

# UNECE Group of Experts Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition Bureau Call

1 December 2022

15:30 - 17:00 (Geneva time)

## MINUTES

### Participants:

Bureau Members:

*Present*

- Mr. Ray Pilcher (Chair)
- Mr. Clemens Backhaus
- Mr. Yuriy Bobrov
- Mr. Neil Butler
- Mr. David Creedy
- Mr. C. Ozgen Karacan
- Ms. Volha Roshchanka
- Mr. Jacek Skiba
- Mr. Clark Talkington

*Apologies*

- Ms. Aida Haracic
- Mr. Zhixin JIN
- Mr. Lukasz Kroplewski
- Mr. Sergey Ivanovich Shumkov
- Mr. Igor Yashchenko

Secretariat:

- Mr. Michal Drabik

### Draft agenda:

1. Approval of draft agenda
2. Update on the situation in SED
3. Recent and the upcoming activities of the Group
4. The 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the Group 20-21 March 2023
  - a. Agenda
  - b. Bureau Elections
  - c. Work Plan for 2024-2025 (including discussion on the Group's place in the broader context of the SED's work)
5. Any other Business.

### Item 1. Adoption of the agenda

1. The agenda was adopted without any changes.

### Item 2. Update on the situation in SED

2. The secretariat provided the Bureau with the information about the new Director (his background and vision), personal changes that are about to happen in SED (two job openings resulting from the fact that two officers are leaving at the beginning of 2023), and the areas of work that are of an increasing interest to CSE (energy resilience, Just Transition).
3. The Bureau was informed that the extension of Mr. Michal Drabik's contract until 30 June 2023 was requested.

### **Item 3. Recent and the upcoming activities of the Group**

4. The secretariat provided the Bureau with information about the recent and the upcoming activities of the Group.
5. As for the events that the Group organized since the last annual session the following meetings were discussed:
  - A. School of Underground Mining in April (with a focus on technical matters, EU regulation, and access to data)
  - B. 3 Methane Mondays meetings held in May, September, and November, focusing, respectively, on:
    - a. application of United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) to Coal Bed Methane (CBM)
    - b. mitigation of methane emissions from the extractive industries in transition (addressing such issues as States efforts to mitigate methane emissions from the extractive industries, MRV technologies, and Just Transition)
    - c. coal mine closure (with focus on Albania and Serbia)
  - C. Clean Energy, Climate and the Built Environment Workshop organized in September in Pittsburgh, PA, by the Green Building Alliance and Covestro LLC (where the Group representatives contributed to the discussion on Just Transition)
  - D. Global Clean Energy Action Forum (comprising of the 13th Clean Energy Ministerial and the 7th Mission Innovation) held in September in Pittsburgh, PA (where the Group representatives sat on a panel on Just Transition)
  - E. Global Methane, Climate and Clean Air Forum, held in September in Washington, DC, and organized by the Global Methane Initiative (GMI) and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) (where the Group delivered a session on CMM focusing on regulations)
  - F. 29th International Science and Technology Conference: *Natural Mining Hazards 2022* held in November in Jaworze, Poland (where the Group and ICE-CMM Poland jointly organized a session on coal mine methane)
6. The secretariat informed the Bureau about 3 studies that are in a final stage of development, and which will be presented to the Group at the upcoming annual session. Those are:
  - A. A study on the dynamics of coal demand in Tajikistan until 2050, with an analysis of the viability of replacing coal with alternative domestic energy sources
  - B. A study analyzing the pre-war and the current state of the Ukrainian energy sector, and possible ways of its development in the future, with special focus on socio-economic consequences of the transition of the Ukrainian energy sector and possible strategies for achieving carbon neutrality
  - C. A study analysing the local geological and mining conditions, and developing technical, principle-based guidelines for designing and implementing a programme for an efficient, safe, and environmentally conscious mine closure in Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina
7. The secretariat informed the Bureau that its involvement in reviewing the final drafts of the studies will be required. The documents are expected to be shared with the Bureau for its review in February
8. The Bureau expressed its satisfaction with the work that the Group delivered since the last annual session and thanked the secretariat for its support.
9. The following upcoming events were brought to the attention of the Bureau:
  - A. Workshop on mine closure in Albania in Serbia (9 December, Tirana and online)
  - B. Workshop on the dynamics of coal demand in Tajikistan until 2050 and viability of replacing coal with alternative domestic energy sources, Dushanbe, Tajikistan (16 December)
  - C. Methane Mondays 8: Addressing methane from coking coal (23 January 2023)

- D. Annual Session (20-21 March 2023)
- E. GMI Coal Subcommittee mtg (22 March 2023)

**Item 4. The 18th Session of the Group 20-21 March 2023**

10. The secretariat informed the Bureau about the details of the upcoming annual session of the Group, focussing on the following matters:

- A. Agenda
  - a. The secretariat presented to the Bureau the draft timetable reflecting the descriptive agenda that was prepared earlier and approved by the Bureau
  - b. The Bureau approved the timetable, noting that it is still subject to change, depending on availability of the invited speakers
- B. Bureau Elections
  - a. The Bureau was reminded that the upcoming session will feature the Bureau election, and that all Bureau members who wish to continue their service are requested to submit their nominations to the secretariat in a timely manner.
  - b. It was agreed that the Bureau have another call in February to discuss the nominations of the non-State representatives
- C. Work Plan for 2024-2025
  - a. The secretariat presented to the Bureau the draft workplan of the Group for the 2024-2025 biennium. The document was discussed and approved by the Bureau. The idea of dividing the Group's work into 3 taskforces (on Methane Emissions, on Just Transitions of the Coal Sector, and on Safety of Operations and Closure of Coal Mines) was also endorsed by the Bureau. The document will be presented for discussion at the annual session of the Group and its agreed text will be submitted for approval to the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its 32<sup>nd</sup> session in Geneva (13-15 September 2023, in Geneva)
  - b. The secretariat asked the Bureau Members to be actively engaged in the delivery of the Work Plan
  - c. The need of strengthening the just transition leg of the Group through recruitment of new members and engagement in relevant projects was discussed and acknowledged
- D. Website
  - a. The Bureau was informed that the webpage for the session featuring all the relevant documents and a link to registration was created

**Item 5. Any other business**

11. The Bureau was informed about the call that secretariat had with IMEO and about an opportunity for cooperation with that institution within the framework of the Metcoal Methane Partnership (MMP) that IMEO leads. The secretariat shared with the Bureau documents on MMP and suggested to organize a call with IMEO to discuss the Group's potential contribution to the Partnership. The idea was supported, and the secretariat was requested to set up such call for January 2023.

12. The Chair and the secretariat thanked participants for their time and involvement in the call.

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