



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Sustainable Energy

#### Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

##### Ninth session

Geneva, 23 October 2014

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

##### Adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda for the ninth session<sup>1</sup>

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva  
starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday 23 October 2014

#### I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Opening remarks from the Chair.
3. Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the Executive Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.
4. Challenges and opportunities in coal mine methane management.
5. Electronic dissemination of Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines.

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<sup>1</sup> Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations need to either register online or complete the registration form posted to the website of the ECE Sustainable Energy Division (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=35132>) and transmit it to the ECE secretariat, if possible at least two weeks prior to the session, either by e-mail ([cmm.energy@unece.org](mailto:cmm.energy@unece.org)) or fax (+41 22 917 0038). Prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves, at least 45 minutes prior to the beginning of the meeting, at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix opposite the Red Cross Building (see the map on the Energy Division's website) for the issuance of an identification badge. Registration is open every work day at the Pregny Gate from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The secretariat can be contacted by telephone (extension 73158 or 73728).

6. Update and further development of Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines.
7. Proposals for case studies on the application of best practice guidance in specific coal mines in different regions of the world.
8. Establishment of an International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane.
9. Providing advice to various international, national and regional market-based coal mine methane emission reduction mechanisms and related coal mine methane standards.
10. Report from the twentieth session of the Coal Subcommittee of the Global Methane Initiative.
11. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations.
12. Preparations for the tenth session of the Group of Experts.
13. Other business.
14. Adoption of the report.

## **II. Annotations to the provisional agenda**

### **Item 1: Adoption of the agenda**

1. The first item of the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda. An updated agenda, detailed timetable, and other documents will be posted on the coal mine methane website of the Sustainable Energy Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)<sup>2</sup>.

### **Item 2: Opening remarks from the Chair**

2. The Chair will deliver opening remarks. He will provide an overview of the key deliverables of the Group of Experts' work plan for 2014–15 (provided in the Annex to this agenda) that was approved by the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of ECE at its sixty-eighth meeting, 30 April 2014.

### **Item 3: Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the Executive Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

*Documentation :* ECE/EX/2014/L.14  
ECE/ENERGY/91, Annex II

3. The secretariat will update the Group of Experts on the relevant decisions adopted by EXCOM, including on the Group of Experts' work plan. The secretariat will also inform the Group of Experts on the preparations for and the possible outcomes of the twenty-third session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy to be held on 19–21 November 2014.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.unece.org/energy/se/cmm.html>

**Item 4: Challenges and opportunities in coal mine methane management**

4. Members of the Group of Experts will be invited to report briefly on relevant developments related to challenges and opportunities in coal mine methane (CMM) management in their countries or organizations.

**Item 5: Electronic dissemination of Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines**

5. According to the work plan of the Group of Experts, one of the activities is electronic dissemination of the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines. The secretariat will provide an update on progress in translating this publication into additional languages (e.g., Mongolian and Spanish) and other dissemination efforts.

**Item 6: Update and further development of Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines**

6. The Bureau of the Group of Experts and the secretariat established a task force to examine the content and structure of an updated Best Practice Guidance with a view to identifying themes that need to be addressed in a next edition. The Task Force will present to the Group of Experts its recommendations on new content for the Best Practice Guidance.

**Item 7: Proposals for case studies on the application of best practice guidance in specific coal mines in different regions of the world**

7. The Group of Experts will review the current framework for cases studies and, if needed, propose a new structure

8. Extrabudgetary funds could be used to expand the case study database by elaborating concrete, in-depth case studies and analyses that demonstrate the benefits of applying best practices. The Bureau and the secretariat will provide an update on potential extrabudgetary projects and their status. Any extrabudgetary project, whether pending or new, will have to be submitted to EXCOM for approval.

