



Report of the First Meeting of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings

Geneva, Switzerland
30-31 October 2017

1. Introduction

1. The first meeting of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings was held on 30-31 October 2017 in Geneva. It was jointly organized by the Committee on Housing and Land Management and the Committee on Sustainable Energy's Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency. The meeting aimed to operationalize the work of the Joint Task Force and discuss the approaches to a study on mapping existing energy efficiency standards in buildings in the ECE region. The Joint Task Force discussed and agreed on the proposed activities until 31 December 2018. The meeting was linked to the fourth session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency held on 31 October-1 November 2017 in Geneva. The meeting of the Joint Task Force has been organized with the financial support from the project funded by the Governments of Denmark and the Russian Federation.

Attendance

2. Representatives of the following ECE countries participated: Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Georgia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Ukraine.

3. Representatives of the following United Nations programmes and specialized agencies attended: the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

4. Representatives of the following international organizations attended: Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

5. Representatives of non-governmental organizations, private sector and academia, as well as independent experts also attended.

2. Session A: Framing the issue

6. Ms. Ivonne Higuero, Director of the UNECE Forests, Land and Housing Division, and Mr. Scott Foster, Director of the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division, opened the first meeting of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings and pointed out the important role of the Joint Task Force in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular, SDG7 on affordable and clean energy and SDG11 on sustainable cities and communities. Both underlined the importance of strong partnerships in the ECE region and around the globe to achieve the common aim of smarter, more efficient, more sustainable and more livable cities.

7. Mr. Burkhard Schulze-Darup, Co-Chair of the Joint Task Force, opened the panel discussion and welcomed the participants of the meeting, also on behalf of Marko Nokkala, Co-Chair of the Joint Task Force who was not able to attend. Ms. Gabriela Prata Dias (Copenhagen Centre for Energy Efficiency) presented on "The Copenhagen Centre for Energy Efficiency"; Ms. Anna Caterina Rossi (International Standards Organization-ISO) and Jaap Hogeling presented on "Energy Efficiency in Buildings in ISO"; Mr. Frances Bean (Buildings Performance Institute Europe-BPIE) presented on "the Buildings Performance Institute Europe"; Mr. Martin Russell-Croucher (Association of European Experts in Buildings and Construction-AEEBC) presented on "the Association of European Experts in Buildings and Construction"; Ms. Iris Behr (Institute for Housing and Environment Buildings-IWU) presented on "RentalCal: European housing framework for the profitability of energetic retrofitting investments – impacts on energy efficiency standards"; Mr. Jim

Freihaut (Pennsylvania State University) presented (by video link) on “Establishing a Virtual, Vertically Integrated Product Delivery Building Industry”; and Mr. Richard C. Yancey (Building Energy Exchange) presented (by video link) on “Building Energy Exchange: introduction”.¹ They presented their initiatives and projects for improving energy efficiency in buildings and further explained how their expertise and work could be of help to the work of the Joint Task Force in order to support improving energy efficiency in buildings in the ECE region.

3. Session B: Preliminary approaches to the mapping of existing standards and technologies for energy efficiency in the UNECE region

8. The Co-Chair asked the secretariat to provide background information on the Joint Task Force. Ms. Domenica Carriero (UNECE), coordinator of the work of the Joint Task Force under the Committee on Housing and Land Management, informed about the establishment of the Joint Task Force by the Committee on Housing and Land Management and the Committee on Sustainable Energy in 2015 and on the project “Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings in the UNECE region”. Its implementation started in July 2017. The secretariat informed the delegates about the proposed activities of the Joint Task Force for the period until 31 December 2018. They include:

- Mapping of existing energy efficiency standards in buildings in the ECE region
- Development of best practices for existing standards and technologies
- Establishment of an online database of experts on energy efficiency in buildings
- Mapping of existing technologies to enhance energy efficiency in buildings, gap analysis and recommendations for their use in the region
- Workshops and seminars in the framework of the Joint Task Force.

9. Ms. Irina Davis, the consultant recruited by the secretariat to conduct the study on mapping of existing energy efficiency standards in buildings, presented the objective, the proposed methodology for data collection, and the preliminary approaches to the study. The presentation was followed by a discussion focused on the draft version of the questionnaire for data collection. Participants of the Joint Task Force provided comments and questions to the questionnaire. The secretariat informed the members of the Joint Task Force that they would receive a draft of the questionnaire after the meeting and invited them to provide further comments, which will be taken into account in the final version. After the finalization of the questionnaire, it will be distributed to the members of the Joint Task Force and other experts and stakeholders.

4. Session C: Framework guidelines for energy efficiency standards in buildings

10. Mr. Scott Foster introduced the Framework guidelines for energy efficiency standards in buildings and presented several practical steps to implement them, including establishment of a research consortium by universities worldwide, establishment of International Centres of Excellence on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings, and training and capacity building of policy makers, architecture and construction practitioners, and other stakeholders.

¹ All presentations of the meeting are available online at the following websites: <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=46945> and <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=46402>

11. Mr. Burkhard Schulze Darup underlined in his presentation the necessity of implementing the Framework guidelines and then gave the floor to the other panellists for their input. Mr. Helge Schramm (Danfoss) presented (by video link) on “Energy efficiency in buildings: Unlocking the potential of the building sector”; Mr. Luís Castanheira (Investor Confidence Project Europe) presented on “Investor Ready Energy Efficiency”; and Ms. Kankana Dubey (King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center – KAPSARC) presented on “Energy Productivity in Buildings”. The speakers discussed successful pilot project examples as well as challenges for the implementation of the Framework guidelines for energy efficiency standards in buildings. The speakers pointed out the importance of a holistic and integrated approach towards the implementation, business cases for the private industry and investors with short- to medium-term payback periods for investments, and a good monitoring system for energy savings and financial paybacks.

