



Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency

Meeting of the Bureau

Geneva (online), 23 February 2021

Report of the Meeting

Introduction

Meeting of the Bureau of the ECE Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (the Group of Experts) (collectively referred to as the Bureau) was held in Geneva (online), on 23 February 2021, from 10.30 a.m. to noon (CET).

Attendance

Chair

Mr. Aleksandar Dukovski, Macedonian Center for Energy Efficiency

Vice-Chairs

Mr. Petr Bobylev (represented by Ms. Anna Tarasova), Russian Federation

Mr. Kostiantyn Gura, Ukraine

Ms. Alisa Freyre, Services Industriel Genève

Mr. Benoit Lebot, Ministry of Environment, France

Mr. Martin K. Patel, University of Geneva

Mr. Romanas Savickas, UNEP-DTU Partnership, Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency

Vice-Chairs *ex officio*

Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency:

Mr. Stefan M. Buettner, Institute for Energy Efficiency in Production, Co-Chair

Mr. Hannes Mac Nulty, Mac Nulty Consulting, Co-Chair

Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings:

Mr. Andres Jaadla, Estonia, acting Co-Chair

Task Force on Digitalization in Energy:

Mr. Piyush Verma, International Energy Research Centre, Chair

Secretariat, ECE Sustainable Energy Division

Mr. Scott Foster

Mr. Oleg Dzioubinski

Ms. Nadejda Khamrakulova

Mr. Igor Litvinyuk

Apologies received:

Mr. Andrei Miniankou, Vice-Chair (Belarus)

Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

The Provisional agenda of the meeting as circulated to the members of the Bureau was adopted, provided interchange of item 3 and item 2 in the interest of time.

Update on the status of implementation of the Work Plan of the Group of Experts for 2020-2021 (agenda item 2)

The secretariat informed the Bureau on the progress in implementation of the Work Plan of the Group of Experts for 2020-2021 (ECE/ENERGY/2019/8).¹ The status is presented in Table 1.

Table 1

Concrete activities of the Group of Experts as per its Work Plan for 2020-2021

<i>Concrete activities</i>	<i>Deliverables (shortened)</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Reference</i>
A. Improving energy efficiency in industry	(a) An industrial energy efficiency action plan	Implemented	ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/3
	(b) An assessment of the roles of ECE and stakeholder organizations in delivering on the action plan	Implemented	
B. Improving energy efficiency in buildings	(a) Improved Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings	Implemented	ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/4
	(b) A set of workshops and train-the-trainer seminars on high performance energy efficiency standards in buildings in line with Framework Guidelines ^{XB, 1}	Ongoing	-
C. Regulatory and policy dialogue addressing barriers to improve energy efficiency	(a) A report on barriers, options, and best practices for energy efficiency improvements ^{XB}	Implemented	GEEE-7/2020/INF.4 , publication ECE/ENERGY/135
	(b) A report on gender equality in energy efficiency ^{XB, 2}	On hold	-
	(c) A report on viable energy efficiency policies to reach “Pathways to Sustainable Energy” scenarios ^{XB}	Implemented	ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/5
D. Energy consumption and emissions of electric vehicles	(a) Form a joint task force to develop the procedures for energy consumption and emissions that could be applied by electric vehicles manufacturers ^{XB, 3}	On hold	-
	(b) Organize a set of activities to bring together vehicle and energy experts to streamline the development of energy consumption and emissions of electric vehicles (EVs) ^{XB, 4}	Ongoing	-

Abbreviation: XB, Extrabudgetary

Reportedly, all planned regular budget activities of the Group of Experts (those not pending extrabudgetary resources) were timely implemented. Two activities pending extrabudgetary resources, namely C(a) and C(c), were implemented regardless the funding was not secured. Two other activities pending extrabudgetary resources, namely B(b) and D(b), were reported respectively as ongoing with the support of the Regional Advisory Services and planned. The status of activities bearing footnotes (1-4) in Table 1 was further assessed by making use of the following Table 2.

