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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

Twelfth session

Geneva, 24-25 October 2017

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the twelfth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 24 October 2017¹

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Opening remarks.
4. Seventh joint meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and the Global Methane Initiative Coal Subcommittee.
5. Activities and priorities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and its Committee on Sustainable Energy.
6. Report on implementation of the work plan for 2016-2017.
7. Conclusions and recommendations of the Workshop on Coal Mine Methane and Abandoned Mine Methane in the context of Sustainable Energy.

¹ Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations need to register online (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=44868>) or by e-mail (cmm.energy@unece.org) if possible at least two weeks prior to the session. On the day of the meeting, delegates are requested to present themselves at least 45 minutes prior to the start time at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix opposite the Red Cross Building (see the map on the Energy Division's website) for the issuance of an identification badge. Registration at the Pregny Gate is open every work day from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The secretariat can be contacted by telephone (extension 73966 or 71499).



8. Work plan for 2018-2019.
9. Preparations for the thirteenth session of the Group of Experts.
10. Any other business.
11. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations.
12. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with the rules of procedure of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the first item on the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda. The documents for the session will be published on the ECE Sustainable Energy Division coal mine methane website² as they become available. A detailed timetable for the session also will be posted.

2. Election of officers

At its eleventh session, the Group of Experts elected a Bureau to serve for two years, until the end of 2017. Following the request for nominations sent to member States in July 2017, the Group of Experts will elect its new Bureau to serve until the end of 2019.

3. Opening remarks

Opening remarks addressing recent achievements of the Group as well as its goals for the future will be delivered. The activities of the Group will be presented in the context of the most important developments in the fields of methane management in general, and coal mine methane in particular.

4. Seventh joint meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and the Global Methane Initiative Coal Subcommittee

The Coal Subcommittee of the Global Methane Initiative (GMI) is one of the Group of Experts' key stakeholders. The twenty-fifth meeting of the GMI Coal Subcommittee will be held within the framework of the twelfth session of the ECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and will, amongst other issues, discuss joint activities.

5. Activities and priorities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and its Committee on Sustainable Energy

The secretariat will update the Group of Experts on the relevant decisions and outcomes of the twenty-sixth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy that will take place in Geneva on 26-28 September 2017. The Chair of the Group of Experts will present on the

² <http://www.unece.org/energy/se/cmm.html>

progress of the cross-cutting project on transformation of the energy sector. The Group of Experts will be informed of the “Pathways to Sustainable Energy” project recently started under the auspices of the Committee. Potential involvement of the Group in this project, within the scope of its expertise, will be explored and discussed.

6. Report on implementation of the work plan for 2016-2017

The Bureau and the secretariat will report on the status of implementation of the Group of Experts’ work plan for 2016-2017, wherein the Group of Experts has been asked to:

- (a) Revise and update the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines;
- (b) Disseminate the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines;
- (c) Launch and support the work of the International Centres of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane;
- (d) Collect and disseminate case studies on the application of best practice guidance in specific coal mines in different regions of the world;
- (e) Expand the Group of Experts’ scope of work to cover integrated methane management in the context of sustainable development;
- (f) Continue to provide advice on coal mine methane related standards to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and other international, national and regional market-based coal mine methane emission reduction mechanisms.

The secretariat will inform the Group of Experts of the progress in implementation of the extrabudgetary project “Dissemination of best practices in the abatement, recovery and use of methane”. The project is implemented through targeted, demand-driven workshops, following the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Decision 222/2011 to “invite Members States of the United Nations, international organizations and the regional commissions to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures to ensure the application of the Best Practice Guidance [for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines (ECE Energy Series No. 31)] in countries worldwide.”

Representatives of the International Centres of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane in Poland and in China will report to the Group of Experts on the status and activities of the respective Centres. Work plans for activities in each Centre will be presented to the Group of Experts for review, guidance, and approval.

7. Conclusions and recommendations of the Workshop on Coal Mine Methane and Abandoned Mine Methane in the context of Sustainable Energy

The Group of Experts will be briefed on the discussions and outcomes of the Workshop on Coal Mine Methane and Abandoned Mine Methane in the context of Sustainable Energy that is to be held on 23 October 2017 in Geneva back-to-back with the twelfth session of the Group of Experts. The Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will summarize the agreed conclusions and recommendations arising from the Workshop. The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt the recommendations to serve as guidelines in implementation of the relevant activities prescribed in the Group of Experts’ work plan for 2018-2019.

8. Work plan for 2018-2019

At its twenty-sixth session on 26-28 September 2017, the Committee on Sustainable Energy will consider adopting the work plan of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane for 2018-2019 (ECE/ENERGY/2017/7 and ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2017/3). Noting that the work plan for 2018-2019 is ambitious and novel in terms of its scope and activities, the Group of Experts will discuss the tasks set forth in the document with a view to identifying member States, organizations and experts willing to take an active role in delivering on them.

9. Preparations for the thirteenth session of the Group of Experts

The Group of Experts will discuss the preparations for its thirteenth session. Possible key topics for the substantive portion of the session will be proposed and discussed. The thirteenth session of the Group of Experts is scheduled tentatively for September 2018 in Geneva back-to-back with the twenty-seventh session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, unless the Group of Experts decides otherwise.

10. Any other business

The meeting may discuss any other pertinent issues that arise before or during the session and that fall within the scope of the Terms of Reference of the Group of Experts. To the extent possible, delegates are encouraged to notify the Chair and the secretariat in advance if they wish to raise any issues under Item 9.

11. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations

The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt conclusions and recommendations as may be agreed.

Draft conclusions and recommendations will be circulated to participants and Geneva Permanent Representations at least ten days before the start of the meeting.

12. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

The Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will summarize the agreed conclusions and recommendations. The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt its report based on a draft prepared by the secretariat, following which the Chair will close the meeting.

III. Tentative timetable

Below is a tentative timetable that is subject to change. An updated timetable will be posted on the ECE Coal Mine Methane website³.

³ <http://www.unece.org/energy/se/cmm.html>

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
24 October 2017	
10:00	Item 1: Adoption of the agenda
10:15	Item 2: Election of officers
10:30	Item 3: Opening remarks
10:45	Item 4: Seventh joint meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and the Global Methane Initiative Coal Subcommittee
11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:45	Item 4: Seventh joint meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and the Global Methane Initiative Coal Subcommittee (continued)
13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
15:00	Item 4: Seventh joint meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and the Global Methane Initiative Coal Subcommittee (continued)
18:00	Networking Event
25 October 2017	
10:00	Item 5: Activities and priorities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and its Committee on Sustainable Energy
11:00	Item 6: Report on implementation of the work plan for 2016-2017
13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
15:00	Item 7: Conclusions and recommendations of the Workshop on Coal Mine Methane and Abandoned Mine Methane in the context of Sustainable Energy
15:20	Item 8: Work plan for 2018-2019
16:20	Item 9: Preparations for the thirteenth session of the Group of Experts
16:40	Item 10: Any other business
17:00	Item 11: Adoption of conclusions and recommendations
17:30	Item 12: Adoption of the report and close of the meeting
18:00	<i>End of the session</i>
