

Scott Foster's Opening Remarks at the *Capacity-building workshop on development of hydrogen infrastructure*

25 February 2021
Kyiv, Ukraine

Good morning excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen, colleagues

I am pleased to be able to address this Workshop on Hydrogen Infrastructure Development in Ukraine.

I would like to congratulate the Government of Ukraine for the work you have been doing and are continuing to do on issues surrounding hydrogen. UNECE sees Ukraine as a leader in the region in hydrogen, and the development of the draft Roadmap is an important step. We can see great potential for converting the work that has been done into practical applications and other countries can use Ukraine's experience. We also are very pleased at our continuing cooperation and collaboration with UNDP on energy issues.

As you work to develop an official Government document on hydrogen, UNECE will be pleased to contribute in a range of areas, as I believe you will be hearing from colleagues in just a moment. I believe your Roadmap can serve as a strong basis for that document. With a bit of organisation, our experts would be able to support your efforts.

There are two events that are coming up that I would like to mention. At its next session our Group of Experts on Gas will be running a workshop on Hydrogen's Role in attaining carbon neutrality and I would invite you to join. The second event is that of UNECE's parent body, the Commission itself. The Committee on Sustainable Energy has recommended a decision at the Commission that includes the following language regarding hydrogen:

Noting that ECE's work on hydrogen can have a notable near-term benefit for both climate and quality of life:

The Economic Commission for Europe invites the Committee on Sustainable Energy to pursue diligently further work on the role of hydrogen in the transition to a carbon neutral economy.

In support of that decision we are organizing a side event on Cyber-Monday, the 19th of April, on the challenges to green hydrogen.

Hydrogen is considered to have a potentially important role in decarbonizing industry and transport as well as in integrating a higher share of renewable energy sources. The gas is considered key to achieving carbon neutrality of the energy system, especially in hard-to-abate sectors.

In a future sustainable energy system, hydrogen may be used in transport, homes, industry, and power generation. And it can enable the creation of an integrated service-based society. However, hydrogen must be produced. It must be transported and stored. And then it must be converted to other forms of energy, such as electricity or heat, or to other feedstocks. These all have a cost.

Most hydrogen is produced from fossil fuels today, and the challenge we are exploring is how to decarbonise the hydrogen chain. There is a full colour coding – blue hydrogen from natural gas, black hydrogen from coal, yellow hydrogen from nuclear power. The prize, if I can call it that, will be green hydrogen. There may be a solution to achieving carbon neutrality in energy through a blend of gas, renewables, and energy efficiency, so the potential role of hydrogen cannot be overstated. At the Commission side event countries will be invited to provide their views on the potential role of hydrogen.

I will conclude by thanking Ukraine for this workshop and I look forward to the sessions.

Scott FOSTER