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**Cooperation and Coordination with other Sectoral Committees
of the Commission**

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**Inter-divisional cooperation activities in the area of
sustainable energy**

**Cooperation with Economic Cooperation, Trade, and Land
Management Division, Housing and Land Management Section**

One of the major inter-divisional cooperation activities for 2013 was the organization of the Fourth International Forum: Energy for Sustainable Development. The event was a joint initiative of the Government of Georgia, UNECE, ESCAP, and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Forum took place Tbilisi, Georgia, 17-19 September 2013. Over 210 delegates from 28 countries attended the Forum. The Forum included the High-Level Round Table on Achieving sustainable energy development through policy reforms and international cooperation with participation of high-level officials of the government bodies responsible for energy and sustainable development in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

The other plenary sessions of the Forum were *Energy efficiency in the housing sector* and *Investments in energy efficiency and cleaner energy projects in the context of climate change mitigation and sustainable development*. The role of the UNECE Housing and Land Management Committee as a unique intergovernmental forum that integrates housing and land management policies with energy efficiency measures was emphasized. It was generally agreed that energy efficiency is a major challenge for the region and that better coordination of international aid and assistance is needed to support countries of the region. The UNECE Case Book on Good Practices for Energy-efficient Housing in the UNECE Region was presented.

The parallel workshops were organized on the second day of the Forum. The Workshop *A Road Map to Energy-Efficient Residential Sector* challenges, experiences and good practices of Governments in the UNECE region in promoting energy efficient housing. Financing for energy efficiency of the housing sector is perceived as one of the major

challenges in the region, and this topic has only recently been added to the agenda. It can be addressed through joint efforts of three parties: owners of premises in multi-family buildings, banking sector, and the state. There is a need for stronger public awareness and education, clear policy on tariffs, legislative changes and stronger governmental support to enhance energy efficiency in the housing sector. The whole building-cycle process needs serious reform, including developing or updating building standards, improving the processes of issuing building permits and of monitoring the implementation of the regulations, and providing training and certification for the professionals involved.

Cooperation with Economic Cooperation, Trade, and Land Management Division, Forestry and Timber Section

The energy related activities of the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section included analysis of current trends and status in the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry and of the outlook in the European Forest Sector Outlook Study (EFSOS) 2010-2030.

In 2013, the UNECE/FAO Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (JWEE) proved again to be a unique tool for collecting better data on wood energy. The Enquiry is a biennial questionnaire that aims to shed light on the real role of wood energy within the region by promoting communication and cooperation between the energy, waste and forestry sectors. An updated version of the JWEE Manual has also been made available, to simplify the use of the Excel based tool. The results confirmed that wood energy is the leading source of renewable energy. Overall wood energy accounts for 3.4% of the total primary energy supply and 38.9% of the renewable energy supply in 27 UNECE member countries in 2011. In addition, the results showed that around 40% of all mobilized woody biomass supply is used for energy purposes.

Besides collecting data on sources and uses of wood energy, the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section analysed wood energy markets in the UNECE region. Chapter 9 of the Forest Products Annual Market Review highlights the latest trends in wood fuel trade and policies affecting the markets. The final version of the Review has been published on the website in November and will be translated into Russian and French (ECE/TIM/SP/33).

The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section organized a workshop on “Forest products and technologies for the future”. The event took place as part of the 3rd International Scientific Conference on “Innovations and Technologies in Forestry” held in St. Petersburg on 22-23 May 2013. Participants discussed key policies and technologies that could support modernization of the forest sector in order to maximize its potential as an important source of timber and respond to the growing demand for sustainable forest bioenergy. Delegates from Belarus and Central Asia highlighted the different contexts and potentials for growth in the bioenergy sector in their countries. They called for more public and private investment along the wood energy value chain, with an emphasis on feedstock mobilization. Investments in bioenergy supply need to be complemented by awareness-raising in order to inform stakeholders of the opportunities linked with bioenergy and develop market opportunities.