5. Session D: Challenges and good practices for the implementation of energy efficiency standards in buildings

12. The session was moderated by Mr. Aleksandar Dukovski, Chair of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency. The roundtable discussion featured government officials and experts who discussed the situation in their respective countries. The following participants spoke at the roundtable discussion: Mr. Armen Minassian, Advisor to the Chairman, State Urban Development Committee, Armenia; Mr. Leonid Danilevski, Deputy Director, Republic Unitary Enterprise "Institute of Housing NIPTIS", Belarus; Ms. Maja-Marija Nahod, Assistant of the Minister of Construction and Energy Efficiency in Buildings Sector, Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning, Croatia; Mr. Vladimir Sochor, Director of Department of Energy Efficiency and Savings, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Czech Republic; Mr. Nika Tortladze, Chief Specialist, Spatial Planning and Construction Policy Department, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Georgia; Mr. Marko Čanović, General Director for Housing, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Montenegro; Mr. Przemysław Perczyński, Chief Expert, Ministry of Infrastructure and Construction, Poland; Mr. Kostiantyn Gura, Acting Director, State Company Subdivision "Green Investment Development Center", State Agency on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving, Ukraine; and Ms. Irina Atamuradova, Senior Expert, UNDP Turkmenistan. They described the status of legislation and standards in their countries for enhancing energy efficiency in buildings. They discussed the main development challenges to improve energy efficiency in buildings and lessons learned in their respective countries.

13. Mr. Aleksandar Duvovski stated that the Energy Efficiency Directive of the European Union provides an important framework for Member States of the European Union and welcomed the progress, especially with standards for new buildings, that has been achieved due to the legislative framework. Many countries in the ECE region are using or planning to harmonize their legislation with the *acquis communautaire*² of the European Union. However, the implementation of existing legislation and standards remains a key challenge in many countries in the ECE region, in particular in the sub-regions of South-East and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. The implementation of standards for retrofitting existing buildings is even more challenging than the implementation of standards for new buildings. The existing housing stock in many countries is old and have not been properly maintained. Informal settlements also exist and present their own set of challenges. Several important issues were highlighted during the discussion: need for accurate and reliable measurement and verification of energy savings; use of smart meters; financial benefits of energy efficiency investments; and awareness raising and training as a means to enhance energy efficient practices among the general public.

² Definition available at https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/policy/glossary/terms/acquis_en

6. Session E: Next steps for the work of the Joint Task Force

14. The participants discussed how the work of the Joint Task Force could help ECE member States to improve energy efficiency in buildings. The participants agreed on the planned activities of the Joint Task Force. There was a proposal to have a special focus on education programmes and on the enforcement of existing standards. Due to the fact that retrofitting buildings or constructing new buildings that meet high-performance standards is a voluntary practice, involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including the energy community, will be crucial for the success of the process. A representative of Armenia, on behalf of the UNDP Office in Armenia, proposed that a workshop on the validation of the results of the mapping of existing standards would be held in Yerevan, Armenia in spring 2018. The delegates welcomed this proposal. The secretariat further informed the delegates that three meetings of the Joint Task Force will be planned until the end of 2018. They include the above-mentioned workshop in Yerevan in April-May 2018; a meeting in Geneva in October 2018 to be organized back-to-back with the seventy-ninth session of the Committee on Housing and Land Management; and a workshop to be held in the framework of the Ninth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Kiev in November 2018.

7. Conclusions

15. The Co-Chair of the Joint Task Force concluded that the focus of Joint Task Force should be on the implementation of energy efficiency standards in buildings. He emphasized the role of the Joint Task Force as a platform for exchange of best practices among experts, practitioners and government officials from ECE member States.

16. The Chair of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency and the secretariat expressed appreciation to the Governments of Denmark and the Russian Federation for their financial contributions. There was a request to member States to provide additional financial support for the activities of the Joint Task Force, particularly for training activities.

17. The Chair of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency expressed appreciation to the Governments of Armenia and Ukraine for the offer to host the workshops in the framework of the Joint Task Force.

18. The secretariat reiterated to the members of the Joint Task Force that they would receive a draft of the questionnaire after the meeting and are expected to provide comments, which will be taken into account in the final version. After the finalization of the questionnaire, it will be distributed to the members of the Joint Task Force and other experts and stakeholders in the ECE member States.

19. Mr. Burkhard Schulze-Darup, Co-Chair of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings, and Mr. Aleksandar Dukovski, Chair of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency, jointly closed the first meeting of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings.

For the conclusions and recommendations of the fourth session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency related to the work of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings, please see the document ECE/ENERGY/GE.6/2017/2 Report of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency on its fourth session (section IV, paras. 7-13).³

For the conclusions and recommendations of the seventy-eighth session of the Committee on Housing and Land Management related to the work of the Joint Task Force on Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings, please see the document ECE/HBP/190 Report of the Committee on Housing and Land Management on its seventy-eighth session (section III B (c), paras. 24-27).⁴

³ It is available at http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/geee/geee4_Oct2017/Report_GEEE-4_31Oct-1Nov2017_gDoc.pdf

⁴ It is available at http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/documents/2017/ECE_HBP_190.eng.pdf.