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Informal Preparatory Meeting of the UNECE Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency

Geneva, Palais des Nations, Salle VIII, 1 September 2014, 10:00-18:00

Agenda

Energy efficiency is not improving quickly enough globally or in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region. Improving energy efficiency (EE) is the famous low-hanging fruit that is supposed to be easy to do and contributes to energy security, a better environment, quality of life, and economic well-being for all. EE is the best way of getting more out of our existing resources, supporting economic growth, and reducing the energy costs for all citizens. Despite the multiple benefits, improving energy efficiency remains elusive because of the way markets are designed and structured. Low energy tariff policies, subsidies, lack of information, and lack of investment capital for end-users are among the barriers to deployment of EE. Public investments in improving EE from source to use remain critically important.

UNECE established the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (GEEE) to carry out concrete and results-oriented activities – in line with the UN Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All Initiative – that help significantly improve energy efficiency in the region, thus contributing to climate change mitigation efforts and strengthening regional cooperation in energy efficiency, with a view to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. UNECE is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations, providing analysis, policy advice and assistance to governments, in cooperation with other global players and key stakeholders, notably the business community.

This brainstorming session gathers a small group of leading global experts to discuss the state of implementation of EE measures and technologies with a particular focus on the challenges in the UNECE region. The region is comprised of countries of Western, Central, South-East and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, North America, Israel, and Turkey. While the region is technologically and economically advanced, it has at the same time huge economic, social, political, cultural, and energy diversity, and it plays a large role in the current and future global energy architecture. Experts will discuss activities in preparation for the first session of GEEE, planned in Geneva on 17-18 November 2014 during UNECE's Sustainable Energy Week.

UNECE seeks to establish both a long-term dialogue and targeted partnerships at this first gathering of experts. The informal, moderated discussion will focus on the role that UNECE and notably GEEE can play in addition to and in partnership with other established players in the EE field, notably the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC), the United Nations Foundation, the European Commission, the Energy Charter, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and regional and networking organisations.

The meeting will be facilitated by Scott Foster, Director, UNECE Sustainable Energy Division

Time	Agenda item
10:00-10:30	Setting the Scene and tour de table Scott Foster, Director, UNECE Sustainable Energy Division Introductory remarks Christian Friis Bach, Executive Secretary, UNECE
10:30-11:00	The status of energy efficiency in the UNECE region: What works and what does not. Why? Introductory presentation. Benoît Lebot, Executive Director, IPEEC Secretariat
11:00-13:00	<u>Brainstorming – informal discussion:</u> How can the uptake of energy efficiency be enhanced? Status quo and implementation. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Addressing barriers to improving energy efficiency• Best-practice guidance on energy efficiency standards in relevant sectors; sustainable housing as a possible pilot• Combining energy efficiency and renewable energy – an even lower hanging fruit?• How can markets be created to encourage the implementation of energy efficiency measures? Contributions from various UNECE Divisions and Elena Shonya, Operations Officer, International Finance Cooperation
13.00-15:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14.30-15:00	<i>Possibility to watch a TED talk by Amory Lovins, Chairman/Chief Scientist of the Rocky Mountain Institute: A 40 year plan for energy (27 min) – will be shown in Salle VIII</i> http://www.rmi.org/ReinventingFire
15:00-16:30	<u>Brainstorming session - informal discussion (continued):</u> How can uptake of energy efficiency be enhanced? Menu of options: Refining and implementing the GEEE Work Plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elements from the GEEE Work Plan:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Baseline of energy efficiency in the UNECE region○ Survey of UNECE member States on the national situation○ Matrix of best practices and countries implementing them○ UNECE standards for energy efficiency: public-private partnership with ISO?○ Framework for a global strategy on energy efficiency and market transformation○ Cross-cutting activities○ Smart grids as part of the GEEE Work Plan• Opportunities for UNECE to contribute to the SE4All energy efficiency target Tim Farrell, Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency• Coordination of activities with other established players• The Fifth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (Tunisia, 4-6 November 2014); proposed outcomes Contributions from various UNECE Divisions
16:30-16:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:45-18:00	How can uptake of energy efficiency be enhanced? Conclusions and Roadmap. Defining the niche for UNECE and suggestions for further work
18:00	Closing of the Meeting