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ЕВРОПЕЙСКАЯ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ  
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR EUROPE

## **ECE Committee on Sustainable Energy (CSE)**

### **Bureau Call**

**Geneva, 25 February 2015, 15.00-17.00**

### **Bureau Call Report - BMR Nr. 2015/2**

#### **Present, CSE Bureau:**

Ms. Sarah Duhr, Germany, for the Acting Chair,

Mr. Jean-Christophe Fuëg, Vice-Chair,

Ms. Lucía Mora Ruiloba for Mr. Francisco de la Flor, Mr. Tim Farrell, Chairs of Expert Groups.

#### **Secretariat, ECE Sustainable Energy Division (SED):**

Mr. Scott Foster, Director, SED, Mrs. Stefanie Held, Ms. Charlotte Griffiths, Mr. Gianluca Sambucini,

Mr. Viktor Badaker, Mr. Branko Milicevic, Mr. Vahan Kotanjyan, Mr. Oleg Dzioubinski.

#### **Apologies received:**

Mr. Jürgen Keinhorst, Acting Chair, Mrs. Nataliya Boytsun, Vice-Chair, Mr. Ulrich Benterbusch, Mr. David MacDonald and Mr. Ray Pilcher, Chairs of Expert Groups

Mr. Talyat Aliev, Mr. Jarad Daniels, Vice-Chairs, separate phone calls made

Mr. Sergio Garribba (technical difficulties with the dial in), separate remarks attached

Mr. Barry Worthington, Chair of Expert Group, and Ms. Adriana Arevalo, United States Energy Association (technical difficulties with the dial in)

#### **Immediate action points**

- SED secretariat: Preparations for open-ended consultations and invitation sent to member States as soon as possible
- SED secretariat: Confirmation of the arrangements for the next Bureau call/meeting (1 or 15 April 2015).
- All: Comments on energy efficiency standards in buildings as soon as possible.

#### **Main discussion points**

##### **Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda**

- The agenda was adopted as presented.

##### **Item 2 Brief Updates**

- 75<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Committee: In the absence of the Acting-Chair, the Director of SED reported briefly on the outcomes from the 75<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Committee. The Acting-Chair had presented the work of the Committee with a focus on the three expert groups, for which work plans needed to be approved and extended. The Executive Committee approved the work plans for the Groups of Experts on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and extended the work plan for the Expert Group on Resource Classification until the end of 2015. The Executive Committee was also informed about the plans to approve the report of the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the Committee at its 24<sup>th</sup> session and about the arrangements for the open-ended

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consultation meeting in May. During the Executive Committee meeting, UNECE's Executive Secretary reported on the developments of the Gas Centre. The minutes of the 75<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Committee will be distributed when available. The minutes of the 74<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Committee were distributed to the Bureau for information, as the work of the Committee is favourably mentioned in several places.

- 66<sup>th</sup> Commission session in April 2015: The Director of SED briefly described progress. The agenda has been distributed and three Bureau members have confirmed attendance to the Commission session. Unfortunately, the targeted keynote speaker, Mr. Chad Holiday, declined due to a board meeting at Bank of America and Mr. Kandeh Yumkella already had a previous engagement. An answer of the current CEO of Total is expected soon. Mr. Barry Worthington has accepted the invitation.
- *Resource Classification Week*: The Secretariat provided a brief update of the state of preparations for the *Resource Classification Week*, upcoming on 28 April – 1 May 2015. Highlights of the meeting include further development of UNFC including mapping to the Russian Federation system and potential mapping to the Chinese system, continuing the development of the specifications for RE, linking RE reporting to UNFC, application of the system for injection projects and case studies. The regional advisor reported on the preparations for a training workshop on resource classification with a focus on Central Asia. Resource classification work in Africa has highlighted the importance of environmental and social issues.
- Gas meetings: 126 stakeholders participated in the meetings in January 2015, which launched the activities of four task forces on LNG, RE and gas, gas leakages, and gas in transport.
- The Task Force on RE and gas is the latest example in which UNECE offers a platform for interactions between the two sectors and public, private. The Task Force aims to change the conversation between the two sectors on roles in a future energy system. It will work closely with the International Energy Agency and with the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy. The work of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, Cleaner Electricity Production, Coal Mine Methane was also briefly mentioned.
- The secretariat provided information about a recently held event in Israel for experts from 13 countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and the Caucasus. The 5-day seminar offered a mix between a study tour and workshop and was jointly organised by the Government of Israel and UNECE to showcase energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies and the practical implementation of related policies, and to promote knowledge exchange between the participating countries and Israel, as well as between participating countries. Follow up activities are being planned and the Bureau will be informed of next steps. The secretariat stands ready to support other governments in similar engagements.
- Observers: The Director of SED informed that the European Commission has received an invitation as observer to Bureau meetings and activities and in accordance with the wishes of the Committee. A response is outstanding.

