

Economic Commission for Europe
Committee on Sustainable Energy

Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane
Tenth session

Geneva, 28 October 2015

Item 12 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of Conclusions and Recommendations

Draft Conclusions and Recommendations arising from the Tenth Session of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane¹

Draft for discussion

Agenda Item 2: Election of Officers

1. The Group of Experts elected a new Bureau to serve in 2016–17.

Agenda Item 6: Report on implementation of the work plan for 2014–15

2. The Group of Experts noted that it had delivered on the concrete activities of the mandate and work plan for 2014–2015 and will report achievements and key milestones at the twenty-fourth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

Agenda Item 7: Report from the fifth joint meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Coal Subcommittee of the Global Methane Initiative (GMI)

3. The Group of Experts thanked GMI and its members for their continued support and collaboration. Noting the synergies between the Group of Experts and GMI, the Group of Experts requested the secretariat to explore a possible strategic alliance between GMI and UNECE that could be formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding between UNECE and GMI.
4. As a practical manifestation of such a strengthened collaboration, the Group of Experts recommended to participate in the GMI Global Methane Forum planned for March 2016.

Agenda Item 9: Work plan for 2016–2017

5. The Group of Experts recommended that its draft work plan for 2016–2017 be submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy for endorsement.
6. The Group of Experts recommended to the Committee on Sustainable Energy that its mandate be extended to 31 December 2017.

¹ The draft conclusions and recommendations will be reviewed by the Group of Experts after each agenda item and updated as needed.

7. Taking note of the extrabudgetary project “Trust fund for dissemination of best practices in the emission abatement, recovery, and use of coal mine methane” approved by the Executive Committee of ECE on 30 June 2015, the Group of Experts recommended to offer its expertise to achieve the principal expected outcome of this project: a better understanding of the good practices in methane management that would result in safer mining operations and better utilization of methane, which would further reduce greenhouse gas emissions from coal mines.

Agenda Item 10: Preparations for the eleventh session of the Group of Experts

8. The Group of Experts recommended the following topics for the substantive portion of its eleventh session: *to be added during the meeting.*

9. The eleventh session of the Group of Experts will be held in October 2016 in Geneva.

Agenda Item 11: Other business

10. The Group of Experts noted the challenge to complete its work in one day and recommended that consideration be given to increasing the duration of future meetings of the Group of Experts to one and a half or two days.

11. The Group of Experts recommended to the Committee on Sustainable Energy that its annual sessions be supported by parliamentary documents and reports as needed in relation to the implementation of the work plan 2016–2017. The Group of Experts recommended to the Committee on Sustainable Energy that the secretariat be invited to continue supporting its work by, inter alia, the following: organizing planned work plan activities, preparing formal documentation required for the development, approval, implementation and reporting of work plan activities, including the translation of official documents into the three official ECE languages (English, French, Russian) to service the Group of Experts’ meetings.

Agenda Item 13: Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

12. The report of the meeting was adopted, including the conclusions and recommendations, subject to any necessary editing and formatting.
