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ECE Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (GEEE)

Bureau Call

Geneva, 4 March 2015, 11:00 – 12:30

Bureau Call Report, 11 March 2015

Attendance

GEEE Bureau:

Mr. Tim Farrell, Chair, Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency (C2E2)

Ms. Irina Osipava for Mr. Andrei Miniankou, Vice-Chair, Belarus

Mr. Korkmaz Gül for Mr. Yusuf Yazar, Vice-Chair, Turkey

Mr. Benoît Lebot, Vice-Chair, International Partnership on Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC)

Mr. Martin K. Patel, Vice-Chair, University of Geneva

Secretariat, ECE Sustainable Energy Division (SED):

Mr. Oleg Dzioubinski

Invited experts:

Mr. Aleksandar Dukovski, Director, Energy Agency of the Republic of Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Mr. Panama Bartholomy, Director, Investor Confidence Project Europe

Ms. Domenica Carriero, ECE Housing and Land Management Unit

Apologies received:

Mr. Asaf Rzayev, Vice-Chair, Azerbaijan (technical difficulties with the dial-in)

Ms. Maria Raytcheva, Vice-Chair, Bulgaria

Mr. Zlatko Pavičić, Vice-Chair, Croatia

Mr. Christian Noll, Vice-Chair, Germany

Main discussion points

Item 1 Chair's welcome.

Tim Farrell, Chair of GEEE, opened the conference call and welcomed the participants. He emphasized that GEEE, according to its Terms of Reference should concentrate on: (a) Regulatory and policy dialogue addressing financial, technical and policy barriers to improve energy efficiency; and (b) Sharing experience and best practices in the field of energy efficiency in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region, including on strengthening institutional capacity in energy efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Item 2 Approval of the Agenda.

Chair proposed to approve the Agenda as presented but to start the discussion with Item 5, so that some invited experts could leave after this item. Agenda was approved as presented. It was agreed that the discussion would start with Item 5.

Item 5 Cooperation with the Committee on Housing and Land Management of UNECE on the development of standards on energy efficiency in buildings.

Chair noted the UNECE ability to work on standards and stressed that buildings is one of the most important sector to look at for developing standards.

Representative of the ECE Housing and Land Management Unit (HLM) outlined that preparations have started for the first meeting of the informal expert group for the development of standards on energy efficiency in buildings at the ECE to be held on 20-21 April 2015 in Geneva. This will be a joint activity of HLM and the Sustainable Energy Division (SED). The objective of the informal expert group is to identify a niche, which member States would like to work in. The concept note has been drafted and the draft questionnaire is being finalized and will be sent to member States. The responses to the questionnaire will be analyzed and presented at the meeting. Four potential areas were identified: building materials; heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC); lighting; and appliances.

A number of observations were made. A suggestion was made about the possibility of including resource sustainability and water consumption in the questionnaire but following discussion this was likely to be out of scope. IPEEC indicated they have a Task Group on building codes and in April 2015 they will be publishing a Matrix on Building Codes. There is a need for coordination and a flow of information between the HLM and the IPEEC Task Group. There may be benefits from also inviting other building experts to the informal meeting such as representatives from the Global Building Performance Network (GBPN).

Invitations to the April event, the concept note, and the questionnaire will be sent out by mid-March.

Representative of Investor Confidence Project Europe highlighted its work to increase private capital investments into building renovation. It includes collecting best practices in building renovation standards for EU plus Switzerland and Norway. Sharing information with ECE will be provided. Vice-Chair (IPEEC) informed of the report by UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP-FI) and EU on how to encourage more investments in SME, industry and buildings. A similar initiative will be launched for G20 countries. What is needed for financial institutions to make it easier to invest in EE is an important question.

Item 3 Status of implementation of the Work Plan of GEEE for 2014-2015. Reporting to the Committee on Sustainable Energy on the status of implementation.

Chair informed the Bureau of the Status of implementation of the Work Plan of GEEE for 2014-2015. Activity A "Identification of the state of development of energy efficiency in the ECE region" was completed in November 2014. Activity B "Exchange of know-how and best practices in ECE on how to significantly improve energy efficiency in the ECE region" will be discussed under Item 4. Activity C "Share experience on smart grids and other advanced transmission and distribution technologies" is currently under consideration by the Sustainable Energy Division as a cross-sectoral activity involving other Groups of Experts and will be reviewed in more detail by June 2015.

