

**Committee on Sustainable Energy
Bureau Meeting/Call
Geneva and online, 22 June 2020, 15.00-17.30**

Bureau Report No. 2020/3

Attendance (online)

Jürgen Keinhorst, Chair

James Gannon, Alexander Tolparov, Jean-Christophe Fueeg, Jarad Daniels, Margalita Arabidze (for David Tvalabeishvili), Raymond Pilcher, Aleksandar Dukovski, Francisco de la Flor Garcia, Sigurd Heiberg (for Dave MacDonald), Barry Worthington, Kostiantyn Gura (for Nazir Ramazanov), Vice-Chairs

Lea Bigot, Germany, Sergio Garribba, Italy, Nikoloz Kholodov, Georgia, Liudmila Seybanova, Rafael Guerra (Enagas), Alexander Krowka, USEA

From the secretariat:

Scott Foster, Charlotte Griffiths, Michal Drabik, Igor Litvinyuk, Stefanie Held, Branko Milicevic, Iva Brkic, Laurence Rotta, Oleg Dzioubinski

SUMMARY AND ACTION POINTS

Actions:

- Secretariat to organise follow up Bureau call on 9 July 2020
- Bureau to provide further comments to the documents sent on 12 June 2020 (Terms of reference (TORs), strategic review, Committee week overview) and 19 June 2020 (annex to Chair's letter)

The **objective** of the call was **to prepare the 29th session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (25-27 November 2020)**. The Bureau discussed objectives and proposed outcomes and deliverables of the Committee session. The resulting overview of the Committee week is attached to this message.

CALL SUMMARY

1. **WELCOME**

- The Chair and the Director welcomed the Bureau.
- The Agenda was accepted as proposed, a discussion on Pathways II and other areas of interest including the EC extrabudgetary project on resource management was deferred to another date (next meeting?)
- The Chair stressed the importance to receive documents 10 days before the Bureau call/meeting, so that everybody would have enough time to consult with capitals and make comments

2. **AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE COMMITTEE 29TH SESSION: OBJECTIVES AND DELIVERABLES**

- The Bureau discussed the objectives and deliverables of the 29th session
- The Bureau accepted the motto of the 29th session to be: Pursuing carbon neutrality to advance the energy transition. The Bureau made suggestions to the agenda overview concerning hydrogen and concerning the title of the Thursday afternoon session on carbon neutrality. The resulting overview is attached to these minutes and will serve as a basis for the draft Agenda for

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the 29th session. The resulting draft agenda will be distributed to the Committee during the summer for approval no later than 8 September 2020

- The Bureau recommended to connect actions and outcomes and to be more outcome driven. Documents should be presented to the Committee for adoption and subsequent action, and the Bureau would like to play a role in defining these
- The Bureau wished to link the work of the expert groups to the Committee session, in particular on carbon neutrality, as the 16th session of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Systems will be held immediately prior to the Committee on 23-24 November 2020
- There could be a link between the forthcoming session of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE – parent body) to enhance visibility and impact of the Committee’s work. Recommendations and outcomes could then impact activities and high level discussions in 2021, including UNFCCC and COP meetings

3. DRAFT STRATEGY PAPER FOR THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SUBPROGRAMME

- The Bureau was informed that the objective of the strategy paper is to set the stage for the future direction of the Committee
- The Bureau wished for bolder statements and also made reference to the role of the UN and its agencies including UNECE
- Bureau members cautioned that it was imperative to stay connected to what mattered in energy as many actors existed in the crowded energy space; it suggested to stir attention, pursue targeted outreach and priority setting in order to stay relevant
- The Bureau advised not to repeat what others say but strive for topics of interest that cover new areas of value added; in particular it mentioned carbon markets, financial impacts and reality checks. There was a clear call for prioritizing work and taking action with an efficient return for countries
- In this context, there was a call to connect ambitions with available resources, strive towards political relevance while remaining agile and focussed
- The draft strategy is still open for comment

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND GUIDELINES FOR THE COMMITTEE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

- The TORs are based on the document presented to the Committee in its 28th session and contain the comments by some of you
- The Bureau requested the secretariat to organise a call on 9 July for a deeper discussion on the outstanding points; this discussion is to be chaired by Mr Dukovski, Vice-Chair
- The TORs for the Committee are still open for comment
- The Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency stated that it was working on TORs for its Expert Group that could serve as a guideline for a common document for all six expert groups. The objective of these expert group driven TORs are to clarify the relationship with the Committee and decision making in times of crisis or inability to meet, as a result of Covid-19 for example
- The Bureau stressed that expert groups should be able to work in a technology agnostic way and propose its analysis based on sound data and expert knowledge to the Committee for higher level and political consultations when ready, as such advocated for a bottom up approach that allows a holistic and systematic approach to energy
- The annex to the Chair’s letter for the ECE as distributed on 19 June is still open for comment

5. YOUR NEXT MEETING

- The Bureau requested a meeting on 9 July 15.00-17.00 to discuss the TORS of the Committee
- Future dates: 21 August (if desired), 8 September (this is an important date just before the Committee deadline, please mark your calendars)

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- Additional call dates can be organised upon request, please suggest times and topics. So far there is a request to discuss Pathways II and also the extrabudgetary project on resource management (EC funding). Written briefs are also available if the Bureau is unable to convene.
6. AOB
- Please bear with us on the minutes of the last two Bureau meetings, they are in preparation and will be distributed soonest.