### Items 3+4 Open-ended Consultations on UNECE Work on Sustainable Energy 27-28 May 2015 and 24<sup>th</sup> session of the CSE 18-20 November 2015

- The secretariat explained the wider context of the open-ended consultations of the Committee planned for May, which has to be seen in preparation for the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee in November. The secretariat stressed the need to commence preparations for the Programme of Work 2016-2017 for the Committee and its subsidiary bodies as soon as possible and pointed out that the open-ended consultations present a unique opportunity to start the thought process. This was linked to a refinement of the Committee's vision on sustainable energy in the region and revisiting the value added for countries. The Bureau was reminded that key topics on the agenda for November are the renewal of mandates for four expert groups and work plans 2016-2017 for five expert groups.
- Expert groups welcomed the opportunity to report progress to member States and request advice and guidance for the remainder of 2015. For the two newly created expert groups this

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presents the first opportunity to report to the Committee on the implementation of respective work plans. The Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency will be ready to share its first key deliverable: the menu of options for policy makers. The Experts Group will present elements of its work plan 2016-2017 for reactions by countries. The Group of Experts on Renewable Energy will present an update of its key deliverable project with the Renewable Policy Network for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (REN21) and elements of its work plan 2016-2017 for feedback by countries.

- Bureau members concluded that attendance from capitals was vital to shape the future vision and strategy, but that the informal and formal meetings of the Committee should not lead to countries choosing only one of the meetings for attendance. Rather an attractive agenda should be presented that would appeal sufficiently for participation at both meetings.
- The Bureau subsequently discussed approach and content of the meeting based on the proposal that had been circulated. On one hand, aligning with outside, international processes like the Conference of Parties in December (COP21) allows visibility and impact, on the other hand, the niche and value added for the Committee and its subsidiary bodies might more easily be defined and implemented through targeted and visionary work on key issues, even if they are not (yet) on the international agenda. Expert groups should step up and be allowed to take the risk to determine and implement vital activities. Resource classification was mentioned as an example for such a topic and approach, as through persistence and good work a difficult technical topic has risen to international acclaim for the benefit of the UNECE.
- Thoughts were provided on the importance for the Committee to shape its future strategy with cross-cutting issues in mind, e.g. renewable energy and gas or expanding resource classification to renewable energy. This approach would strengthen the Committee at large and increase the participation of member States. The Bureau further recommended a more flexible approach to themes and issues, as UNECE member States are at different stages of development and therefore have different needs. The resulting experience can then be transferred to other regions, for example Asia or Africa, and in this context the Israel experience was cited as an excellent example.
- The Bureau further recommended developing a short strategy paper in preparation of the informal consultation, based on input and guidance from the six expert groups, and focused on sustainable energy activities and the implementation status of active work plans. This could further a common understanding between the Bureau and the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. This could also be done by organising a meeting of the Bureau including the Expert Groups before the open-ended consultations on the big international themes in 2015.
- Cross-cutting conversations involving gas, renewable energy and energy efficiency should be the main parts for such a strategy, not to forget activities that are more difficult to represent like resource classification. The Bureau cautioned to avoid a “ribbon cutting” effect and lose sight of implementation and impact by attaching the work programme too much to international themes.
- Re the agenda for the open-ended consultations, the Bureau recommended to find a common thread and weave it through the event, spilling over into the November meeting. The fact that six expert group chairs could be present in May during the meeting is seen as a powerful opportunity to explore and develop a common sustainable energy vision for the Committee and the sustainable energy subprogramme.

