is on downstream end-user level and does not encompass the breadth of the topic across the electricity value chain. The Bureau took interest in the topic of smart grids and how the current mandate could be satisfied. The secretariat had recently developed an overview paper for the 2<sup>nd</sup> GEEE session, referring to important existing international initiatives including the International Smart Grid Action Network (ISGAN). Various approaches including through the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE) and CEP could be envisaged but must be explored further with the relevant expert groups. The secretariat underlined the importance of a holistic approach to smart grids and recommended that the Bureau agree to the proposal to investigate a potential membership of UNECE in the ISGAN initiative to the benefit of UNECE member States. The secretariat will circulate the report *Electricity System Development – a focus on smart grids, overview of activities and players in smart grids* (GEEE/GE.6/2015/INF.2) to the Bureau for information.

2) Methane management: The SED Director briefly reported on joint activities with the World Bank Gas Flaring Initiative and a joint meeting to be held in Washington DC end of

March on the subject. UNECE clearly possesses a head start on methane through its work in the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and the Task Force on Gas Leaks of the Group of Experts on Gas. Information and minutes from the meeting will be circulated to the Bureau as soon as available after the meeting.

3) Pathways to Sustainable Energy: The Chair outlined his thinking and summarized process and status. Reference was made to two previous workshops held in 2015. It was now time to move forward with the implementation of the project, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop to be held on 19-20 April 2016 in Geneva should clarify the modalities and terms of reference to reach a final agreement on the shape of the project. The objective of the workshop would be to identify the concrete scope and the modelling agencies, input and output assumptions for the project. Current interested donors include Germany (for Fraunhofer Institute), the Russian Federation (for IIASA) and the United States (for the Stanford Modelling Forum and associated agencies). All donors confirmed their previously stated interest to support the project.

- The Bureau discussed linkages of the project to the SDGs and NDCs and the question how the region is dealing with its CO<sub>2</sub> budget came up. It was suggested to include a gap analysis as part of the overall project (where are countries short of achieving SDGs and INDCs) The Bureau recommended covering a 2 degree scenario. Potential outputs of the modelling exercise were suggested to focus on the consequences on current account balances and trade, country budgets, and national green growth agendas. The price of oil was mentioned and the role of gas in a future energy/electricity system, as well as consumer prices and impacts of energy subsidy policies. However, the Bureau cautioned to spread the project too thin, rather recommended to select key themes based on the value added from the groups of experts and integrate them majorly in the work (renewable energy, energy efficiency, electricity, methane and gas). The political debate that is necessary to define input and output assumptions as well as to develop the energy policy recommendations would be equally important and should not be neglected. The regional approach was seen as a fundamental basis for developing an early warning system when the region is not on track to achieve its objectives. It was highlighted that the scenarios and modelling should eventually lead to recommendations for policy makers and pathways towards future energy policy, which should be seen as the key output of the project.
- The secretariat reminded the Bureau that the original task from the 23<sup>rd</sup> CSE session was how the UNECE region could achieve sustainable development and that thus the expectation was that the project would allow developing recommendations on energy policies in the UNECE region.
- The secretariat further underlined the importance of the forthcoming meeting of the UNECE Executive Committee on 10 May 2016 for the indication of XB funding, should countries decide to go that route. Missing the May EXCOM opportunity to receive approval for the Pathways project would postpone the beginning of the modelling phases significantly. Potential donors are therefore asked to prepare the necessary documentation.

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- The Bureau wishes to retain oversight and ownership over the project and is looking forward to a report back at the next Bureau meeting and at the 25<sup>th</sup> session of the CSE in September.
- The Bureau was further informed about the status of three XB projects in preparation: 1) EGRC, 2) Building Standards in Energy Efficiency and 3) the Gas Industry Advisory Board.