The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section organized a workshop on improved reporting on wood products and energy for member states from Central Asia in Geneva on 18 October 2013. The workshop aimed at improving the response rate by countries and was held in Russian language. The event helped to strengthen or re-establish links between the secretariat and the statistical institutions of member countries in this particular sub-region. Participants were confident after the event that they will be able to provide data on the main items such as wood energy of the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire.

Cooperation with Economic Cooperation, Trade, and Land Management Division, Cooperation and Partnerships Section

In 2011 the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted Decision 2011/222 on the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines. By this Decision ECOSOC invited United Nations member States, international organizations, and the regional commissions to consider application of the Best Practice Guidance in countries worldwide. In a related development, in 2012 UNECE's EXCOM decided to establish an International Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Centre of Excellence that consists of a hub, established within the UNECE in Geneva, and affiliated PPP specialist centres (with sectorial focus, such as roads, water, health care, sustainable development, education, and renewable energy) that are hosted by a member State. UNECE's International PPP Centre of Excellence is an umbrella organization that coordinates activities of and enables cross-sectorial interactions among its affiliated centres.

In an effort to accelerate implementation of ECOSOC Decision 2011/222, the Sustainable Energy Division facilitated dialogue between the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and the UNECE's International PPP Centre of Excellence, to which Cooperation and Partnerships Section (CPS) provides secretariat services. This dialogue triggered activities towards possible establishment of an International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane (ICE-CMM) which would become a member of the United Nations Public-Private Partnership community. Establishment of a centre of excellence, however, is a lengthy process that depends on the willingness of member States to provide in-kind contribution through hosting the Centre and financing its operations. Once established, ICE-CMM will support capacity-building activities and dissemination of best practices in its area of expertise, namely: economically viable methane abatement and utilization, socially acceptable underground coalmine practices, and environmentally responsible methane management.

In a related development, SED, in order to support member States in their planned activities in renewable energy, worked with CPS in promoting public-private partnerships in renewable energy and energy efficiency. This activity is carried out in collaboration with the Global Sustainable Electricity Partnership (GSEP), an organization of the world's leading electricity utilities. SED and CPS helped create a programme for workshops aimed at promoting successful investments in sustainable energy projects worldwide and global deployment of electricity technologies through PPPs.

Promoting renewable energy and other low carbon-technologies, as well as energy efficiency and grid modernization programs can lead to scaling up of access to sustainable energy while fostering significant economic growth and carbon emissions reduction in UN Member States. Such activities support the UN Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative and its three objectives on energy access, energy efficiency, and renewable energy. All this may also lead to establishment of an International Centre of Excellence on PPP in Renewable Energy, possibly in a developing country. Progress in this field depends very much on how the prospective countries perceive the benefits of hosting such a centre and their willingness and capacity to take on the responsibility.

Cooperation with Environment Division

The Committee on Environmental Policy and the Committee on Sustainable Energy have demonstrated in the past a good example of fruitful cooperation on issues of common concern. Energy and in particular energy efficiency issues were highlighted by most "Environment for Europe" (EfE) Ministerial Conferences.

The Fourth EfE Ministerial Conference (Aarhus, 1998) endorsed the Policy Statement on Energy Efficiency and welcomed the Guidelines on Energy Conservation in Europe. The

Fifth EfE Ministerial Conference (Kyiv, 2003) endorsed the Guidelines on Reforming Energy Pricing and Subsidies prepared jointly by the two Committees as a means to promote action to progressively reduce and, where possible, remove energy price subsidies which counteract an efficient use of energy and/or have harmful effects on the environment. The Sixth EfE Ministerial Conference (Belgrade, 2007) called for further efforts to improve energy efficiency in order to meet environmental and sustainable energy objectives. It welcomed the project on Financing Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation. At their Seventh EfE Ministerial Conference (Astana, 2011) Ministers recognized that energy efficiency is one of the most cost-effective ways to address climate change and move to a green economy. Investments and policy reforms to promote energy efficiency are particularly effective for this transition.

