

**To: Members of the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy**

**From: Juergen Keinhorst, Iva Brkic, Dario Liguti**

**Call of the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy**

Via Teams – 14:00 CEST, 24 May 2023

**MINUTES**

**I. ATTENDANCE:**

- **Bureau Members in attendance:** Juergen Keinhorst (Chair), Chokan Laumulin (Kazakhstan), Emir Farhadzada (Azerbaijan), Nikoloz Kholodov for Romeo Mikautadze (Georgia), Emily Grubert (United States), Stefan Buettner (Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency – GEEE), Francisco de la Flor Garcia (Group of Experts on Gas – GEG), Kostiantyn Gura (Group of Experts on Renewable Energy – GERE), David G. MacDonald (Expert Group of Resource Management – EGRM), Raymond Pilcher (Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition – GECMMJT) and Jim Robb (Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems – GECES).
- **UNECE Secretariat staff in attendance:** Iva Brkic (Secretary), Michal Jacek Drabik, Oleg Dzioubinski, Charlotte Griffiths, Dario Liguti (Division Director), Igor Litvinyuk, Branko Milicevic, Gianluca Sambucini, Slavko Vekoslav Solar, Harikrishnan Tulsidas
- **Unable to attend:** Farhod Bilolzoda (Tajikistan), Jean-Christophe Fueeg (Switzerland), Pawel Pikus (Poland), Admir Softić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Yaroslav Demchenkov (Ukraine)

**II. PROPOSED AGENDA:**

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Update on the follow up activities from the last Bureau call
3. Planning the 32nd session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy
4. Update on the recent and upcoming UNECE events
5. Update on the international planned events in 2023
6. AoB

**Documents shared:**

- Work Plan 2024-2024 of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition (ECE/ENERGY/2023/5)
- Work Plan 2024-2024 of the Group of Experts on Gas (ECE/ENERGY/2023/6)
- Work Plan 2023-2025 of the UNECE platform on Resilient Energy Systems
- Draft Minutes from the last Committee Bureau Call

## Notes

### **Item 2. Update on the follow up activities from the last Bureau call**

*Chair, Jürgen Keinhorst, updated Bureau on a number of activities since the last Bureau held on March 22*

#### [UNECE 70th Commission Session held 18-19 April 2023](#)

- The Committee on Sustainable Energy will continue supporting its parent body, the Commission, in delivering on its agenda
- This year's Commission's theme was on *Digital and green transformations for sustainable development*, directly linked to the mandate and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its subsidiary bodies. The Chair thanked to the Chairs' of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency and the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems for their leadership and cooperation in delivering a successful session at this year's Commission.
- The member States and wider stakeholder community highlighted that a green transformation is urgently needed to address pressing challenges, including sustainable energy transition and deployment of low carbon solutions, to fight climate change, biodiversity loss, and reduce environmental pressures. Digital technologies are opening up new possibilities for economic development, policy implementation and the management of public services. Our role is to continue supporting our member States in exploring the role of digitalization in building the resilient energy systems and our UNECE Task Force on Digitalization in Energy will help us with technical support to be useful to countries.
- Chair provided an update on a number of bilateral meetings held at the margins of this year's Commission session:
  - **Russian Energy Agency:** a fruitful exchange with the Head of Russian Energy Agency, Mr Alexey Kulapin:
    - Appreciative of the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies
    - Expressed strong interest in continuing engagement of Russian experts in the technical work of the EGs
    - Expressed strong interest to support the priorities of the CSE and the delivery of the 32<sup>nd</sup> session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy
  - **Breakfast with UNECE ES and Chairs' of the UNECE Commission's Subsidiary Bodies:**
    - Call for more coordinated and a periodic exchange amongst Chairs of the UNECE Commission's Subsidiary Bodies
    - Committed to explore further the synergies across the Committees to support member States and deliver on Agenda 2030 and Paris Agreement targets more effectively
    - Chairs committed to work together on cross-sectoral horizon-scanning and scenario building exercise
    - **Bilateral meeting with Ms. Elisabete Quintas da Silva, Chair of UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy.** Concrete activities:

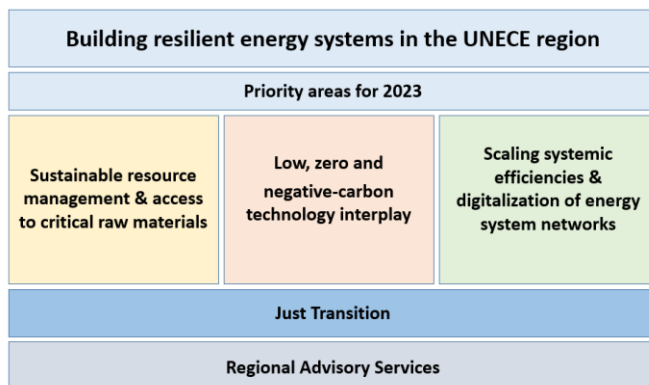
- Committed to work jointly on water and energy nexus across UNECE SED and UNECE ENV to implement the IKI project on Water-Energy Nexus. UNECE SED Expert Community is necessary to deliver on robust results and help project beneficiary countries in a meaningful way
  - Invite each other to the Committee sessions and give visibility to joint work
- **Bilateral meeting with Ms. Hannie Meesters, Chair of UNECE Committee on Inland Transport and Ms Els de Wit, Chair of the Working Party 5 on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5)** Concrete activities:
    - Committed to work together on the topic of deep electrification of the transport sector and enabling of resilient energy systems → Jim Robb and EG on Cleaner Electricity Systems to lead this cooperation
    - Committed to further explore the role of hydrogen and natural gas in the transport sector. This work was initiated by UNECE SED and the knowledge will be transferred to ESCAP
- **Bilateral meeting with Mr. George Katapodis, Vice-Chair of UNECE Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and PPPs.** Concrete activities:
    - Committed to work more closely on promoting the UNECE CSE work on innovative low- and zero-carbon technologies and resilient energy systems, as well as PPPs for developing regulatory frameworks and directing private and public financing for building resilient energy systems

### Item 3: Planning the 32nd session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

The Bureau members discussed the structure and the objectives of the *next session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy*

3 main points were addressed:

- **Structure of the UNECE Sustainable Energy Week**
  - the theme of the week → Building resilient energy systems
  - the structure of the week → to promote the overarching theme of building resilient energy systems and priority areas of the Committee on Sustainable Energy in 2030



- Agreed topics of the 32<sup>nd</sup> session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy include: i) Securing access to critical raw materials; ii) Enhancing energy connectivity through technology interplay and regional cooperation; iii) Promoting systemic efficiencies and digitalization of energy.
- Under the agenda item then will focus on future work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and priorities for 2024, the Committee will discuss two key emerging priorities for 2023: i) methane management and ii) just transition
- **Launch of the UNECE Platform on Resilient Energy Systems**
  - The Bureau agreed that the policymakers across the region are in need of tools that will enable them to make informed decisions to design and build resilient energy systems and prepare for the uncertainties that the future brings.
  - The Bureau concluded that the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its six subsidiary bodies are in a unique position to support the building of resilient energy systems in the UNECE region through continued, expanded and increased international policy dialogue and cooperation on efforts to ensure resiliency of energy systems that also ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7) and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector in the region.
  - The Bureau discussed what should be the focus of the Platform and concluded that the Platform could provide member States with two main services:
    - an AI-based tool for tailored and targeted policy- and decision-making. This AI-powered real-time interactive compendium of resources will assemble all information on resilience energy systems from vetted sources, and will provides access to official documents and data worldwide upon conversational requests;
    - a unique forum for information exchange and inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue that will host demand-driven policy dialogues on topical issues, supported by data collection, classification, and policy analysis.
- **Substantive documents – update and sign off**
  - Bureau was provided with an updated on the status of official documents mandated for the 32<sup>nd</sup> session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

Actions:

- Develop the Annotated Agenda for the 32<sup>nd</sup> session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy based on the discussion in this Bureau call and agreed theme and topics
- Finalize all official documents mandated for the 32<sup>nd</sup> session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy
- Initiate work on topical sessions planned at the 32<sup>nd</sup> session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

#### **Item 4 & 5. Update on recent and upcoming UNECE events (30min)**

The Chairs of the Expert Groups' have provided update on recent UNECE events that were delivered in April and May

- [Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition](#) and the [Group of Experts on Gas](#), 20-24 March
- [UNECE Regional Forum](#), 29-30 March
- [17th session of the Commission](#), 18-19 April
- Annual Meeting of the [Expert Group on Resource Management](#), 25-28 April