### Item 5 COP21 December 2015

- The Director of SED reported on two recent meetings held in the context of COP21: UNECE Executive Secretary Mr. Bach met Mrs. Figueres, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and SED met with the French Delegation responsible for the organisation of COP21.
- Main questions by the organisers: What makes COP21 a success and how to discuss the challenges related to coal. Negative examples from previous COP meetings were quoted in relation to fossil fuels. Both stressed a need to set something in motion up to and beyond COP21

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that in the long run could target implementation and address in parallel the climate and development agendas.

- UNECE's proposed topics related to 1) the recently developed recommendations on carbon capture and storage, 2) contributions from methane management (gas, gas leakages and gas flaring, coal bed methane, coal mine methane), 3) the smart energy system of the future, including smart integration of renewables and gas, grid management and load control, 4) implementing the Hammamet Declaration on a regional level (report card on energy policies, tracking progress), and 5) cleaner electricity production. Next steps for UNECE include a concept note both to Mrs. Figueres and the French Delegation of targeted contributions from the Committee on Sustainable Energy and, alternatively, how the work we are doing could change the conversation in Paris and beyond.
- The Bureau was assured that activities are being planned and discussed in partnership with major players, including the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).
- Other forthcoming meetings that were mentioned in this context include: SE4All meetings in New York (April), Clean Energy Ministerial (May), UN General Assembly (September), G20 (November), IEA Ministerial (November).
- The Bureau cautioned on the collaboration between gas and renewables with regards to potential lobbying. The focus should be on implementation, same with the implementation of the Hammamet Declaration and policy scorecards: The real value comes from implementation and enforcement, which is especially important in the area of standards and building codes, a new area of activity for energy efficiency, but one where many standards already exist.
- The Bureau further recommended to analyse the Communication from the Commission on the Energy Union (COM(2015)80) and its impact for UNECE member States.

### Item 6 Proposal from the Russian Federation for a study to assess pathways for the region to attain sustainable energy for all

- In the absence of Mr Aliev the secretariat reported from a recent conversation with the Russian Federation on the proposal for a study to assess pathways for the region to attain sustainable energy. A scenario building workshop held at the auspices of the forthcoming open-ended consultations could be the beginning of a guided and interactive exchange on views about future energy scenarios. These, once developed and approved, could be the basis for a modelling exercise, if still desired. In the first instance, however, work would concentrate on exploring current scenarios and determine what works and what does not. The SED Director explained that the proposed scenario building approach has successfully been used by the private sector and is based on a series of two interactive workshops, preparatory work including individual interviews, and joint story development. This approach allows taking into account a variety of perspectives creating scenarios based on solid stories and attached to timelines and milestones). A decision about further modelling can be taken at a later stage and build on the findings and assumptions of the scenarios. A concept is being developed by the Russian Federation and will be shared with the Bureau before its next physical meeting. 20-30 energy experts will be invited to participate.

### Item 8 AOB

- In addition to the point on EE standards, two items were added to the list:
- The secretariat provided a brief update on the status of the joint project with IEA and REN21 about the uptake of RE in the region. Funding has now been received from two member States, but more is needed and the secretariat reminded the Bureau of the project proposal.
- The secretariat has received offers to host the 6<sup>th</sup> Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development from Turkey and Armenia, and is trying to finalise dates and conditions.

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- The secretariat informed the Bureau on the status of the joint project with the Committee on Housing and Land Management about energy efficiency standards in buildings. A questionnaire has been received and the Bureau was asked for comment. Comments that were made will be transmitted to the secretariat of the Committee on Housing and Land Management. These include: a more thorough scene setting and definition of value added; taking into account local and regional normative instruments and a clear involvement of the team at international standardization bodies; a need for mapping to determine the gap. Comments also recommended to avoid white goods and remain focused on the building shell and to take into account climatic zones.

### Item 7 Dates and agendas

- The previously announced meeting date of 1 April 2015 no longer seems convenient for the Acting-Chair. Because several Bureau members will be present during the 66<sup>th</sup> Commission session in Geneva, the secretariat has been asked to explore the possibility for the next physical meeting of the Bureau between 14-16 April. WebEx based meetings could also be an option, as they allow an interactive and moderated engagement and the sharing of information.
- Important dates for the agenda: Open-ended consultations on UNECE Work on Sustainable Energy: 27-28 May 2015, possibly attached to a scenario building workshop on 26 May 2015.

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