

Bureau Meeting Report – GERE BMR N. 2014/1

ECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE)/ Committee on Sustainable Energy Bureau Meeting Geneva, 18 December 2014

Report of the Meeting

Present:

Mr. Ulrich Benterbusch, Chair
Mr. Zeljko Juric, Vice-Chair
Ms. Christine Lins, REN21
Mr. Paolo Frankl, IEA
Mr. Jeffrey Skeer, IRENA

Secretariat:

Mr. Scott Foster, Director, SED
Ms. Stefanie Held, CSE Secretary, SED
Mr. Gianluca Sambucini, GERE Secretary, SED

Item 1. Chair's welcome/ Bureau members tour de table

1. The Chair of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, Mr. Benterbusch, started the first call of the Group of Experts with a welcome statement. Bureau members, observer organizations and the secretariat briefly introduced themselves.

Item 2. Approval of the agenda

2. The agenda was adopted as reflected in the report

Item 3. Implementation of the work plan/ timeline/ priorities

3. The GERE secretary outlined various elements of the work plan, focusing on the timeline for work to be undertaken and deliverables produced within the three main work plan pillars: 1. Status of development in the ECE region; 2. Identification and support of those communities with no access to energy in the ECE region; 3. Exchange of know-how and best practices to increase the renewable energy uptake;
4. Follow-up: an indicative timeline of the work plan implementation is going to be prepared by the secretariat after the call (see here attached).

Item 4. Renewable energy status report in the ECE region in collaboration with REN21; fund-raising and in-kind contributions

5. The Executive Secretary of REN21 briefly presented the key elements related to the possible joint project to prepare a Renewable Energy Status Report in the ECE region. Resources and timeline were clarified: 80-90,000 Euro is the overall amount needed for this project. A secured budget of at least 65.000 Euro would be needed by the beginning of February. Bureau members outlined that to produce a report by November is a very ambitious target. The Head of the RE

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office at IEA pointed out that RE data are not available for Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe and is ready to participate in the development of this report. A preliminary discussion took place between REN21 and IEA at the beginning of the week on the complementary role which could be played by IEA in order to support the process (review data, questionnaire, statistical colleagues who could review data). This would require additional 10-15,000 Euro (within the overall cost estimate of 80-90,000 Euro). The Director of ECE SED anticipated the on-going development of a trust fund for energy projects which is the foundation of this work. He intends to approach priority countries such as RF, US, Denmark and Italy. The Chair outlined that Germany is considering to co-finance the project but not to take the overall resource responsibility.

6. Follow-up: (i) timeline, deadline and costs estimate provided by REN21 and sent to Bureau members; (ii) Contacts/ requests for funding to key missions/ countries in December 2014/ January 2015.

Item 5. Menu of efficient and economic technologies and policies to promote them

7. The Chair outlined how the indication provided by the Group of Experts to develop a menu of efficient and economic technologies and policies is extremely broad. Bureau members and SED Director outlined the need to focus in order to properly use the limited resources. The secretariat pointed out how the identification of policies that promote efficient and economic technologies is essential as key tool to increase the RE uptake. Azerbaijan is ready to organize a workshop which could help the exchange of information and understanding of needs in the sub-region and have an overview of most cost-effective and competitive technologies. A menu of policies options is quite different from country to country and it is up to them to understand what is possible and what is useful. IRENA suggests to focus on few countries from Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe to explore what are the renewable energy solutions and policy instruments. A seminar along these lines will take place in Abu Dhabi on 20 January. IEA also agreed that it is better to focus on the SEE and Central Asia and direct the process towards common systems and share awareness on what the various institutions are doing. However, further work, studies and an Action Plan by country would require additional resources. IEA is ready to support if more resources are available for this work. It is important to consider that policies need to change overtime on the basis of the maturity of technologies and changes in the markets. In addition, technologies have different costs from country to country. The Director pointed out that ECE does not want to initiate a work unless there is a clearly identified added value. On OECD countries, a lot has been done and it is known and it is better to target those countries that would take advantage from the experiences available in the ECE region and would benefit from the work we would do: drawing on the experience and the capability of OECD countries but focus in supporting specific sub-regions in the ECE to review technologies and policy blend. The workshop would represent an excellent tool to allow countries to present their ideas and exchange experiences.
8. Follow-up: (i) Bureau member from Azerbaijan would explore level of resources that could be made available; (ii) The secretariat could work on a first outline once resources and possible date are indicated.

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Item 6. Task force on best practice policies

9. The establishment of a Task Force on Best Practice Policies would facilitate this process of exchange of information on best practices, lessons learned, efficient and economic technologies and related policies. Bureau members would play a relevant role on this and DENA has been identified as being in an excellent position to take the lead of the Task Force.
10. Follow-up: The Chair will explore the possible role within Dena and with the German Government.

Item 7. Ideas on future possible standards development

11. The process of promoting renewable energy best practices among countries at different level of development would allow to the identification of various common needs which might lead to a standard development process. The starting point is to understand what exists, what are the best policies that are relevant. The SED Director mentioned to specific ideas/ suggestions he discussed in a recent meeting with IEA which can be shared with Bureau members. These are ... (Scott to include more ...). We want to include relevant organizations that are already active and would participate in the standard development process. The Director pointed that operators, equipment manufactures and developers would need to be involved so that the perspective of users are correctly captured. A comprehensive collaboration is needed to identify what is useful and would lead to choose the standard/ s to be developed. Chair pointed out that there is a need to do preliminary work on this.
12. Follow-up: The Task Force on Best practice Policies would be in a position to initiate this process and lead to a possible standard development. As per item 6, the Chair will explore internally the possible Dena's commitment.

Item 8. Bureau participation/ contribution to the session of the Group of Experts on Gas on 20-21 January 2015

13. There is a common perception among Bureau members that the two communities do not speak the same language. They should and they tend to be complementary. The IEA representative agreed to be part of the Renewable Energy Task Force of the Group of Experts on Gas and will send someone to represent him on 20 January. Overall, he will find few experts that can help to strengthen the dialogue.
14. Follow-up: The secretariat will set up a call between the GERE Chair and the Chair of the Group of Experts on Gas or of the Task Force. A specific recommendation could be included among those to be considered by the Group of Expert on Gas (GEG) on 20-21 January and might be developed after the call/ exchange in order to strengthen the collaboration and dialogue between the two Group of Experts, including an active collaboration of GEG Bureau members on specific activities of the GERE work plan.

Item 9. AOB

15. There was no other business