



Reflection Group

Minutes of Meeting 2003-3
13th October 2003

Albert Borschette Conference Centre, Brussels

1. The meeting was opened by **Ismo Gronroos-Saikkala** for the Commission. The focus was put on the action that remained to be taken based on the conclusions from the last RG meeting as follows:

- RG members to continue sending comments and proposals on how to support the Associations and energy agencies in the Accession Countries;
- Against the discussions, the Commission did not open a web based discussion forum for the further development of the action plan as comments were sent through email;
- EnR still to make proposals on how it can feed good practice information into the ManagEnergy;
- Presentations on networking in Austria and Spain were postponed until the next meeting;
- New approach and classification to good practice had been approved by the Commission and included into the database engine as agreed;
- Association are still to feed case studies into the ManagEnergy database;
- The comments received from the RG members on the proposed new Directives had been taken into account in the preparations;
- Commission presentation on the proposed Directive on Energy Services was postponed to the forthcoming meetings.

2. Proposal for new strategy and organisation for the Reflection Group

Gerry Wardell, representing the Association of Irish Energy Agencies, made a presentation (copy appended) where he proposed a new strategy and organization the Reflection Group.

Strategy. The new strategy is based on:

- (i) *'ManagEnergy: European Partnership on Local and Regional Energy and Transport Action'*, the European Commission follow-up Action to the Conference on Local and Regional Energy Management Agencies held on 6th November 2001.
- (ii) *'Draft Strategy for the further development of the Reflection Group of ManagEnergy'*, presented by Mr Michael Geissler at the last Reflection Group Meeting on 28th March 2003

Organization. **Gerry Wardell** proposed that the Association of Irish Energy Agencies (AIEA) takes over a co-ordination role for a period of until the end of year 2004, with the following tasks:

- Preparation of 2-3 RG meeting per year in collaboration with the European Commission.
- Follow-up of the discussions, which are initiated in the RG-Meeting and summarise the input for the next meeting.
- The following tasks should also be covered:
 - Protocol of the meetings
 - Invitations and preparation of the agenda in collaboration with the European Commission.

The co-ordinating network would not have the role of a formal secretariat, but rather the role of initiator of discussion, channel of information and first contact point for the EC and the ManagEnergy team in the preparation of the RG meetings.

Gerry Wardell further proposed that a Chairperson of the Reflection Group will be appointed from within the Co-ordinating Association, who will chair the Reflection Group Meetings and act as the first point of contact within the Group. Dr Gerry Wardell, European Officer with the AIEA, offered his candidature for the role of Chairperson for the year 2004, starting from 13th October 2003.

Gerry Wardell also further proposed that a Vice-Chairperson also be appointed who will act on behalf of the Chairperson the event that the Chairman is unavoidably absent. Further, the vice-Chairperson will normally be appointed to the position of Chairperson in the subsequent year. This has the advantage that it will help the incoming Chairperson to prepare for the task and it will also benefit the RG by helping to ensure continuity of leadership.

Boris Papousek, representing the Austrian Association of Energy Agencies, offered his candidature for the role of Vice-Chairperson for the year 2004, starting from 13th October 2003.

3. The proposed new strategy and organization was discussed by the group.

Mr Deiderik Wagenaar (Energie-Cites) said that he preferred the use of the wording 'energy actors' instead of 'energy agencies', as actors also included Local Authorities and other organizations in addition to energy agencies.

Ismo Gronroos-Saikkala asked the Reflection Group if it wished to:

- (a) approved the AIEA proposal for the new strategy and organization,
- (b) approve the appointment of Gerry Wardell as Chairperson for 2004
- (c) approve the appointment of Boris Papousec as Vice-Chairperson for 2004

All 3 proposals were approved unanimously by the Reflection Group and the new chairman took over the meeting.

4. Presentation on the state of play of the IEE programme

Waltraud Schmid made a presentation on the current situation of the new Intelligent Energy for Europe programme. She updated the audience about the plans to organise an Information Day after the Annual Conference on 28th November. At that stage the final date for submission of proposals should be known.

5. Action Plan for 2004

Gerry Wardell proposed an action plan for 2004 (appended), focussed on 3 concrete actions and requested a national Association to take on the role of Leader for each action. The agreed Lead association for each concrete action is as follows:

- Evaluation of the impact of ManagEnergy - Staffan Svensson, Association of Swedish Regional Energy Agencies (F.S.E.K.)
- Building sector, EU Directives and local expertise – Mikko Ahonen, National Association of Finnish Energy Agencies (NAFEA)
- Candidate and Accession Countries – Mr Ralf Goldmann, Association of German Energy Agencies (EaD)

6. Good Practice

The main challenge of this activity is to stimulate local energy actors to exchange information on good practice in an effective way. **Mrs Mormile** recalled that the members of the RG were requested at the last meeting in March to supply 4-5 case good practice case studies per country. Unfortunately, no follow up was given to this recommendation. In the meantime, DG TREN has selected and published on ManagEnergy web site 12 case studies. A document illustrating the selection procedure was distributed to the participants together with an example of how to search the information available on the web. DG TREN has also prepared a leaflet on the selected best practice to be distributed at the Annual Conference for Local Action in November. A request was made for some feedback from TREN on the cases which were already submitted. An attempt will be made to get some National Associations to volunteer to follow-up effectively on the collection of Good Practice cases.

7. Presentation on the new virtual ManagEnergy services

Ismo Gronroos-Saikkala made a short presentation on the new virtual ManagEnergy services. The new services will ensure that all major activities of ManagEnergy will be streamed live on the internet, which will make the events more accessible to local actors all over the EU. The virtual events, including the VoDs, are an important complement to live events. The first streamed event will be the Annual Conference on 26 and 27 November and the IEE Information Day on 28 November. A Helpdesk is being set up to ensure that as many people as possible can have access to the live streaming and to the video recordings. A particular care has been put on the development of most user-friendly applications given the novelty of the streaming technology for most local actors.

8. Any other business

Katy Hall from CPL reminded people to send her details to be included or corrected in the new map on energy agencies.

9. Close of meeting