¹ See: https://unece.org/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/CSE/comm28.2019/ECE_ENERGY_2019_8_Final.pdf

Table 2

Ongoing and on-hold activities of the Group of Experts as per its Work Plan for 2020-2021

<i>Footnote number and substance (shortened)</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Proposed actions</i>
1. Workshops on energy efficiency standards in buildings	Ongoing. Workshops and trainings were held in-person and online with support of the Regional Advisory Services in the framework of implementation of the activities of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings.	Continuation of trainings recommended (subject to availability of resources) in the report of the Group of Experts at its seventh session (ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/2). Additional trainings may be organized in the framework of the 2020-2022 extrabudgetary project “Enhancing national capacities to develop and implement energy efficiency standards for buildings in the UNECE region”.	Seek opportunities for supporting the Joint Task Force activities through extrabudgetary funding.
2. Report on gender equality in energy efficiency	On hold. Implementation has not started due to lack of resourcing.	Assignments would include: (i) explore the role of energy efficiency in attaining SDG 5, and; (ii) determine to what extent gender concerns are addressed when policy decisions are made.	The Bureau members were called on to a volunteer to explore the issues and draft a report. The call will be extended to the Group of Experts.
3. Joint task force on emissions of electric vehicles (EVs)	On hold. Laying the groundwork for cooperation with Electric Vehicles and the Environment Informal Working Group (EVE IWG) of UNECE Transport Division.	Dependent on outcomes of the below activity.	-
4. Assemble experts to discuss options for monitoring real-time carbon emissions of EVs	Ongoing. Exploring possibilities for organizing (tentatively in late April 2021) an online workshop jointly with EVE IWG to bring the topic to notice and explore the modalities for further cooperation.	Cost-neutral activity. Guidance, comments and suggestions as regards the idea itself, needed arrangements, importantly proposals for the list of speakers, other inputs from the Bureau members – are essential for organizing the event.	Interested Bureau members were requested to advise on organization of the workshop and consider speaking opportunities. The call will be extended to the Group of Experts.

Abbreviation: EVE IWG, Electric Vehicles and the Environment Informal Working Group of the ECE Transport Division.

The Bureau was also briefed on the developments since the conclusion of the seventh session of the Group of Experts, namely: establishment of the Task Force on Digitalization in Energy for two years (with possibility of extension) as approved by the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its twenty-ninth session; adoption by the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its twenty-ninth session of the Action Plan of the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency ([ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/3](#)); extension by the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its twenty-ninth session of the mandate of the Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency for 2021-2022; endorsement by the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its twenty-ninth session of the Updated Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings ([ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/4](#)).

Extrabudgetary funding in support of the activities of the Group of Experts, and sustainable energy projects that the Group of Experts is expected to contribute to in 2021 (agenda item 3)

The Bureau was updated on the following projects in support of the activities of the Group of Experts, and projects that the Group of Experts is expected to contribute to within its area of expertise, namely:

- (a) Extrabudgetary project “Enhancing national capacities to develop and implement energy efficiency standards for buildings in the UNECE region” (2020-2022) managed and presented by the Regional Advisor.² The project specifically focuses on countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. The activities include: gap analysis between the performance objectives of the Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and the current standards (ongoing activity); three national studies with a more detailed gap analysis; a set of capacity-building activities; ‘impact discovery’ on better use of best practices. The project contributes to advancing the agenda of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings. The Bureau members were requested to review and provide comments to the draft report on gap analysis (to be shared by the secretariat), to contribute to filling in the missing data, and to share the draft report for review among the relevant experts to seek their possible input.
- (b) Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency continues to substantially contribute to the project “Enhancing understanding of the implications and opportunities of moving to carbon neutrality in the UNECE region across the power and energy intensive industries by 2050” of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems. Engagement of the Task Force extends to facilitation of related workshops.
- (c) Potential programme under the International Climate Initiative (IKI) call for proposals, entitled: “Improving the energy efficiency of the global building supply chain industry and its products to deliver high performance buildings”. The outline was pre-selected, and ECE as lead agency along with its 13 implementing partners is further determined to develop the project worth 19,822 million euro over 6 years, with focus on Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. The Bureau was advised to request the details of the project outline as deemed necessary.
- (d) Potential project “Building Energy Efficiency Policy Readiness Index” in partnership with University of Geneva and Heat Academy was pre-selected by the donor (Geneva Science-Policy Interface, GSPI). With in-kind nature of its contribution to the project, ECE is expected to ensure synergies with the existing projects, and: host a dedicated event at the session of the Group of Experts, and; host an online dashboard on the ECE website. As advised by the University of Geneva (main applicant), implementation of the project remains conditional.

