



**ECE Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (GEEE)
Bureau Call
Copenhagen, 7 September 2016, 14:00 – 15:00**

Bureau Call Report, 23 September 2016

Attendance

GEEE Bureau:

Mr. Tim Farrell, Chair, Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency (C2E2)
Mr. Zlatko Pavičić, Vice-Chair, Croatia
Ms. Gabriela Prata Dias, Vice-Chair, Portugal
Ms. Antonela Solujić, Vice-Chair, Serbia
Ms. Zoe Lagarde for Mr. Benoît Lebot, Vice-Chair, International Partnership on Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC)

Candidate nominated to GEEE Bureau:

Ms. Natalia Jamburia, Ministry of Energy, Georgia

Secretariat, ECE Sustainable Energy Division (SED):

Mr. Oleg Dzioubinski

Apologies received:

Mr. Asaf Rzayev, Vice-Chair, Azerbaijan
Mr. Andrei Miniankou, Vice-Chair, Belarus (was not possible to establish connection due to technical problems)
Mr. Christian Noll, Vice-Chair, Germany
Mr. Aleksandar Dukovski, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Mr. Martin K. Patel, Vice-Chair, University of Geneva

Main discussion points

Item 1. Chair's welcome.

Tim Farrell, Chair of GEEE, opened the conference call and welcomed the participants.

Item 2. Approval of the Agenda.

Chair proposed to approve the Agenda as presented. Agenda was approved as presented.

Item 3. Preparations for the 3rd session of GEEE (18-19 October 2016) and the 7th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (18-21 October 2016) in Baku.

Chair informed the Bureau of the ongoing preparations. He outlined the agenda of the GEEE session and informed that all official documents are posted at the UNECE website (currently available in all three official languages – English, French, and Russian). If members of the Bureau would like to speak on a particular agenda item they should inform the secretariat (Oleg Dzioubinski). Many Bureau members have already confirmed their participation and are included as speakers/panellists in the agenda. If members of the Bureau can encourage Ministers or Deputy Ministers from their countries to participate in the Forum and its High-Level Policy Dialogue it would be welcome.

Two workshops are part of the GEEE session: *Workshop on promoting energy efficiency in Azerbaijan and other countries of the region* (organized by UNDP/GEF/UNECE) and *Workshop on Global Energy Efficiency Accelerators* (organized by UNIDO/C2E2/UNECE).

Gabriela Prata Dias informed that she is waiting for confirmation from the Government about her participation in the Baku Forum and GEEE session but may have to travel to another event. However she may be able to participate in the 25th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy in Geneva on 28-30 September. Antonela Solujić requested to be added to the list of speakers for the *Workshop on promoting energy efficiency*.

Item 4. Election of officers (Chair and Vice-Chairs) of the GEEE Bureau for the next two-year term.

Secretariat reminded the Bureau that the election of officers for the next two-year period will be held at the 3rd session. Note to UNECE member States was sent to the Permanent Missions in Geneva in June 2016. Nominations to the Bureau should be sent up to 10 days before the session. The following countries have nominated current Bureau members: Belarus, Croatia, and Germany. Georgia has nominated Natalia Jamburia as a candidate to be elected to the Bureau. Tim Farrell (C2E2), Benoît Lebot (IPEEC), and Martin K. Patel (University of Geneva) expressed their interest to continue serving on the Bureau if supported by member States. Bureau members supported this proposal. Bureau members from Serbia, Portugal and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to serve on the Bureau as they were elected at the session one year ago.

Tim Farrell informed that he would like to step down as the Chair because his tenure with C2E2 is ending and he is planning to return to Australia in the second half of 2017. Members of the Bureau thanked Tim Farrell for serving as Chair and for his contribution to the work of GEEE and its Bureau. Secretariat informed the Bureau that nomination of Aleksandar Dukovski as Chair of the GEEE is expected. Members of the Bureau supported this nomination. Tim Farrell thanked all Bureau members and secretariat for their support and efforts.

Chair suggested that if needed the Bureau can meet informally in Baku. All members of the Bureau will be duly informed if such a meeting takes place.

Chair also informed the Bureau that he will be representing GEEE at the 25th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy in September. He will report on the progress of implementation of the Work Plan of GEEE and moderate a session on Energy efficiency in the built environment. Participation of other Bureau members in the Committee session is welcome.

Item 5. Initial discussion on the mandate and work plan for 2018-2019.