The Sustainable Energy Division and the Environment Division continue their fruitful cooperation on a number of issues, as follows.

The Environment Division participated in the UN-Energy First and Second Post-2015 Thematic Consultation on Energy in February and March 2013, respectively.

SED supported dissemination of information to the energy sector about the preparation of the Assessment of the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus in the Sava River Basin in the concerned countries in South-Eastern Europe. This assessment will be one of a series of such assessments in selected transboundary river basins prepared under the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) from 2013 to 2015. SED also reviewed and contributed to the UNECE chapter for the United Nations World Water Development Report's 2014 issue which focuses on water and energy, prepared by the Water Convention secretariat.

SED continued cooperation with the Environment Division on the energy-related issues of the Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Programme. An SED staff member participated as the expert for the chapters on energy in the EPRs of Turkmenistan and Albania that were finalized and approved in 2012. The EPR of Morocco that has been prepared in 2012–2013 contains a chapter on Energy and Environment.

Since 2009, the UNECE Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators has been working on reviewing and updating the UNECE Guidelines on the application of environmental indicators, including six indicators related to the energy sector. These are: (a) final energy consumption; (b) total energy consumption; (c) renewable energy consumption; (d) energy intensity; (e) final electricity consumption; and (f) gross electricity production. The indicators are being used by countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as South-Eastern Europe to prepare indicator-based assessment reports. The UNECE environmental indicators, including energy-related ones, are in accordance with the environmental indicators developed by the European Environment Agency, with a view to ensure a harmonized and comparable reporting across the UNECE region.

A joint event on public participation in decision-making in the nuclear domain was organized under the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) in Luxembourg, 12-13 March 2013, together with the European Commission and the Association Nationales des Comités et Commissions Locales d'Information (ANCCLI). It addressed obstacles and challenges to effective public participation on nuclear-related issues, as well as good practices and innovative tools to address them¹.

¹ Report of the meeting is available at:

The good cooperation between SED and the Environment Division could be further enhanced in the areas of air pollution², strategic environmental assessment³, education for sustainable development⁴ and public participation in decision-making⁵.

Cooperation within the context of UN-Energy and Sustainable Energy for All initiative

The UNECE participated in the two UN Energy rounds of consultations on energy during February and March 2013 in support of the post-2015 Thematic Consultation conducted by the United Nations.

UN-Energy and the Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative coordinated the worldwide consultation on energy, building on their work to-date. The consultation aimed to facilitate an open worldwide dialogue with all stakeholders on how energy should be integrated into a post-2015 global development framework.

In order to consolidate internally the UNECE contribution, the Sustainable Energy Division closely cooperated with the Trade and Sustainable Land Management (TSLM)⁶ and the Environment Divisions.

The consultations considered a broad range of priority issues related to energy in all three dimensions of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental. These include cross-cutting issues such as gender inequalities, water, food security, climate change, and how to measure progress towards achieving energy-related targets. The consultations focused more specifically on the following four priority areas:

- 1) Universal Energy Access;
- 2) Increased use of renewable energy;
- 3) Increased energy efficiency;
- 4) Energy-sustainable development nexus

http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/ppdm/4th_PPDM/ECE.MP.PP.WG.1.2013.6_as_submitted.pdf

² The UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution provides countries with a forum to exchange experiences on the linkages between air pollution and other relevant cross-sectoral policies such as energy and transport and co-benefits in their implementation.

³ Strategic environmental assessment is a primary and unique tool for integrating sustainable development and green economy (including sustainable energy-related) targets into planning and policy making in all sectors and levels of government.

⁴ Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is a particularly important tool providing people at all levels of education with the values, skills, competences and knowledge needed for shaping new attitudes, behaviours and practices conducive to sustainable development, including sustainable consumption and production patterns.

⁵ The UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) provide a solid and comprehensive framework for Governments to engage the public effectively in setting and implementing the post-2015 agenda.

⁶ Now the Economic Cooperation, Trade, and Land Management (ECTLM) Division