**Item 8: Establishment of an International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane**

9. In line with its work plan, the Group of Experts established a Task Force to work towards establishment of an International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane (by one or more United Nations Member States). The International Centre of Excellence on CMM may serve as a vehicle for application of best practices in specific coal mines in different regions of the world, promoting the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from coal mines, as requested by ECE member States and the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2011/222.

10. On 15 November 2013, during the Group of Experts' eighth session, experts from Poland presented a letter offering to host an International Centre of Excellence on CMM at the Central Mining Institute in Katowice, Poland. The Task Force will report to the Group of Experts on its recommendations and other efforts made so far in this area.

**Item 9: Providing advice to various international, national and regional market-based coal mine methane emission reduction mechanisms and related coal mine methane standards**

11. Over the past several years, the Group of Experts has provided advice to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on matters related to methodology ACM0008 (Consolidated methodology for coal bed methane, coal mine methane and ventilation air methane capture and use for power (electrical or motive) and heat and/or destruction through flaring or flameless oxidation), in response to UNFCCC's earlier requests. UNFCCC work on updating ACM0008 was accomplished in 2013 and incorporated many of the Group of Experts' recommendations.

12. In its work plan, the Group of Experts committed to provide comments on other international, national and regional market-based CMM emission reduction mechanisms. An update on the California Air Resources Board Mine Methane Capture Protocol that was adopted in March 2014 will be provided.

13. Potential collaboration with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and possible synergies between ISO Technical Committee (TC) 263 Coalbed Methane and the Group of Experts will be discussed.

**Item 10: Report from the twentieth session of the Coal Subcommittee of the Global Methane Initiative**

14. The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) is one of the Group of Experts' key stakeholders. A report will be provided on the discussions and recommendations of the twentieth session of the GMI Coal Subcommittee. The Group of Experts will discuss any possible implications for its work.

**Item 11: Adoption of conclusions and recommendations**

15. The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt conclusions and recommendations.

**Item 12: Preparations for the tenth session of the Group of Experts**

16. The Group of Experts will discuss preparations for its tenth session. Possible topics for the substantive portion of the session will be proposed and discussed. The tenth session of the Group of Experts is tentatively scheduled for 28 October 2015 in Geneva.

**Item 13: Other business**

17. The meeting may discuss other issues that arise before or during the session and that fall within the scope of the Terms of Reference of the Group of Experts. To the extent possible, delegates are encouraged to notify the secretariat or the Chair in advance of any issue they may wish to raise under this agenda item.

**Item 14: Adoption of the report**

18. The Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will summarize the agreed conclusions and recommendations and close the meeting. The meeting report is expected to be adopted at the meeting. If it is not adopted at the meeting, the draft report of the meeting

and the list of participants will be drawn up by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau and circulated for comments and approval to the members of the Group of Experts and the Geneva Permanent Representations. After approval, the report will be posted on the ECE coal mine methane website.<sup>3</sup>

### III. Tentative timetable

19. Below is a tentative timetable. It is subject to change; an updated timetable will be posted on the ECE coal mine methane website<sup>3</sup>.

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<b>23 October 2014</b>	
10:00	Item 1: Adoption of the agenda
10:10	Item 2: Opening remarks from the Chair
10:20	Item 3: Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and EXCOM
10:30	Item 4: Challenges and opportunities in CMM management
11:30	Coffee break
11:50	Item 5: Electronic dissemination of Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines
12:10	Item 6: Update and further development of Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines
12:30	Item 7: Proposals for case studies on the application of best practice guidance in specific coal mines in different regions of the world
13:00	Lunch break
15:00	Item 8: Establishment of the International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane
15:40	Item 9: Providing advice to various international, national and regional market-based coal mine methane emission reduction mechanisms and related coal mine methane standards
16:00	Item 10: Report from the twentieth session of the GMI Coal Subcommittee
16:30	Item 11: Adoption of conclusions and recommendations
17:00	Item 12: Preparations for the tenth session of the Group of Experts

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=35132>

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
17:20	Item 13: Other business
17:30	Item 14: Adoption of the report
18:00	End of the session

