

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Minutes of the Bureau call from 23 June 2022

The full recording and transcript are available and accessible to all participants in Teams. If you accepted the original meeting invitation you can go there directly for additional details.

Participants:

Chair : Mr. Juergen Keinhorst

Vice-Chairs: Mr. James Gannon (Ireland), Dr. Chokan T. Laumulin* (Kazhakstan), Mr. Jean-Christophe Füg (Switzerland), Mr. Emily Grubert* (United States), Mr. Jim Robb (GECES), Mr. Raymond C. Pilcher (GECMM&JT), Mr. Francisco De la Flor Garcia (GEG), and Piyush Verma (on behalf of Mr. Stefan M. Buettner (GEEE)), Mr David MacDonald (EGRM); (*Vice Chairs nominated after the last election; Election will be held as part of the 31st Committee Session)

Observers: Ms Olga Yudina, Ms. Laura Wyss, Ms. Léa Bigot, Mr. Bogdana Galimuk, Ms Laura Martinez and Mr. Carlos Moreno Carrero

UNECE Secretariat: Ms. Denise Mulholland, Mr. Branko Milicevic, Mr. Michal Drabik, Mr. Merwan Paris, Ms. Lisa Amend, Mr. Oleg Dzioubinsky, Mr. Gianluca Sambucini, Mr. Slavko Vekoslav Solar, Mr. Michal Jacek Drabik, Mr. Harikrishnan Tulsidas, Ms. Laurence Rotta, Ms. Nadejda Khamrakulova, Mr. Igor Litvinyuk, Mr. Dimitry Mariyasin

Minutes of Meeting

The Chair welcomed participants and proposed the agenda. The Bureau adopted the agenda as proposed and the Chair proceeded to lead discussion on each of the five agenda topics.

1. Update on the Sustainable Energy Division (SED) Director recruitment process

The Secretariat informed that the Human resources have yet to give approval to publish the name of the new SED Director, but it is expected that the new director will be in place by September 1st.

2. Discuss/approve minutes of the 18 May Bureau call

The Bureau adopted the minutes from the 18th of May 2022 last Bureau call as it was previously circulated.

3. Secretariat updates: Upcoming activities and events

The Secretariat provided an overview of upcoming activities, deliverables, and events.

Agenda Item 3. Upcoming activities

ENERGY



June

- Online events:
 - 13 – 14: *Renewable Energy Hard Talk on Moldova (GERE)*
 - 29 : **Training Workshop** on Guidelines and best practices for MSMEs to assure resiliency and progress toward a circular economy in sustainable resource management and critical raw material supply chain solutions in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan
- Final studies/publications:
 - (Expected Late-June) *Data Analytics in the Utility Sector*
 - (Expected Late June) *REN21 UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2022 (GERE)*
 - (Expected Late June) *Technology Interplay under Carbon Neutrality Concept (TF on Carbon Neutrality)*
- Ongoing meeting
 - (Mid-June) *UNECE Task Force on Industrial Energy Efficiency: Driving Forward Industrial Energy Efficiency and Decarbonization (fourth meeting) (GEEE)*

July

- Online events:
 - 5: **Training Workshop** on Guidelines and best practices for MSMEs to assure resiliency and progress toward a circular economy in sustainable resource management and critical raw material supply chain solutions in Bosnia & Herzegovina and Serbia
- Final Studies:
 - (Expected Mid-July) *Addressing mental roadblocks to energy digitalization*
 - (Expected Mid-July) *Digitalizing electricity systems*

September

- Hybrid events:
 - 19 – 20: *18th session of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems (GECES)*
 - ~~20: *ECE Roundtable - Regional cooperation on enhancing sustainable management and financing for the critical raw materials (CRMs) required for low-carbon transitions*~~
 - 21 – 23: *31st Session of the CSE: Energy Security, Resilience and Net Zero: Tangible Actions to Deliver a Sustainable Energy Future*

October

- Hybrid events:
 - 3-4: *9th session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency*
 - 5: *Joint GEEE and GERE event TBD; English only*
 - 6-7: *9th session of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy*
 - 25: *UNECE Resource Management Week 2022, incorporating Expert Group on Resource Management 13th Session (EGRM in cooperation with the GECMMJT, GECES, GEG, GERE)*

TBD:

- *Mid-October: ECE Roundtable : Regional cooperation on enhancing sustainable management and financing for the critical raw materials (CRMs) required for low-carbon transitions*

[updated events as of 25 August 2022]

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The Secretariat highlighted that a new Forum on Regional Cooperation on enhancing sustainable management and financing for the critical raw materials required for low carbon transitions has been planned and scheduled for the 20th of September during the Sustainable Energy Week [now being rescheduled for mid-October]. The Secretariat also informed that a new date has yet to be found regarding the resource management week; it will likely turn into a smaller meeting and event [scheduled for 25 October, hybrid event, in Geneva and online].

The Chair asked the Secretariat to include international events relevant to the Committee, such as the upcoming Conference of the Parties and Clean Energy Ministerial, in future tables to keep Bureau members informed.

4. Preparations for Committee on Sustainable Energy

- Agenda - Bureau to provide feedback on proposed topics/agenda, Ideas for high level speakers, length of panels

The Secretariat walked through the amended agenda for the thirty-first session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (CSE-31). The Bureau had no feedback on the agenda. The Secretariat informed Bureau members that the amended agenda of the CSE-31 would be submitted for approval through the UN process.

- Documents - Review updated schedule of documents, Bureau to share feedback on documents

The Secretariat walked the Bureau through all the Parliamentary documents status, summarized in the document attached to the calendar invitation, “3. CSE-31 2022 Docs delivery Table for CSE Bureau Call as of 13 June 2022.pdf”

The Secretariat highlighted that the “*Carbon neutrality in the UNECE Region: Technology Interplay under the Carbon Neutrality Concept*” document will become a group paper from the GECES and not a committee paper anymore. The Secretariat also informed that the “Carbon pricing and subsidies” document has been removed from the planning.

The Chair led a discussion on comments received on the draft paper, *Building Resilient Energy Systems: Technical Considerations and Actions for Achieving Greater Energy Security, Affordability and Net-zero in the ECE Region,*” particularly related to the context-setting language. The Bureau discussed options, agreed upon the language, and decided to categorize and post the paper as a background, informal document for the resiliency segment of the CSE31, providing a basis for discussion.

- Reception – Discuss ideas for sponsors

The Secretariat reminded Bureau members that it is open for sponsoring ideas regarding the CSE reception on the Wednesday evening which will require at least between US\$2000 and US\$3000. No sponsors were identified.

5. AOB

The Bureau agreed that the next CSE Bureau call will be held between 15-17 Geneva time at the start of September on a later agreed date, excluding the 8th of September.