

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

From: Iva Brkic, Dario Liguti

Call of the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

Via Teams – 14:30 CEST, 4 December 2023

MINUTES

I. ATTENDANCE:

- **Bureau Members in attendance:** Juergen Keinhorst (Germany, Chair), Tofiq Hasanzada (Azerbaijan), Margalita Arabidze for Romeo Mikautadze (Georgia), Chokan Laumulin (Kazakhstan), Morten Evjenth Lindbaeck (Norway), Denise Mulholland (United States), Elisabeth Massey for Stefan Buettner (Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency – GEEE), Francisco de la Flor Garcia (Group of Experts on Gas – GEG), Raymond Pilcher (Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition), 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, Igor Litvinyuk, Branko Milicevic, Gianluca Sambucini, Slavko Vekoslav Solar, Harikrishnan Tulsidas, Anna Piwowarska, Nadejda Khamrakulova
- **Unable to attend:** Admir Softic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Farhod Bilolzoda (Tajikistan), Yaroslav Demchenkov (Ukraine), Karen Hanghoj (Expert Group on Resource Management), Kostiantyn Gura (Group of Experts on Renewable Energy)

II. PROPOSED AGENDA:

1. Welcome to new Bureau members – Introduction
2. Update on recent events in October and November
3. Update on EXCOM outcomes
4. Planning next steps – UNECE Sustainable Energy Week and 71st Commission
5. AoB

Documents shared:

- Report by the Chair of the Committee on Sustainable Energy
- ECE/EX/2023/L.14 - Decisions relating to the Committee on Sustainable Energy

Item 1. Introduction and welcome to new Bureau members

Chair: Mr Jürgen Keinhorst (Germany)

Vice-Chairs:

Mr Tofiq [Hasanzada](#) (Azerbaijan)

Mr. [Admir Softic](#) (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Mr. Romeo Mikautadze (Georgia)

Mr. Chokan Laumulin (Kazakhstan)

Mr Morten Evjenth Lindbæck (Norway)

Mr. Farhod [Bilolzoda](#) (Tajikistan)

Mr. Yaroslav Demchenkov (Ukraine)

Ms Denise Mulholland (United States)

Ex officio Vice-Chairs:

Ms. Karen [Hanghøj](#), EGRM

Mr. Jim Robb, EGCES

Mr. Raymond Pilcher, CMMJT

Mr. Francisco de la Flor Garcia, GEG

Mr. Stefan Buettner, GEEE

Mr. Kostiantyn Gura, GERE

Item 2. Update on recent events (20min)

- [Energy Systems Week: 3 – 6 October 2023 – Annual sessions of the EGCES and GEEE](#)

The week delivered on a number of sessions dedicated to digitalization of energy, the area of work in which the two groups of experts have been collaborating very closely under the mandate of the Task Force on Digitalization in Energy. The joint session was dedicated to *Reliability and cyber resiliency of smart integrated energy systems*, building on the findings from the two joint substantive papers: ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2023/3, ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2023/3 – Key considerations and solutions to ensure cyber resiliency in the smart integrated energy systems ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2023/4, ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2023/4 – Improving efficiency and reliability of energy systems by means of big data analytics.

This is an important area of work that directly delivers on the recommendations of the 70th Commission session that explored digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the ECE region. The Task Force on Digitalization in Energy organized a panel on “Digitalization as enabler for climate action and decarbonization - the 4Ds of modern energy system: digitalization, decentralization, democratization, and decarbonization” and concluded that digital solutions enabled advances in connectivity, data, and analytics, and greatly increased overall efficiency of energy system and that digital innovations offer new ways of addressing challenges in energy delivery process, and of finding exceptional ways to address them.

GEEE and EGCES called for joint meetings with other CSE subsidiary bodies and for deeper collaboration on cross-cutting issues.

- [Almaty Energy Forum: 6 – 8 November 2023](#)

The Forum, a joint effort UNECE, UNESCAP and UNDP, and hosted by Kazakh British Technical University – brought together policymakers, energy experts, innovators, and leaders from across the energy spectrum to share knowledge, forge partnerships, and chart a course towards more resilient and more clean energy systems in the region. Over three days, critical discussions

focused on energy connectivity, water-energy nexus, de-risking financing for renewable energy and energy efficiency, critical raw materials, methane management and just transition. Full Forum report can be accessed here: [3rd Almaty Energy Forum \(unece.org\)](https://www.unece.org/energy/3rd-almaty-energy-forum)

- [EU Raw Materials Week – 13 – 16 November 2023](#)

UNECE tools can support EU critical raw materials supply and help address sustainability issues. The European Commission has proposed a new legislation, the European Critical Raw Materials Act, to ensure a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials for the EU. The Act, on which the European Parliament and the European Council reached a [provisional agreement](#) on 13 November, insist on the use of UNECE's [United Nations Framework Classification for Resources \(UNFC\)](#), which will help provide reliable and comparable data on raw materials across different countries and commodities.

