



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Sustainable Energy

#### Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

##### **Eighth session**

Geneva, 19–20 November 2013

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

##### **Adoption of the agenda**

### **Annotated provisional agenda for the eighth session<sup>1</sup>**

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva  
starting at 10 a.m. on 19 November 2013

#### **I. Provisional agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Election of officers
3. Opening remarks from the Chair
4. Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and any matters for consideration by the Ad Hoc Group of Experts
5. Tour de table
6. Dissemination and application of “*Best Practice Guidance on Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines*”

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<sup>1</sup> According to new accreditation procedures for attending meetings at the Palais des Nations, delegates are requested to complete the registration form, available at the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division website (<http://www.unece.org/energy/>), and transmit it to UNECE secretariat by **Friday, 8 November 2013** – by either fax (+41 22 917 0038) or e-mail ([liliane.mauranne@unece.org](mailto:liliane.mauranne@unece.org)). Delegates are advised to arrive at least 30 minutes before the meeting at the Pass and Identification Unit, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix, opposite the Red Cross Building (see the map on the Energy Division’s website), for the issuance of an identification badge. Please take a copy of the registration form with you. Registration is open every work day at the Pregny Gate from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The telephone numbers for the Security Office at the Pregny Gate are: +41 (0) 22 917 50 02 / +41 (0) 22 917 50 42 / +41 (0) 22 917 12 40). If need be, please contact the secretariat by telephone (extension 72446 or 74140).

7. Update on current and possible future activities related to methane management
8. Eighteenth session of the Global Methane Initiative Coal Mines Subcommittee
9. Revision of international and national coal mine methane emission reduction mechanisms
10. Establishing an International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane
11. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations
12. Preparations for the ninth session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts
13. Other business
14. Adoption of the report

## **II. Annotations to the provisional agenda**

### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

1. The first item of the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda. An updated agenda, detailed timetable and other documents will be posted on the coal mine methane website of the Sustainable Energy Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) at <http://www.unece.org/energy/se/cmm.html>.

### **2. Election of officers**

2. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts will endorse the new Bureau that was nominated at their informal meeting on 29 April 2013: Mr. Ray Pilcher (United States of America) as Chair, and Mr. Yuriy Bobrov (Ukraine), Mr. David Creedy (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Mr. Ozgen Karacan (United States of America), Ms. Felicia Ruiz (United States of America), Mr. Jacek Skiba (Poland), Mr. Sergey Shumkov (Russian Federation), Mr. Clark Talkington (United States of America) and Mr. Igor Yashchenko (Ukraine), as Vice-Chairs.

### **3. Opening remarks from the Chair**

3. The Chair will deliver opening remarks and bring to the attention of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts for formal approval the Terms of Reference (cf. Annex I) and the programme of work for 2013–14 that were developed at the 29 April 2013 meeting. The Terms of Reference will be submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the Executive Committee (EXCOM) for approval.

### **4. Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and any matters for consideration by the Ad Hoc Group of Experts**

4. The secretariat will update the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the relevant decisions adopted by UNECE at its sixty-fifth session held on 9–11 April 2013 and the July 2013 decision of the Executive Committee (EXCOM) to extend the mandate of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and its subsidiary bodies. The secretariat will also inform the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the preparation for and the possible outcomes of the twenty-

second session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, planned on 21–22 November 2013.

## **5. Tour de table**

5. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts members will be invited to report briefly on relevant developments in their countries or organizations.

## **6. Dissemination and application of “*Best Practice Guidance on Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines*”**

6. In the outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of UNECE, adopted by UNECE at its sixty-fifth session held on 9–11 April 2013, the Ad Hoc Group of Experts was requested to "electronically disseminate the *Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines* to all major stakeholders in the UNECE region and beyond as recommended by the Economic and Social Council (Decision 2011/222) before August 2013". The secretariat will update the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on progress in dissemination of the publication.

7. In response to a growing interest from industry and regulatory authorities in several countries in how other countries have incorporated and implemented specific aspects of coal mine methane capture and use in their policies and regulations, the Ad Hoc Group of Experts will discuss the latest regulatory and policy developments and provide their comments and suggestions. In this regard, the Ad Hoc Group of Experts may wish to consider reviewing coal mine methane regulations and policies in both developing and developed coal mining countries.

