

**ECE Committee on Sustainable Energy
Bureau Meeting (via conference call)
19 October 2012**

Report of the Meeting

Present: Mr. Sigurd Heiberg, Chairman
Mr. Jean-Christophe Fuëg, Vice-Chair
Mr. Sergio Garribba, Vice-Chair
Mrs. Barbara McKee, Vice-Chair (from 15:00 to 15:30)
Mr. Yuriy Panasiuk on behalf of Mrs. Natalia Boitsun, Vice-Chair
Mr. Jürgen Keinhorst, Vice-Chair (from 15:00 to 15:30)
Mrs. Svetlana Beznasyuk on behalf of Mr. Talyat Aliev, Vice-Chair (15:00 to 15:30)

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

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda

1. The agenda was adopted as reflected by the report of the meeting. The sequence was adjusted to respect the time constraints of members.

Item 2. Meeting the needs of member States and the greater UN

2. The Bureau reviewed how the actions of the CSE can take account of and complement the decisions taken by member States at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio (Rio+20), including decisions concerning the Sustainable for All (SE4All) programme as well as the decisions supported in relation to this programme at the meeting in New York on the 24th of September.

3. The bigger agenda involves, *inter alia*, a new business model for the UN whereby the UN applies its convening power to facilitate removal of the obstacles to reforming the international energy system. The ECE region may choose when to play its legitimate part in this, respecting that it produces and consumes nearly half of the primary energy of the world and that the energy industries and financial infrastructure is well seated her.

5. This is not a strong component of the current agenda. The Committee may consider facilitating further multilateral agreements and global/regional normative instruments if the member States, choose to take up the challenge.

Item 3 Status report on the programme of the UNECE Energy Week and discussion

Enclosures:

a. Revised provisional agenda sent to the secretariat from the EU and Cyprus EU presidency (delegations in Geneva) on 18 October.

6. The Director explained that the secretariat has been asked to postpone the meetings of the Groups of Expert on Coal Mine Methane and of Cleaner Electricity from Coal and other Fossil Fuel by the EU. The workshop on sustainable cities will proceed as planned. This workshop was initiated by the SED under the SE4All global action agenda, but is rightly managed by the Housing and Land Management Committee with support from the CSE.

7. The Chair and Secretariat briefed the Vice-Chairs on recent suggestions made by the EU on the basis of the formal provisional agenda. The suggestions on the provisional agenda were discussed by the EU and EU Presidency (delegations in Geneva) and the UNECE secretariat (Director and Secretary of the Committee) on 18 October. A revised version of the provisional agenda, condensed to two days, was sent by the EU to the Secretariat and forwarded to Bureau members for consideration and discussion during the Bureau call. After discussion, the Bureau agreed:

- (i) The progress and outcome of the informal consultations in EXCOM will impact the agenda and determine the recommendations and conclusions that can be agreed and that must be substantiated by discussion. The Bureau expressed concern that the timing of this input presents challenges for the sequence and timing of decision-making by the Committee.
- (ii) The engagement in shaping the agenda by the member States represented by EU is welcome. It must however be agreed also by other member States. The Bureau must serve the full Committee in this respect as it has done in others.
- (iii) The Committee meeting must be decision-driven as has been the intention all along. The aim must be to facilitate best the elaboration of the most important decisions, as seen by the member States. The Bureau agrees that the language should be sharpened to enhance the intentions of the member States in this respect. The Bureau supports the initiative taken by Mr. Garribba to invite the Russian Federation to address the links, if any between the agenda of the CSE and the energy agenda under development for G20 under their chairmanship in 2013. The Russian Federation has not yet concluded on the invitation extended to H. E. Alexander Novak, Minister of Energy to address the CSE in this and other respects.

8. The Director outlined that the past year has been difficult and that substantive work of the Secretariat and the CSE has been hindered by the inability of member States to reach agreement at the 20th Session of the Committee. Member States have been conducting their informal consultations under the auspices of EXCOM directly. A positive atmosphere has now emerged in the informal consultations thanks to the personal investment of the Romanian ambassador, so difficulties should be overcome and agreement on energy in the informal consultations appears to be emerging. The Bureau agreed to engage with their country representatives on the EXCOM to

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encourage them take measures as soon as possible that allow the CSE to serve the intentions of member States in a manner that respects the characteristics of the energy sector and the overriding priorities expressed through EXCOM.

Item 4. Documents to be presented to the CSE for approval (Programme of work and Recommendations)

9. The Chair informed the Bureau members that draft Conclusions and Decisions would have to be sent to member States at least ten days prior the start of the Committee session and that it would therefore be necessary for the Bureau to discuss them by the beginning of November. Inasmuch as the Conclusions and Decisions will be decided in the informal consultations, those discussions may be limited to suggestions for future work to be included in the Chair's summary for future consideration by EXCOM.

10. The Director clarified that the draft programme of work that has been submitted is based on the Draft Programme of Work document presented but not discussed and approved during last year's session. The Programme of Work to be considered during this year's Committee session will lead to approval of a document that will have to be revised at the end of the reform review process. It remains unclear how the approval sequence will work. The Bureau is not directly involved in this process.

11. The Director anticipated that this year's intention is to have a succinct report prepared and submitted for discussion and approval to the Committee during the session with the aim of ending the session with an approved report, thereby avoiding an extended procedure.

Item 5. Next meetings.

12. Bureau members agreed on **6 November** as the date for next Bureau call. A provisional agenda on the call will follow in due course.

Item 6. Any other business

13. None was raised.

(Closed segment).

- UNECE Secretariat issues affecting the CSE

14. After the Bureau Call, an informal discussion took place among Bureau members without the participation of the Secretariat.