

Item 9: Activities and priorities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and its Committee on Sustainable Energy

Talking Points - Mr. Scott Foster, SED Director

Committee on Sustainable Energy

The Committee on Sustainable Energy (CSE) held its 26th session in Geneva on 26-28 September 2017, with active participation of the Group of Experts on Gas (GEG) – GEG Chair is Vice-Chair of the Bureau of the CSE ex-officio.

The main theme of the 26th session was “accelerating the delivery of energy sustainable development.”

CSE considers the work of the Group of Experts on Gas as fundamental to delivering on its core mandate – energy for sustainable development -- and has therefore:

- Noted with appreciation the progress that GEG has made on delivering on its mandated activities and the work plan for 2016-2017.
- Approved the request of the GEG for extension of its mandate until 31 December 2021 and the Work Plan of the GEG for 2018-2019 with a possibility of extension.
- Noting that a proposal was made at the fourth session of the Group of Experts on Gas to upgrade the GEG into a Working Party, requested the secretariat to prepare a concept note with more information for submission to the fifth session of the GEG. You can find this note as an official UN document. ECE/ENERGY/GE.8/2018/3 titled: “Implications of a possible upgrade of the Group of Experts on Gas to a Working Party”.
- Further requested the Group of Experts to report its recommendation(s) on this proposal to the CSE’s twenty-seventh session. A draft C&R on this topic was circulated to experts and member States and will be discussed under this agenda item. CSE is looking forward to hearing the views of the Group of Experts on Gas regarding possible upgrade into a Working Party at its next session on 26-28 September 2018.

Since the 26th session, CSE Bureau discussed during its meetings and calls some critical topics that would add value at the political level. Here are a few key themes:

- The role of fossil fuel in sustainable energy systems; the role of gas.
- Stranded assets and costs in the transition.
- Grid stability, renewable energy integration, big data and cyber security.
- Infrastructure development, modernization and financing.
- Game-changing technologies, digitalization in the transition.
- Removing harmful subsidies; energy pricing, end-use tariffs.

Pathways to Sustainable Energy

The role of gas to attain the 2030 Agenda for the UNECE region is crucial.

The GEG has an important role to play to shape the inputs and help interpret the outputs of the project on gas.

The CSE has asked for a more direct involvement of all EGs in its 26th session.

The CSE Bureau would like to see enhanced involvement of the GEG in 2018, in preparation for a dialogue on technology and policies for member States to meet the 2030 Agenda on energy.

There is a possibility to work with the project team now, or to participate in a workshop on 24 September 2018.

The 9th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development

The 9th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development will be held in Kiev on 6-9 November.

It is organized jointly by the Government of Ukraine and the five United Nations Regional Commissions.

Its intent is to agree on a balanced set of concrete and effective policy options and to inform key political processes about our collective insights on energy for sustainable development.

The Forum will consider the solutions proposed during the Energy Ministerial at the outset of the Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 11 June 2017.

As technological innovation and decarbonisation pathways cannot do without social innovation and change, the Forum seeks to bridge the gap between declared ambition and concrete actions.

We hope to see GEG and its network strongly present at the 9th Forum and at many future ones.
