

UNECE Group of Experts Coal Mine Methane Bureau Call

6 February 2023

15:30 - 17:00 (Geneva time)

MINUTES

Participants:

Bureau Members:

Present

- Mr. Ray Pilcher (Chair)
- Mr. Neil Butler
- Mr. David Creedy
- Mr. C. Ozgen Karacan
- Mr. Lukasz Kroplewski
- Ms. Volha Roshchanka
- Mr. Clark Talkington

Apologies

- Mr. Clemens Backhaus
- Mr. Yuriy Bobrov
- Ms. Aida Haracic
- Mr. Zhixin JIN
- Mr. Sergey Ivanovich Shumkov
- Mr. Jacek Skiba
- Mr. Igor Yashchenko

Secretariat:

- Mr. Michal Drabik

Draft agenda:

1. Approval of a draft agenda
2. Bureau nominations
3. 2024 Meeting of the Group
4. Conclusions and recommendations from the 2023 meeting of the Group
5. AOB

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda

1. The agenda was adopted without any changes.

Item 2. Bureau nominations

2. The secretariat informed the Bureau that so far only one Vice-Chair nomination, of Ms. Aida Haracic by Bosnia and Herzegovina, has been received, and that 3 others, of Mr. Özgen Karacan and Ms. Volha Roshchanka by the United States of America, and of Mr. Jacek Skiba by Poland are expected.

3. The secretariat informed the Bureau about the procedures for nominating non-State representatives to the Bureau of the Group. It was highlighted that self-nominations are not permitted.

4. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that following current members of the Bureau indicated their readiness to continue their service for another biennium: Mr. Raymond Pilcher (Raven Ridge Resources) as the Chair, and Mr. Yuriy Bobrov (Association of Donbass Mining Towns), Mr. Neil

Butler (Independent expert), Mr. David Creedy (Sindicatum Sustainable Resources), Mr. Lukasz Kroplewski (Independent expert), Mr. Zhixin JIN (International Centre of Excellence on CMM China), and Mr. Clark Talkington (Advanced Resources International, Inc) as Vice-Chairs. After deliberation the Bureau decided to put forward candidatures of all above-mentioned individuals, so that they can be presented for elections at the upcoming annual meeting of the Group.

5. The Bureau also decided to put forward a candidature of Ms. Felicia Ruiz (CATF) for a Vice-Chair, subject to her agreement to serve at the Bureau for the upcoming biennium. The Bureau requested the secretariat to verify whether Ms. Ruiz would be willing to join the Bureau, on which she already served for a number of years in the past.

Item 3. 2024 Meeting of the Group

6. The secretariat provided the Bureau with information about the organizational changes that are being considered by the Sustainable Energy Division. There were some discussions about the new name of the section to which the Group is to belong, should the proposed changes be approved by the Committee. The Bureau was informed that the proposed names of the sections are still subject to a discussion, and that certain comments on that matter have also been by the Chairs of other Groups of Experts. The Chair of the Group committed to keep the Bureau informed if any progress on that matter is made by the Bureau of the Committee of which he is *ex officio* a member.

7. The Bureau was also informed that the changes, if approved in the form in which they are currently considered, will affect the calendar of the Group's meetings, as well as their form. The Bureau approved the idea of delivering the 2024 meeting within the framework of the 2024 Global Methane Forum organized jointly by UNECE and GMI, should the latter be kept in Geneva. In this context, the Bureau offered that the Group would plan the 2024 session together with GMI, so that the meeting's content fits to the broader agenda of the Forum. The Bureau also expressed its support to holding, from 2025 on, the Group's meetings in April, and to deliver them partially in coordination with the Expert Group on Resource Management.

Item 4. Conclusions and recommendations from the 2023 meeting of the Group

8. Since the secretariat shared the draft *Conclusions and Recommendations from the 2023 meeting of the Group* with the Bureau only very shortly before the Bureau call, the members of the Bureau were asked to provide their comments to the document by COB Friday 10 February. After receiving feedback from the members, the secretariat will update the draft accordingly and will present it to the director of the Division for his review.

Item 5. Any other business

9. The Bureau decided to meet one more time before the annual session. The secretariat was requested to check what the members availability is at the beginning of March and to set up a call at the time that is the most convenient to most.

10. The Chair and the secretariat thanked participants for their time and involvement in the call, and closed the meeting.