Reporting to the Committee on Sustainable Energy (CSE) on the status of implementation of the Work Plan will be done by the Chair at the open-ended consultations of CSE on 27-28 May 2015 and at the 24th session of CSE on 19-21 November 2015 in Geneva. Another important date is the second session of the GEEE – 5-6 November 2015. CSE will be kept updated of the developments in the status of implementation regularly by means of electronic communications.

Item 4 Draft study "Best Practices in Policies for Promoting Energy Efficiency in ECE Member States" - overall assessment and next steps.

Chair informed the Bureau that a draft study “Best Policy Practices for Promoting Energy Efficiency. A structured framework of best practices in policies to promote energy efficiency for climate change mitigation and sustainable development” has been circulated to GEEE and to a wider EE community. The first round of comments has been received, a revised draft has been circulated and further comments were requested.

It was noted that the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP) of Turkey (currently under development) should be included in Table 1 of the study. A proposal was made that it may make sense to select certain policies and make a more in-depth evaluation of them. A response was provided that the current number of best practice policies is not excessively high and they have been selected based on their proven successful implementation and effectiveness.

It has been agreed that this draft study is valuable for member States and other stakeholders, and once finalized should be promoted. The Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency would be willing to help with the translation of the paper into Russian and with its wider promotion.

Item 6 Discussion on the ideas for the draft Work Plan of GEEE for 2016-2017 in the context of the Programme of Work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy for 2016-2017. Energy efficiency aspects for sustainable energy.

Chair suggested the draft Work Plan should be in line with current Terms of Reference and mandate of GEEE. He also suggested that ideas for the draft Work Plan can be based on the proposals contained in the draft study “Best Policy Practices for Promoting Energy Efficiency”. One of the proposed tasks – Benchmark country governance and energy efficiency policy capabilities – is being done by the Readiness for Investment in Sustainable Energy (RISE) project of the World Bank. ECE may cooperate with the RISE project. The other three proposed activities include: 1) Cross-sectoral finance policy foundations for the rest of the policies; 2) Utilities policies – work with governments to identify the barriers and options for developing utility delivery of energy efficiency in the ECE region and to develop and implement policies to address gaps; 3) Operational policies for households, transport and industry sectors and stakeholders (specific sectors can be identified later).

It was noted that the approach for the questionnaire in the buildings sector is a good one. Similar questionnaires could be considered for other sectors. It is important to engage other countries to show that these policies may work for you. A suggestion was made to involve Ph.D. students in specific country research. Investor Confidence Project Europe brings together public and private

financiers involved in EE financing and its key role is the outreach, which would help designing programmes that are attractive to investors. Proposed activities present a good opportunity for collaboration and engagement in the Sustainable Energy for All's (SE4ALL) Global Energy Efficiency Accelerator Platform. Currently there are accelerators in buildings, appliances and equipment, lighting, transport, district energy and industry.

Secretariat will prepare an initial draft of the Work Plan.

Item 7 Other business.

Secretariat reported on the discussions with potential host countries regarding the venue of the 6th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development. Turkey has expressed willingness to host the Forum but the proposed timing is in conflict with other activities. Secretariat also informed the Bureau of the Inter-regional Workshop and Study Tour on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects and Policies, held from 8 to 12 February 2015 in Israel organized jointly by ECE and the Government of Israel (information available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=38564#/>).

Chair informed the Bureau of the World Bank's RISE project. It conducts work on indicators that compare the investment climate of countries across the three focus areas of the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative: energy access, energy efficiency and renewable energy. The project is being upscaled to include 110 countries. While the countries are in the process of being finalized it is possible that about 30 ECE member States may be included. Further information is upcoming after RISE meetings in the second half of March 2015.

Vice-Chair (Geneva University) informed that the EE programme is looking at the possibilities of starting a research programme and thus is looking for funds. Endorsement from interested countries would be helpful in the fundraising effort.

Vice-Chair (IPEEC) noted that Turkey has G20 presidency, and that the first meeting took place last week. IPEEC is mandated to support Turkey in implementing G20 EE Action Plan, which contains six workstreams.

Chair closed the Bureau call.