1) Expert Group on Resource Classification (EGRC): A funding proposal is in preparation to seek approximately Euros2 mio per annum for 4 years for 2 professionals plus 1 support staff. To date EGRC and its work on the UNFC has been one of UNECE's most successful initiatives, involving more than 800 experts worldwide and global institutions, many of which contribute a substantial amount of voluntary contributions (time, travel and sponsorship) and expertise to the work of the EGRC – more than 100 experts participate in the Bureau and the 10 sub-groups of the EGRC. As a result of the increasing global interest and requests received by the EGRC for help, the support provided by current secretariat resources and by the group of volunteers is not sustainable, and it is expected that the demands will continue to grow in the coming years. The development of UNFC has moved to a new level of activity that requires more staff, financial resources, in-kind resources and coordination than have been deployed in the past and the funding proposal aims to respond to this.

2) Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings: The secretariat reported briefly about the status of a joint project proposal with the Committee on Housing and Land Management. A draft proposal was being circulated between potential donors and fine tuning was still necessary. Feedback from the Bureau included the need for standards to increase the impact of energy efficiency activities and a recommendation to explore all options to influence energy efficiency uptake. The secretariat will circulate the final project proposal to the Bureau once it has been agreed between the Chairs of the two Committees.

3) Gas Industry Advisory Board: The SED Director reported that the activities of the *Gas Centre* ended in December 2015, and that remaining funds would be returned to the original donors, once the modalities have been clarified. A new proposal for a platform called the *Gas Industry Advisory Board (GIAB)* is being explored with relevant parties, including the International Gas Union and the Group of Experts on Gas. The Bureau will be kept informed.

### Item 6 International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development

- The Bureau was informed about preparations for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> International Fora on Energy for Sustainable Development, to be hosted by Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, respectively. The CSE had accepted the invitation by KazEnergy during the 25<sup>th</sup> session to organise a joint energy ministerial at the auspices of the EXPO2017 “Future Energy”, and the Bureau was presented with an outline and themes for potential activities in addition to what had been discussed during the morning Bureau session under Item 2. The secretariat stressed the opportunity to work with the other four United Nations regional commissions and SE4All initiative to organise a truly global event on achieving the SDGs through an energy lens. The possibility to produce national action plans for SE4All was stressed as was the opportunity to build on the *Hammamet Declaration* and the *Yerevan*

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*Statement of Common Action* in order to move the dial to achieve the SDGs. There was clearly a wish to produce actionable and concrete results that countries would be able to implement.

- In order to allow for a maximum consultation process with member States and the Committee on Sustainable Energy, the Bureau reiterated its support for a 25<sup>th</sup> CSE session split into two parts as described above under Item 2, but underlined that for both the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> fora it sees the host countries in the leading role to draft and develop outcome documents. The Bureau member from Azerbaijan proposed to contact representatives from Kazakhstan in preparation and to link both events strategically. He reminded the Bureau that the 7<sup>th</sup> Forum was also the venue for the next meetings of the GEEE and GERE.

### Item 7 Expert Groups

- Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane: Please see the annex to this document for information that the Chair of the Group of Experts on CMM has prepared for the Bureau and wishes to distribute. The overview provides a status update of major initiatives including an international centre of excellence and covers the potential expansion of the mandate of the Group of Experts.
- Group of Experts on Gas: The Chair of the Group of Experts reported on the status of its four Task Forces, notably on gas leaks, gas and renewable energy, LNG and natural gas in transportation. The next meeting of the group of experts is being organised in Geneva on 21-22 April 2016, with already over 50 registered participants. Highlights of the agenda include a dialogue about the role of gas in the future energy system. The Bureau has been invited.

### Item 8 AOB and wrap up

- The Bureau confirmed its intention to meet over 1.5 days on 15-16 June 2016 in Geneva for the second time this year. The objective of the meeting is: a) approval of parliamentary documents for the 25<sup>th</sup> session b) evaluation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop on *Pathways to Sustainable Energy* and next steps and c) feedback to draft documents regarding the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> International Fora on Energy for Sustainable Development.

