

Bureau Meeting Report - BMR N. 2012/4

ECE Committee on Sustainable Energy
Bureau Meeting (via conference call)
6 November 2012

Report of the Meeting

Present: Mr. Sigurd Heiberg, Chairman
Mr. Jean-Christophe Fuëg, Vice-Chair

Secretariat: Mr. Scott Foster, SED
Mr. Gianluca Sambucini, SED

Prior comments were provided by Mr. Jürgen Keinhorst

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda

1. The agenda was adopted as reflected by the report of the meeting.

Item 2. Recommendations and conclusions of the CSE at its 21st session in 2012.

2. The SED Director provided an oral briefing on: (i) Status of the ongoing EXCOM informal consultations on Energy; (ii) Status of the on-going EXCOM informal consultations on UNECE Procedures and Practices. No further informal consultations will take place until there is an agreement on the rules of procedures. This will apply across all of the UNECE once completed.

3. As an agreement on rules of procedures is reached, the positive atmosphere should lead to continue the informal consultations of EXCOM on energy in positive terms. In addition to the five areas under consideration by the informal consultations, i.e. cleaner electricity production from coal and other fossil fuels, energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, coal mine methane and UNFC. Other areas such as the Working Party on Gas, Gas Centre, Energy Security and Electricity not restricted to cleaner electricity from coal and other fossil fuels may be next areas to be considered.

4. The Vice-Chair outlined how the work of the Committee is affected by the EXCOM process and this must be a temporary process otherwise the Committee will have lost its reason to meet and work.

5. The Director expressed his views that an agreement may be reached at the informal consultations by January in relation to all areas although most likely everything will be agreed as the reform review process is also accomplished, most likely by March, to be adopted at the 65th Session of the ECE on the 9th-11th of April. .

Item 3 Programme of the Energy week 2012 including the 21st session of the CSE

6. The Director informed that the meetings of the Groups of Expert on Coal Mine Methane and of Cleaner Electricity from Coal and other Fossil Fuel have been postponed. The workshop on green economy and sustainable cities will proceed as planned and managed by the Housing and Land Management Committee.

7. As feedback to the EU suggestions on the provisional agenda and on a possible two-day session sent to MSs on 29 October, the U.S. sent comments that were circulated among Bureau members and presented during the call. These changes are mostly to keep the order the same as in other UN documents on the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative. (sent before the call).

8. The Vice-Chair Mr. Jürgen Keinhorst was not in a position to participate in the call but sent the enclosed message.

9. On the request to member States to provide contribution on how to translate the Rio+20 resolutions into concrete policies and measures, the Vice Chair said he could give the views of Switzerland, and that he thought there would be a number of issues of importance to the CSE that the EU and others should be interested in bringing forward. Bureau members were encouraged investigate their governments' view and intentions. The Bureau agreed to reduce the time for discussion of the issue.

10. It was discussed whether the Committee should be invited to relate only to the issues on which there was an apparent consensus amongst EXCOM delegates or not. Since the negotiations are on-going, the results are not known. To base the meeting on an anticipated outcome would be inappropriate.

11. The Chair and Vice-Chair agreed to shorten the programme to 2 days to accommodate the request from EU. The risk that the meeting would not have enough time to conclude was recognised to be high for a 2 day meeting.

12. It is proposed that the Bureau members who chair sessions cooperate with the Chairperson and the secretariat to draft the summary of their session that goes into a Chairperson's summary.

13. On the election of officers, the Director will contact Permanent Missions in Geneva of each current Bureau member on their possible nomination as candidates for this year election.

14. The Chair anticipated the intention to send a request to the Chair of EXCOM and the Facilitator on EXCOM energy informal consultations on the conclusions and recommendations and on logistics of producing a report of the meeting for adoption during the session.

Item 4. Next meetings proposed to be in person during the UNECE Energy week in Geneva

15. **The 27th of November at 18:00 hours; and 28th of November at 18:00 hours**, before submitting the report of the session for adoption (the latter to be confirmed by the new Bureau).

Item 5. Any other business

16. None was raised.