Development of the Work Plan of the Group of Experts for 2022-2023 (agenda item 4)

The Bureau was briefed on the procedure for development and submission of Work Plans of the Group of Experts, as well as on the envisaged timeline for preparation of the Work Plan for 2022-2023. Specifically, the subsidiary bodies of the Group of experts (Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency, Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings, and Task Force on Digitalization in Energy) were advised to prepare their respective inputs to the Work Plan for 2022-2023 as regards their future concrete activities and submit these to the secretariat before May 2021. The secretariat, in coordination with the Chair, would then prepare a draft Work Plan of the Group of Experts for 2022-2023 and circulate it to the Group of Experts in May-June 2021 for review and adoption through a 21-days written procedure. Upon agreement, the draft Work Plan of the Group of Experts for 2022-2023 would be submitted by the end of June to the Committee on Sustainable Energy for consideration and eventual approval at its 30th session (22-24 September 2021).

The Chair, as well as the Chairs and Co-Chairs of the Task Forces, agreed with the proposed timeline and encouraged other Bureau members to contribute to framing the set of activities of the Group of Experts for the period of 2022-2023 in line with the pillars agreed by Group of Experts at its seventh session, namely:

² See:

https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/reg_adv/proj/2020_33_NatCapacitiesEE_Buildings/Item_12_ECE_EX_2020_33_Energy_XB_9.pdf

- (a) Energy for quality of life: change of perception of energy to be enabler of socio-economic and health benefits.
- (b) Energy conservation: provide a clearer vision of how to achieve reductions of energy use and emissions through behavioural change, innovations and business models.
- (c) Increased affordability of energy through implementation of energy efficiency measures: shifting the concept of energy efficiency not only as a reduction of expenses, but as a tool to increased financial performance and monetary values, with focus on economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development.

Preparations for the eighth session of the Group of Experts (20-21 September 2021) (agenda item 5)

The Bureau was briefed on the scope of work as concerns preparation of parliamentary documents of the Group of Experts for its eighth session, and the related timelines. The Bureau agreed and further recommended that the parliamentary documents of the Group of Experts for its eighth session cover the areas of work of its Task Forces, thus encouraged draft documents to be prepared and sent to the secretariat by the respective Task Forces before June 2021 for editing and formatting as appropriate, further for review by the Group of Experts, and submission. Specifically, the Bureau recommended the following list of five documents to be submitted officially for consideration by the Group of Experts at its eighth session:

1. Provisional agenda (ECE/ENERGY/2021/GE.6/1)
2. Report (ECE/ENERGY/2021/GE.6/2)
3. Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency (ECE/ENERGY/2021/GE.6/3): substantive document to be focused tentatively on economic aspects of measures to near carbon neutrality.
4. Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings (ECE/ENERGY/2021/GE.6/4): substantive document deemed to be based on the preliminary results of the project “Enhancing national capacities to develop and implement energy efficiency standards for buildings in the UNECE region”, specifically its gap analysis component (as requested in ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2020/2, para.21(b)).
5. Task Force on Digitalization in Energy (ECE/ENERGY/2021/GE.6/5): substantive document tentatively on applications of information and communications technologies in the buildings sector.

Development of a Provisional agenda and Conclusions and Recommendations is to be carried out by the secretariat based on the received suggestions, and in a continued cooperation with the Bureau and the Group of Experts.

The Bureau also encouraged development of information documents for discussion by the Group of Experts at its eighth session, should experts see a need for specific matters within the Group of Experts’ mandate to be brought to notice and considered further.

Any other business (agenda item 6)

There were no issues raised under this item.

Close of the meeting (agenda item 7)

The Chair closed the meeting at 12:00 CET.