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## UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON COAL MINE METHANE TO THE BUREAU OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Bureau Meeting, Palais des Nations, Geneva, 15 March 2016

The Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane (GoE on CMM) is following the 2016-2017 Working Plan adopted on its Tenth Session in October 2015 (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2015/2).

- **The Group of Experts continues to undertake activities that aim at dissemination of Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines.**
  - A session on Best Practices is fully organized to take place alongside the Global Methane Forum (GMF) in Washington at the end of the month (on Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>).
  - Lunch meeting of the Bureau of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane (GoE on CMM) is also scheduled to take place alongside GMF (on Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>).
  - Money for an extra-budgetary project on “*Dissemination of best practices in the abatement, recovery, and use of methane*” financed by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was received.
    - The detailed budget of the project was prepared.
      - The distribution of budgetary expenses was accepted by the donor.
    - The cost plan for this year activities was approved by the Executive Office and the money was released.
    - The secretariat is currently in the process of preparation of the first out of three planned workshops on best practices in the abatement, recovery, and use of methane, which are to take place within the framework of this project.
      - The first workshop is to take place in Kazakhstan in Fall 2016.
  - Preparations for organizing a session on Best Practices at the World Mining Congress that will be held in Rio de Janeiro in October have started.
    - Chair of the GoE on CMM Mr. Pilcher and a vice-chair Ms. Ruiz are coordinating this process.
- **The Best Practice Guidance review is almost completed.**
  - The Drafting Team has completed its edits.
  - The Steering Committee has completed its review of the Drafting Team’s work.
  - The reviewed and updated version of the document was sent to the Stakeholder Group for its comments.
  - The Stakeholders Group’s comments were received and are being currently revised by the Steering Committee’s members.
  - The final Draft is scheduled to be delivered to the secretariat by the end of the month.



- **Regarding the International Centre of Excellence (ICE)**
  - There are currently some difficulties of political nature in Poland that slow down the process of setting up ICE in Katowice.
  - The vice-chair of the GoE on CMM, Mr. Skiba is actively seeking a meeting in the Ministry of Energy to discuss that issue.
  - A president of the GIG (Polish Central Mining Institute), an institution that is to host the International Centre of Excellence, sent an official letter to the Polish Minister of the Economy requesting the meeting.
    - A response has not yet been received.
  - The Secretariat of the GoE on CMM closely monitors the issue by being in constant communication with GIG (Mr. Skiba), Polish Permanent Mission in Geneva (Mr. Karnowski), and a representative of the Polish Ministry of Energy (Mr. Bialek).
  - Representative of the Ministry of Energy (Mr. Bialek) will most likely (to be confirmed this week) attend GMF. Should this be the case a meeting between him and Mr. Foster (UNECE), Mr. Pilcher (Chair of the GoE on CMM) and Mr. Skiba (GIG) will be arranged to discuss the issue.
    - Steps were already undertaken to make such meeting happen.
  
- **Regarding the expansion of the mandate of the GoE on CMM**
  - In the Report on its twenty-fourth session (ECE/ENERGY/99) the Committee on Sustainable Energy in paragraph 46 Requested GoE on CMM to make a proposal at the twenty-fifth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy on how to expand the current mandate of the Group of Experts to encompass work on the transition of traditional mining companies to become integrated energy providers and services companies and to explore the impact this transition might have on energy for sustainable development.
    - For this purpose the Secretariat of GoE on CMM together with the Chair of the Group, Mr. Pilcher established cooperation with Columbia University. Within the framework of the Capstone Project run at the Columbia University's School of International Affairs and Public Policy graduate students prepare under UNECE guidance a research paper on transformation of the coal industry, which is to contribute to the debate on the extension of the mandate of the GoE on CMM along the lines suggested by the Committee.
      - Frequent over the phone consultations are being held between the students and their supervisors on the one side, and the secretariat of the GoE on CMM and the Group's Chair on the other.
      - The first detailed draft outline of the project was received and reviewed by both, the secretariat of the GoE on CMM and the Group's Chair.
      - Detailed feedback on the draft was given to the students and the second draft is expected to be received within the next weeks.

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