- [SPECA Forum](#) – 21 – 23 November 2023

The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) is a joint programme between UNECE and ESCAP. This year the meeting took place in Baku, Azerbaijan. Sustainable Energy Divisions of UNECE and ESCAP were responsible for delivering a session on energy connectivity. UNECE and ESCAP raised together over 1 million USD to work on energy connectivity in Central Asia from 2024 – 2026.

- [IKI Project preparation : Validation Workshop](#) – Project on Improving the energy efficiency of the global building supply chain industry and its products to deliver high performance buildings

UNECE and UNDP Office in Georgia, in cooperation with other partners, organized a validation workshop in the framework of the preparation phase of the project. The project supported by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) Germany, aims to develop a strong foundation of proven best practice methods and focused technical capacity that beneficiary countries can build upon to improve building energy performance and reduce embodied carbon and energy to support their development and achievement of enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) targets. This multi-year project implies a six-month preparation phase, the objective of which is to develop a complete project document with accompanying materials that outlines concrete, result-oriented activities of all stakeholders, takes account of national circumstances of the beneficiary countries, and responds to their needs in an effective manner while remaining consistent in terms of common outputs and outcomes, and ensures alignment across the board on the project log-frame.

Item 3 Update on EXCOM

Jürgen Keinhorst

- Reflection on how the member States received the [Chair's report](#) , a number of member States have complemented the work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy: Albania, European Union, Georgia, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan
- The EXCOM has approved the following decisions on matters relating to the Committee on Sustainable Energy:
 - The programme of work of the sustainable energy subprogramme for 2024, as contained in document ECE/ENERGY/2023/1;

- The work plans and the renewal of the mandates of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems, the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition, the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency, the Group of Experts on Gas and the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy for the period 2024–2025 with the possibility of extension, as contained in document ECE/ENERGY/149;
- The work plan of the Expert Group on Resource Management for the period 2024–2025, as contained in document ECE/ENERGY/149; and
- The extension of the mandate of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings for 2024–2025 and its terms of reference, as contained in the annex to document ECE/ENERGY/2023/10
- The EXCOM has approved the extrabudgetary project on [Implementing the United Nations Resource Management System for Circular Materials and Sustainable Resource Management in the UNECE Region](#)

Item 4 – Planning next steps

1. CSE ideas for the 71st Commission session in April 2025

The Bureau discussed which cross-cutting themes could be proposed for the 71st session of the Commission planned for April 2025.

Committee on Sustainable Energy is strongly cooperating with the following subsidiary bodies of the Commission:

- Committee on Environmental Policy and Water Convention on water-energy nexus activities
- Committee on Inland Transport and the Working Party 5 on Transport Trends and Economics on advancing of electric mobility in the ECE region
- Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Private-Public Partnerships on innovative low- and zero-carbon technologies for resilient and carbon neutral energy systems and private-public climate financing
- Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management on coordination of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Building

The Bureau proposed the following cross-cutting theme: *Transforming the UNECE region and beyond with knowledge and innovation*. Given the Committee's to date work on promoting the AI for informed and strategic resilient energy policy making, the Bureau proposed to the Commission to assess the opportunities and risks associated with AI.

2. CSE ideas for the Sustainable Energy Week 2024

The Bureau has launched the discussion on planning the Sustainable Energy Week (SEW) 2024. The SEW will be delivered encompass the annual meetings of the GERE, GEEE, GECES and CSE. The Bureau proposed to focus the week on the cross-cutting issues, such as:

- Digitalization in energy: cyber security and impact on grid resiliency
- Electrification of transportation in cooperation with WP5 Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics
- Energy connectivity in Central Asia
- Addressing methane management across the UNECE region

- Financing of the energy transition and infrastructure projects → necessity to communicate the size of the funding required for energy transition and communicate the social cost of transition. Appropriate investment climate is paramount to attract the vast investment needed. Green financing will not happen on the voluntary basis and the regulators can play an important role. The structure, organisation and diversity of the UNECE provide a unique base for the policy dialogue and the debate as well as the interaction and coordination with other institutions that work on the energy and climate agenda, to deliver concrete outcomes.

Item 5 – Any other business

The next call is planned for end of January.