



Reflection Group

Minutes of Meeting

25th November 2003

Commission Building, Rue de Mot 28, 1049 Brussels

Agenda:

1. Welcome by the Chairman and review of last meeting
2. Commission opening remarks
3. Presentation of the final Action Plan by chairman: discussion and decision
 - 3a. Good practice submitted by RG and energy agencies
 - 3b. Presentations from Finland, Ireland and Netherlands on local response to Building sector Directive
 - 3c. Report on ManagEnergy Questionnaire from Swedish Association
 - 3d. Planned actions for Accession & Candidate countries
4. Commission presentation and discussion on the proposed Directive on Energy Services
5. Presentation on networking in Austria & Spain
6. Any other business

1. Welcome by the Chairman and review of last meeting

The meeting was opened by Gerry Wardell, as the Chairman of the Reflection Group (RG). The participants were asked to briefly introduce themselves around the table.

Gerry Wardell presented a draft poster for the ManagEnergy Reflection Group and asked the members to check their contact details on the poster.

Then Gerry Wardell summarised the results of the last RG meeting on 13th October and asked if there were any comments about the minutes.

Pirita Lindholm emphasised once again the remark in the minutes, saying that the word “energy actors” should be better used instead of “energy agencies”. In the near future the focus of the RG should not be on heavy decision making procedures.

The minutes were then unanimously approved.

2. Commission opening remarks

Gonzalo Molina Igartua welcomed all participants on behalf of the Commission and said that he is very happy with the development of the RG and with the new organisation, giving one national association the co-ordinating role. Mr Molina confirmed that the Commission will continue to take overall responsibility for the functioning of the Reflection Group and will ensure that the Community energy policy objectives are an integral part of its activities.

Mr Molina referred to the EIE-Programme as a major opportunity for all energy agencies and local energy actors.

3. Presentation of the final action plan by Chairman: discussion and decision

Gerry Wardell summarised the action plan for the year 2004, which was presented as a draft during the last RG meeting. The proposed concrete actions are:

1. Evaluation of the impact of ManagEnergy (Staffan Svensson, Sweden)
2. Building Sector – EU Directives and local expertise (Mikko Ahonen, Finland)
3. Candidate & Accession countries (Ralf Goldmann, Germany)

Three members of the RG offered during the last meeting to act as co-ordinators for the action areas.

Nobody opposed the action plan and it was unanimously adopted.

3a. Good practice submitted by RG and energy agencies

The national associations were encouraged by Gerry Wardell and EC representatives to submit further case studies. The case studies and the selected good practice projects are an important instrument for spreading experiences and know-how.

The Service Provider presented a folder about “Good Practice on Local Energy Action” which will be distributed in the Annual Conference during the next 2 days.

Existing collections of good practice projects – esp. from Energie Cités and the Penelope/Bachus project – are integrated in the database through links. They are also searchable via the ManagEnergy web-site.

3b. Presentations from Finland, Ireland and Netherlands on local response to building sector Directive

Mikko Ahonen (Finland), Gerry Wardell (Ireland) and Zeno Winkels (Netherlands) presented the activities and programmes in their countries concerning energy efficiency improvements in the building sector. Copies of the presentations are available from the secretary of the AIEA, Sally-Ann Morrissey, e-mail: tippenergy@eircom.net.

In the following discussion Boris Papousek pointed out that the Building Directive is a good opportunity for all energy agencies, which will create business opportunities for them. Energy agencies should prepare themselves well for the implementation of the Directive.

Gonzalo Molina emphasised that the EU Buildings Directive is already adopted and a mandate for the member states. The national associations and agencies should start applying the spirit of the directive, promoting it and taking the necessary preparatory steps; like training and information. There is also other EU legislation having an effect on the energy consumption of buildings; like the planned co-generation Directive and the energy services Directive. Therefore an integrated thinking and approach is necessary.

Gerard Magnin informed about the DISPLAY project of Energie Citès, which will provide tools for the implementation of the building Directive in public buildings.

The representatives from Estonia, Slovakia, Hungary and Slovenia offered to give short presentations in one of the following meetings, about the status of building related activities are in the accession countries.

Michael Geissler informed about experiences in Germany, and said that significant results could also be achieved in water savings. This is a new opportunity for the agencies.

The RG agreed that the representatives of the national associations and other networks would discuss qualitatively with their local/regional members about local response to the building sector Directive. Mikko Ahonen, who is co-ordinating this area of the Action Plan, was asked to prepare feedback in co-operation with the Chairman and vice-Chairman.

3c. Report on ManagEnergy Questionnaire from Swedish Association

As Staffan Svensson, who made the evaluation of the distributed questionnaire, could not be at the meeting, a detailed discussion about the results was postponed until the next meeting. A handout, showing first results of the questioning, was distributed. About 15% of the energy agencies had answered.

Ismo Gronroos Saikkala and Gonzalo Molina proposed to put more efforts into getting more answers from agencies. The chairman and vice-chairman will consider together with Staffan Svensson the best way to compile effectively relevant information about the impact of ManagEnergy.

3d. Planned actions for Accession & Candidate countries

Ralf Goldman presented a first draft on actions for accession and candidate countries. Proposed actions included support for new agencies, provide support for networking and the creation of new associations, dissemination of good practice etc.

As a first reaction, representatives from the accession countries saw the strengthening of networking and co-operation between different countries and actors as an important task for the future. A good way to organise co-operation is on a twinning base.

The RG agreed to have this topic as a main topic for discussion in the next RG meeting. Ralf Goldmann will prepare a further elaborated paper for the next meeting. All RG members are asked to send inputs and ideas to Ralf Goldmann and/or the Chairman.

4. Commission presentation and discussion on the proposed directive on Energy Services

The EC made a presentation on the proposed Directive on Energy Services. The Commission will discuss it in this week and it will, hopefully, be approved in December. The text of the Directive will be made available afterwards (in the meantime it can be downloaded from: http://europa.eu.int/comm/energy/en/fa_2_en.html).

The EC said that all comments on the Directive are still welcome. As a next step, the Directive will be submitted to the European Parliament.

In the discussion several participants pointed out that the Directive is a good opportunity but advocates are needed to promote the Directive. The national associations are in close contact with the relevant actors and Ministers in their countries. They could develop proposals about how to implement the Directive and present them to the relevant actors. In the next meeting the RG members should provide some feedback about the situation in their countries.

Gonzalo Molina emphasised the problem-oriented approach by the EC: The different Directives and Programmes must be viewed together, not as single Directives. The Directive on Energy Services gives a kind of umbrella to all of the relevant Directives.

5. Presentation on networking in Austria & Spain

Isabel del Olmo from Spain and Boris Papousek from Austria presented their activities and experiences on networking in their countries. Copies of the presentations are available from the secretary of the AIEA, Sally-Ann Morrissey, e-mail: tippenergy@eircom.net .

The discussion showed that the situations in the different countries are quite different and therefore country specific mechanisms for the communication procedures must be developed.

6. Any other business

Gonzalo Molina informed the RG that there is a Call for Tender under way for the evaluation of the SAVE agencies. Results are expected in the middle of 2004.

Ismo Gronroos Saikkala informed the meeting about the forthcoming Annual Conference of Local Energy Action and about the web-based features. In particular, there will be three chats with politicians during the conference. He asked the RG members to inform interested people about it.

Katy Hall presented the new map with all the energy agencies in Europe.

The next meeting was provisionally scheduled for Monday, 16th February 2004 in Bruxelles.

Gerry Wardell concluded and closed the meeting.