

**Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency  
Investments for Climate Change Mitigation,  
Sixteenth Session, 20-22 October 2010**

Opening Remarks

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Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to welcome you to the 16<sup>th</sup> session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation in my capacity both as the Deputy Executive Secretary of the UNECE and the Officer-in-Charge of the Sustainable Energy Division. This session takes place only four months after the previous session in June but significant progress has been achieved under the Financing Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Investments for Climate Change Mitigation (FEEI) Project since then.

At the end of September, UNECE jointly with ESCAP, UNDP, UNEP and the Government of Kazakhstan held the International Energy Efficiency Forum in Astana. It gathered over 110 participants from more than 20 countries (among them 9 countries of the FEEI Project) and served as a venue for exchange of experience between countries from both within and outside UNECE region. Particular focus of the Forum was on the ways and

means of financing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Another conference – on implementation of energy efficiency projects in Russian Federation – and a capacity building seminar were conducted in Tomsk in June.

Design of the investment fund is getting close to its completion thus making possible the launch of the fund. Conning, Investment Fund Designer contractor, continued visits to participating countries and work with the investment community. We expect to hear today information on the lead investor for the future fund.

National Participating Institutions (NPI) and National Coordinators were active in this period. Among the highlights are arranging Conning meetings with project developers, banks and government officials in their countries, work with EnEffect on national project websites, and participation in the Astana Forum. Almost all first grants are completed, and NPIs from 5 countries have started implementing the second grants. Developing a pipeline of projects for the investment fund is one of the main tasks in the second series of grants.

Development of a Website and Internet Communications Network of Energy Efficiency Managers in Eastern Europe continued by EnEffect in close cooperation with all stakeholders of the project. EnEffect has also published the next issue of the Project Newsletter, which is available in the room and gives the latest information on the project developments.

The Seminar on Policy Reforms that is part of this session is another important step in the project implementation. It builds upon the seminars and workshops that have taken place earlier in Geneva, Kiev and Astana, the work done under the Regional Analysis of Policy Reforms to Promote Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Investments, and most importantly on the actual changes in policies and legislation that have happened or are under way in the countries. We expect to hear how the recommendations in the Regional Analysis help in shaping these changes.

In my opening remarks I certainly cannot list everything that was done in the last few months. You the delegates and my colleagues working on the project will be discussing these developments for the next three days. I would like to wish you all a productive session and further progress in implementation of the FEEI Project. Thank you for your attention!