

Minutes of the 1st Energy Efficiency Task Force meeting

21 February 2008

Vienna

The 1st Energy Efficiency Task Force meeting was organised in Vienna, at the Energy Community Secretariat on 21 February 2008. The meeting was attended by the Task Force members, the Energy Community Secretariat and a few representatives of the Donors' Community, by invitation of the Chairperson.

Present at the meeting:

Mrs. Marjola	Hamitaj	Albania
Ms. Alma	Saraci	
Ms. Sanja	Kapetina	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Mr. Krassimir	Naidenov Stoyanov	Bulgaria
Mr. Igor	Raguzin	Croatia
Mr. Dejan	Zrmanovski	the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Ms. Antonela	Solujic	Serbia
Mr. Daniel Alexander	Schroth	UNMIK
Mr. Salvador	Elmazi	Energy Efficiency Unit – DG TREN, European Commission
Ms. Lucinda	Maclagan	European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR)
Mr. Ian	Brown	
Mr. Robert	Archer	USAID
Mr. Ira	Birnbaum	USAID
Mr. Burkhard	Hinz	Kreditbank fur Wiederaufbau
Mr. Slavtcho	Neykov	Energy Community Secretariat
Mrs. Violeta	Kogalniceanu	Energy Community Secretariat
Ms. Andrea	Brandstaetter	Energy Community Secretariat – ECRB Section
Mrs. Claudia	Cordie	Energy Community Secretariat – ECRB Section

The meeting was opened by the ECS director who greeted the participants to the 1st Task Force meeting, and reminded them the mandate of the Task Force, as approved by the Ministerial Council in December 2007.

The Chairman of the Task Force presented the Agenda (see attached) of the meeting, and this was endorsed by Task Force members. At the invitation of the Chairman, the members introduced themselves and also presented shortly their organisations' main responsibilities in relation to energy efficiency.

The Chairman presented the draft Task Force's Work Programme to the members for discussion and adoption. The discussions that followed were also stimulated by the presentation of EAR on its assessment of the tasks' challenges based on EAR experiences with similar tasks undertaken in some of the Contracting Parties, as well as the availability for technical assistance to the Task Force to undertake some of its tasks.

A more detailed presentation was made by EAR on the assessment of the impact of EC energy efficiency directives, if adopted in Montenegro, as an illustration of the work and results expected under the Task 3 of the Work Programme.

The Task Force members adopted the Work Programme and decided to assign, on a voluntary basis, a "task leader" for each of the tasks, as follows:

Task 1: Analysis of the state of play of energy efficiency in the Contracting Party – Task leader: Ms. Antonela Popovic, Serbia;

Task 2: Preparation of a non-customised Action Plan to advance energy efficiency in the Contracting Parties – Task leader: Mr. Krassimir Naidenov Stoyanov, Bulgaria;

Task 3: Analysis of energy efficiency related EC Directives and their impact on the Energy Community, if transposed – Task leader: Mr. Dejan Zrmanovski, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;

Task 4: Development of a Communication and Awareness Campaign plan – Task leader: Mr. Igor Raguzin, Croatia.

Many Contracting Parties shared their experience with energy efficiency and agreed to use this when undertaking the tasks in the Work Programme.

Under the item Organisational issues of the Agenda, the Task Force meetings' calendar was presented by the Energy Community Secretariat, and the Task Force members endorsed the proposal. The Secretariat also presented a summary of the Travel reimbursement rules for the Task Force members of the Contracting Parties and Observer countries to the Treaty.

Croatia presented its experience with the preparation and implementation of an awareness raising campaign for energy efficiency.

USAID made a short presentation of the context for USAID energy efficiency support, energy efficiency priorities and the USAID assistance mechanisms to the Energy Community.

At the 11th Athens Forum, "EAR and USAID agreed to work together to make an inventory and assess ongoing activity and identify ways to advance programs and application of EU Directives".

The results of the Stocktaking on energy efficiency which was prepared jointly under EAR and USAID financing, were presented in the Task Force meeting, by Alliance to Save Energy. The Task Force members took note of the results and offered to produce comments and updates no later than mid March 2008. Then, the comprehensive study will be finalized and will be distributed to the Task Force members.

The representative of the DG TREN of the European Commission made a short presentation on the legal framework, the activities and programmes related to energy efficiency in the EU member states and congratulated the Task Force members on their challenging Work Programme, as well as offered guidance and support to fulfill its tasks.

Finally, another good example of facilities to finance energy efficiency as well as renewable energy sources that are in place or under preparation and open to the Energy Community was presented by the representative of Kreditbank für Wiederaufbau.

The meeting was concluded with the commitment of the Task Force members to start preparing the tasks as scheduled in the Work Programme and sending the updates for the Stocktaking report to Alliance to Save Energy.