Chair informed the Bureau that a work plan for 2018-19 will need to be prepared by mid-2017. Secretariat explained that the session of GEEE next year (like this year) will take place after the session of the Committee (31 October – 1 November 2017 and 26-28 September 2017 respectively). In view of this, the draft work plan will have to be developed and agreed by written procedure and

request for renewal of mandate and approval of work plan submitted in time for the session of the Committee.

Item 6. Key messages to the Committee on Sustainable Energy and key elements for the Conclusions and Recommendations.

Chair informed the Bureau that a draft of main conclusions and recommendations related to the work of GEEE has been submitted to the Bureau of the Committee and feedback from the Committee Bureau is expected. Chair thanked members of the Bureau for their input in developing these conclusions and recommendations.

Chair and secretariat informed the Bureau that a draft of more detailed conclusions and recommendations of the GEEE session needs to be prepared. Chair and secretariat will prepare the initial draft and will send to the Bureau for input.

Item 7. Other business.

Oleg Dzioubinski informed the Bureau that he will be participating in the UN Sabbatical Programme from mid-November 2016 to mid-March 2017 doing research on the topic *Overcoming barriers to investing in energy efficiency – a policy analysis* at the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency. At the time of the call he was on a mission to Copenhagen for initial discussions with several staff members at C2E2. This research will contribute to the implementation of the work plan of GEEE.

Chair and secretariat reminded the Bureau that the 7th forum in Baku is also a preparation for the 8th Forum and energy ministerial conference in Astana, Kazakhstan. Draft outcome of the 7th Forum will feed into the Astana Forum and Ministerial. The dates are 11-14 June 2017 with the Energy Ministerial planned on 11 June (next day after the opening of EXPO 2017 “Future Energy”). Preparations to the ministerial conference is an opportunity to raise profile of energy efficiency and the Group of Experts. Comments from the Bureau on the Draft Outcome of the 7th Forum (http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/comm25/ECE_ENERGY_2016_8_7th_Forum_Final.pdf) are welcome and can be sent to the secretariat (Stefanie Held and Oleg Dzioubinski). Committee session in September will discuss Baku and Astana Fora. Participation of Bureau members is welcome. Gabriela Prata Dias requested information on the Committee session to be sent to her.

Zlatko Pavičić informed the Bureau of the meeting in Brussels related to the EU project NER400 Innovation Fund. Please see more detailed information on the meeting and the project in the Annex.

Zoe Lagarde informed the Bureau of the planned IPEEC meeting on 21-22 September in Paris that will provide an opportunity for an update on the work of IPEEC's Task Groups including a ‘policy deep-dive’ into work on energy efficiency finance led by Mexico and France. IPEEC works intensively with these countries and other G-20 countries on financing and investments in energy efficiency.

Chair thanked the Bureau for their participation and closed the call.

Annex

Notes from the High Level Roundtable on Low-Carbon Innovation hosted by the European Commission on 9 June 2017 in Brussels (provided by Vice Chair Zlatko Pavičić)

The European Commission hosted a [High Level Roundtable on Low-Carbon Innovation](#) on 9 June in Brussels to gather stakeholders' views on the future NER400 Innovation Fund. The Conference was chaired by Director General of DG CLIMA, Jos Delbeke and the EIB was represented by Roland Schulze. The Director General of DG CLIMA, Jos Delbeke, has invited senior people from some organisations to attend in person. His invitation says the roundtable "will enable an exchange of ideas on how to make best use of the opportunities to be provided by the Innovation Fund". Initially the Fund was planned on 450M€ funding level but at this point European Commission gently promoting an increase in the Innovation Fund pot beyond its proposal. It can be expected on 600M€ level. EC's proposal is focused on demonstration projects and approximately 60/75% of total new development costs can be supported by this Program. This funding Program is open only to EU Member States.

Fundamental objective of the Program is to finance all innovations that contribute to energy efficiency. The NER400 Innovation Fund programme should support the new innovative production of renewable energy, CCU and CCS. Innovation Fund should also support product innovation, not just process innovation. The focus, for projects in industry, must be on cutting process emissions because NER400 Innovation Fund's purpose is to help European companies protect themselves from carbon leakage.

During the Conference it was highlighted that the transition to a global low-carbon economy demands a fundamental shift in investment and economic development. The Paris Agreements marks its beginning. Europe has already shown that it is possible to decouple economic growth from emissions, and it has become a world leader in low-carbon technologies.