## Annex

### Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane for 2014–2015

#### I. Introduction

1. Annex V of the Executive Committee decision on the Terms of Reference of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and Mandates and Terms of Reference of its subsidiary bodies (ECE/EX/2013/L.15) mandates the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane to carry out concrete, result-oriented activities with the objective to promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from coal mines by means of activities that may help the recovery and use of methane in order to reduce the risks of explosions in coal mines. The principal area of work of the Group of Experts is best practice guidance for effective drainage, recovery and usage of coal mine methane. The mandate is approved until December 2015, with the possibility of extension.

2. Activities and outputs of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane need to be approved by the appropriate United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) body.

#### II. Concrete activities

3. At its meeting<sup>4</sup> held in November 2013, the Group of Experts agreed to concentrate on the following five activities in 2014–15 (see paragraph 21 of the Meeting Report ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2013/2):

##### A. Electronic dissemination of Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines

**Description:** Using the remaining funds from the Cooperative Project on Methane Capture and Use: Best Practice Guidance on Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines (ECE Trust Fund E141), this activity seeks to electronically disseminate the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines to a wide audience of potential beneficiaries:

- Coal mine operators (managers in charge of methane management and coal mine safety);
- Research institutes;
- Coal mine associations;
- Civil society;
- Independent experts; and
- Academia.

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<sup>4</sup> The Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane, as it was called then, held its eighth meeting in Geneva, 19–20 November 2013.

The original intent of the project to disseminate best practices to audiences in China, Kazakhstan and Ukraine was achieved in 2011 and 2012. At the meeting held on 19–20 November 2013, the experts noted that it would be beneficial if the publication could be translated into more languages, such as Spanish, Mongolian, Vietnamese, and Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian so that a wider audience could be reached. The experts also noted the need to update the original English version, which is four years old and could benefit from being brought up to date.

**Work to be undertaken:**

- The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts identify professional translators to translate the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines into Spanish and Mongolian, as well as Vietnamese, Korean and Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian (depending on the availability of funds);
- The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts establish technically qualified national peer review bodies to compare the translations with the English original to verify their technical accuracy and linguistic quality;
- The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts agree the final drafts through an interactive electronic exchange among the Group of Experts; and
- The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts publish and disseminate translated versions electronically.

**Deliverables:** Best Practice Guidance on Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines in Spanish, Mongolian, Vietnamese, Korean, and Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian.

**Timeline:**

- Spanish version: first draft June 2014, final draft September 2014, approved version November 2014, electronically published January 2015;
- Mongolian version: first draft September 2014, final draft December 2014, approved version January 2015, electronically published April 2015;
- Vietnamese version: first draft November 2014, final draft February 2015, approved version April 2015, electronically published June 2015;
- Korean version: first draft January 2015, final draft April 2015, approved version June 2015, electronically published September 2015;
- Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian version: first draft March 2015, final draft June 2015, approved version September 2015, electronically published November 2015.

## **B. Update and further development of Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines**

**Description:** The Group of Experts decided to explore how to update and further develop the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines. The Group of Experts recognized that this activity will depend on the availability of resources (experts or funds).



**Work to be undertaken:**

- The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts establish a task force to examine the content and structure of an updated Best Practice Guidance with a view to identifying themes that need to be addressed in a next edition;
- The bureau of the Group of Experts organizes communications among the Task Force to suggest possible changes and additions;
- The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts determine a new structure and content of the Best Practice Guidance to propose to the larger Group of Experts.

**Deliverables:** Presentation to the Group of Experts with recommendations on a new content for the Best Practice Guidance.

**Timeline:** Establish a Task Force (April 2014), present newly proposed structure and content of the Best Practice Guidance to the Group of Experts (November 2014).