## **7. Update on current and possible future activities related to methane management**

8. The secretariat will update the participants on the implementation of the extra-budgetary project on coal mine safety, funded by the Russian Federation and approved by EXCOM in November 2011. According to the Project Plan endorsed by its Steering Committee in 2012, the project has two principal objectives: to act preventively and avoid methane-related coal mine accidents through a better management of methane, coal dust and other hazards inherent to underground coal mining by implementation of best practices; and to minimize fatalities and other damage through a better use of life support systems.

9. The secretariat will inform the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on other prospective methane management activities, implemented in other parts of the world. In this regard, the Ad Hoc Group of Experts will examine possible synergies through collaboration with other bodies and organizations, such as the Working Group on Coal of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the International Labour Organization.

## **8. Eighteenth session of the Global Methane Initiative Coal Mines Subcommittee**

10. The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) is an international public-private partnership with over 30 partner countries, plus the European Commission, established in 2004 and focused on promoting cost-effective methane emission reductions through recovery and use from four key methane sectors: coal mining, landfills, oil and gas systems, and agriculture.

The Coal Mine Subcommittee brings together key experts in coal mine methane recovery and utilization to share information about state-of-the-art technologies and practices through a number of workshops, trainings, study tours, and capacity building initiatives. In 2010, UNECE and GMI jointly published a "Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines", through a UNECE extra-budgetary project funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

11. The eighteenth session of the GMI Coal Mine Subcommittee will discuss, inter alia, Partner and Project Network updates, development of country Action Plans, and the 2014 Partnership-Wide 10-Year Anniversary Meeting. Representatives from Partner Countries, some of which are UNECE member States, will inform the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on their coal mine methane activities. A detailed agenda of the Coal Subcommittee meeting can be found at [https://www.globalmethane.org/news-events/event\\_detailsByEventId.aspx?eventId=428](https://www.globalmethane.org/news-events/event_detailsByEventId.aspx?eventId=428).

12. Following the Economic and Social Council decision 2011/222 on promoting the Best Practice Guidance as a global standard in methane management, this agenda item is intended to provide an opportunity for the Ad Hoc Group of Experts to hear about coal mine methane activities in other regions, in particular in the coal mining countries that face serious methane-related challenges, such as Australia, China and India.

## **9. Revision of international and national coal mine methane emission reduction mechanisms**

13. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts will review and assess various existing and potential international, national and regional market-based coal mine methane emission reduction mechanisms that may serve as a driver for promoting the adoption of best practices in methane capture and use.

14. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts will hear a presentation on the California Air Resources Board Mine Methane Capture Protocol that was released for comments in September 2013 and is expected to be approved in October 2013.

15. The recent developments in the Consolidated methodology for coal bed methane, coal mine methane and ventilation air methane capture and use for power (electrical or motive) and heat and/or destruction through flaring or flameless oxidation, also known as ACM0008, were presented by a representative of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the 29 April 2013 meeting. Subsequently, the Ad Hoc Group of Experts expressed interest to continue to provide advice to the UNFCCC.

## **10. Establishing an International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane**

16. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts will discuss recent developments towards establishing an International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane. The centre is to be established outside Geneva, in one or more United Nations Member States. The future Centre will collaborate with the UNECE International Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Centre of Excellence that coordinates work among PPP specialist centres dedicated to specific industries.

17. The International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane may serve as a vehicle for application of best practices in specific coal mines in different regions of the

world, promoting the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from coal mines, as requested by UNECE member States and the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2011/222.

## **11. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations**

18. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts will be invited to adopt conclusions and recommendations. The conclusions and recommendations under consideration are those that were developed at the 29 April 2013 meeting, but are submitted here for formal consideration and approval.

## **12. Preparations for the ninth session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts**

19. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts will discuss preparations for its ninth session. Possible topics for the substantive portion of the session will be proposed and discussed. The ninth session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane is tentatively scheduled on 23–24 October 2014 in Geneva, unless the Ad Hoc Group of Experts decides otherwise.

## **13. Other business**

20. The meeting may discuss other issues that arise before or during the session and that fall within the scope of the Terms of Reference of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts. To the extent possible, delegates are encouraged to notify the secretariat or the Chair in advance of any issue they may wish to raise under this agenda item.