**C. Prepare proposals for case studies, where appropriate and financed by extrabudgetary resources, on the application of best practice guidance in specific coal mines in different regions of the world**

**Description:** Case studies are needed to demonstrate how the principles outlined in the Best Practice Guidance can be implemented at operating coal mines around the world. The original Best Practice Guidance contained seven case studies organized in a common framework (Initial Conditions—Gas Control Problems—Solution) for comparison purposes. Extra-budgetary funds could be used to expand the case study database by elaborating concrete, in-depth case studies and analyses that demonstrate the benefits of applying best practices. Any new extra-budgetary project would have to be submitted to the EXCOM for approval.

**Work to be undertaken:**

- Demonstrate the application of the best practice guidance by the Group of Experts at an operating coal mine, if accepted, using extra-budgetary funds if available and approved by EXCOM;
- The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts review the current framework for cases studies and, if needed, propose a new structure;
- The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts reach out to various coal mining institutions and coal mine operators to encourage them to share relevant case studies on the application of best practices;
- The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts review case studies by the Group of Experts through electronic exchanges and discuss them, as applicable, at the annual sessions planned for 2014 and 2015; and
- The secretariat publishes case studies on the ECE coal mine methane website after endorsement by the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

**Deliverables:** Case studies on the implementation of best practices in methane management.

**Timeline:** Review of the framework (by April 2014), communication sent to coal mines (June 2014), review of case studies (November 2014), publication (as case studies arrive and are reviewed and approved).

#### **D. Facilitate establishment of International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane**

**Description:** The Group of Experts established a Task Force of group members to work towards establishment of International Centre(s) of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane (CMM), by one or more United Nations Member States. ECE's International Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Centre of Excellence is an official inter-regional United Nations programme led by ECE on behalf of other four United Nations Regional Economic Commissions, in cooperation with relevant United Nations and other agencies. A specialist Centre of Excellence is an organization or part of an organization that cooperates with the ECE International PPP Centre of Excellence in promoting and disseminating best practices in a specific area, in this case in coal mine methane management. The proposed International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane will be a specialist centre tasked to support capacity-building activities and dissemination of best practices in economically viable methane abatement and utilisation, and environmentally responsible methane management.

Once established, the International Centre of Excellence will be a legal entity operating in the host country within the legal framework of that country. To this end, ECE and the host country will need to sign a Memorandum of Understanding.

**Work to be undertaken:**

- Solicit United Nations Member States to host the International Centre of Excellence on CMM;
- Determine which country(ies) are interested;
- Select suitable candidates to host the International Centre of Excellence on CMM; and
- Enter into procedure on structuring the Memorandum of Understanding needed to establish the International Centre of Excellence on CMM.

**Deliverables:** Memorandum of Understanding on the International Centre of Excellence on CMM.

**Timeline:** Deciding on the host country (November 2014), Memorandum of Understanding (November 2015).

#### **E. Continue to provide advice to UNFCCC (on the matters related to ACM0008) and to other international, national and regional market-based coal mine methane emission reduction mechanisms and coal mine methane related standards**

**Description:** The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts will:

- Invite members of the Group of Experts to correspond with the *International Organization for Standardization* (ISO) and determine possible synergies between ISO Technical Committee (TC) 263 Coalbed Methane and the Group of Experts;
- Continue to provide advice to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on the matters related to ACM0008 (Consolidated methodology for coal bed methane, coal mine methane and ventilation air methane capture and use for power (electrical or motive) and heat and/or destruction through flaring or flameless oxidation), in response to UNFCCC's earlier requests;

- Collect data on coal mine methane emissions in the UNECE region; and
- Provide comments on other international, national and regional market-based coal mine methane emission reduction mechanisms, such as the California Air Resources Board Mine Methane Capture Protocol.

**Work to be undertaken:**

- Continue to liaise with the above-mentioned and similar organizations;
- Explore the opportunity to meet with UNFCCC and ISO.

**Deliverables:** Report on coal mine methane management, inventories and standards.

**Timeline:** Through November 2015.

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