## **14. Adoption of the report**

21. The Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will summarize the agreed conclusions and recommendations and close the meeting. The meeting report is expected to be adopted at the meeting. If it is not adopted at the meeting, the draft report of the meeting and the list of participants will be drawn up by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau and circulated for comments and approval to the Expert Group members and the Geneva Permanent Representations. After approval, the report will be posted on the UNECE coal mine methane website: <http://www.unece.org/energy/se/cmm.html>

### III. Tentative timetable

22. Below is a tentative timetable. It is subject to change; an updated timetable will be posted on the UNECE coal mine methane website: <http://www.unece.org/energy/se/cmm.html>.

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<b>19 November 2013</b>	
10:00	Item 1: Adoption of the agenda
10:10	Item 2: Election of officers
10:20	Item 3: Opening remarks from the Chair
10:40	Item 4: Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and any matters for consideration by the Ad Hoc Group of Experts
11:00	Item 5: Tour de table
11:30	Coffee break
12:00	Item 6: Dissemination and application of “ <i>Best Practice Guidance on Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines</i> ”
12:30	Item 7: Update on current and possible future activities related to methane management
13:00	Lunch break
15:00	Item 8: Eighteenth session of the Global Methane Initiative Coal Mines Subcommittee
<b>20 November 2013</b>	
10:00	Item 8: Eighteenth session of the Global Methane Initiative Coal Mines Subcommittee
11:30	Coffee break
11:50	Item 8: Eighteenth session of the Global Methane Initiative Coal Mines Subcommittee
13:00	Lunch break
15:00	Item 9: Revision of international and national coal mine methane emission reduction mechanisms
16:00	Item 10: Establishing an International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane
17:00	Item 11: Adoption of conclusions and recommendations
17:20	Item 12: Preparations for the ninth session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts

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<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
17:40	Item 13: Other business
17:50	Item 14: Adoption of the report
18:00	End of the session

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## Annex I

### **Proposed Terms of Reference of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane**

(Negotiated and adopted at the 29 April 2013 session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts)

The Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane was launched in December 2004 by the Committee on Sustainable Energy to specifically support the Committee's activities in the area of coal mine methane (CMM), abandoned mine methane (AMM), and ventilation air methane (VAM). The Ad Hoc Group of Experts will carry out, under the Committee's guidance, activities related to development and profitable recovery and use of CMM, AMM and VAM, with a specific focus on the three pillars of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. Recovery and use of otherwise emitted methane mitigates climate change, improves mine safety and productivity, and generates revenues and cost savings.

The tasks of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts are to:

- (a) Promote and provide support where applicable to the UNECE extra-budgetary projects relevant to CMM, AMM and VAM recovery and utilization.
- (b) Provide a forum for exchange of information and experience on on-going activities in the area of CMM, AMM and VAM development and for enhanced collaboration and cooperation thereof.
- (c) Identify and seek to mitigate the problems associated with the creation of incentives for CMM, AMM and VAM recovery and utilization.
- (d) Establish a clear link between the economic benefits and the mining of gassy coal seams based on the safe drainage and use of the gas, and facilitate this through:
  - (i) Expansion and application of the Best Practice Guidance through publication of case studies and further dissemination through the electronic means and conducting workshops;
  - (ii) Work to establish and maintain an International Centre of Excellence in effective pre- and post-mining extraction and use of CMM, AMM and VAM.
- (e) Identify any significant new developments affecting CMM, AMM and VAM, in particular in UNECE member countries.
- (f) Seek to strengthen inter-agency cooperation and collaboration with other stakeholders, including other governmental and non-governmental organizations and the business community/private sector, in order to realise the above objectives.

## Annex II

### Excerpt from the Outcome of the Informal Consultations on Sustainable Energy

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#### V. Coal mine methane

##### Objective

To promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from coal mines by means of activities that may help the recovery and use of methane in order to reduce the risks of explosions in coal mines.

##### Areas of work

Best practice guidance for effective methane drainage development and dissemination.

##### Concrete activities

- Electronically disseminate *Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines* to all major stakeholders in the ECE region and beyond as recommended by the Economic and Social Council (Decision 2011/222) before August 2013;
- Prepare suggestions, by August 2013, on how to develop, as appropriate, similar best practices guidance for aspects of CMM management that are not covered in detail by the current document such as best practice drilling or low-concentration methane drainage;
- Prepare proposals, by August 2013, for case studies, where appropriate and financed by extrabudgetary resources, on the application of best practice guidance in specific coal mines in different regions of the world.

If the activities carried out by ECE coal mine methane experts reveal broader safety issues, they may communicate these to the International Labour Organization (ILO) for consideration in its coal mine safety guidelines.

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