



Reflection Group

Minutes of 6th Meeting

4th May 2004, 9:15 – 15:00

Council Chamber, Dublin City Hall, Dublin, Ireland

Agenda:

1. Welcome by the Chairman and review of last meeting
2. Commission opening remarks
3. New member states: energy agencies & networks
4. Building Sector – EU Directives and local expertise
5. Intelligent Energy Europe – a successor instrument?
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). He emphasised the fact that the RG met in Dublin this time, in conjunction with the enlargement ceremony of the EU – having 10 new member states from 1st May on. He welcomed in particular the representatives from the new member states to the RG.

He reported that the day before many RG members participated in a Study Tour to the Airtricity Arklow Bank offshore Wind Park and a meeting with Dick Roche, T.D., Irish Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach with special responsibility for European Affairs, which facilitated interesting informal discussions among the RG members (reported separately).

The persons present were asked to shortly introduce themselves round the table. Mr. Duval, a new member of the RG, shortly presented the French network of local energy agencies.

Then Wardell reviewed the results of the last RG meeting on 25th November 2004 and asked if there were any comments about the minutes. As there were no comments, the minutes were then unanimously approved.

Wardell presented the agenda for the meeting. He said that it is planned to develop opinion papers based on this meeting of the RG. As the RG is an informal group there will not be a formal voting procedure. Instead, the documents will be a summary of the input and the discussions of the RG members and just some editing will be done afterwards.

2. Commission opening remarks

Gonzalo Molina Igartua welcomed all participants on behalf of the Commission. He emphasised that the European Commission wants to facilitate the communication between local energy actors and the Commission as well as between the national networks of energy agencies. He sees a good spirit in the RG and the Commission will continue to support these activities.

As a next step, the RG should develop common opinions concerning future EC plans. Through this, the RG can influence the legal framework and the future programmes, which will in turn be an important basis for the work of the energy agencies in the future.

Then Mr. Molina informed the RG about the ongoing restructuring in DG TREN and the new organisational structure in force from 1st May on. Molina will act as an advisor to the new Director and co-ordinate the different political initiatives. Mr. Lambert will be the new head of unit, responsible also for ManagEnergy.

3. New member states: energy agencies & networks

This session was chaired by Ralph Goldmann (Germany), co-ordinating this topic as a part of the RG action plan for 2004. As an introduction he pointed out the main issues:

- Support the development of new agencies/local actors on the regional and local level in the new member states.
- Clarify the expectations for support through the RG (networking, twinning etc.).
- Support access to the structural funds.
- Identify input for future EC programmes on how to support best the new member states.

Then Roman Doubrava (Slovakia), Rita Biacs (Hungary) and Priit Enok (Estonia) presented the situation in their countries. The Chairman presented apologies from Tomaz Fatur (Slovenia), was unable to attend the meeting.

Gerard Magnin (Energie-Cités) gave an overview on Energie-Cités activities and experiences in the new member states and beyond.

Copies of the presentations are available from the secretary of the AIEA, Sally-Ann Morrissey, e-mail: tippenergy@eircom.net or directly from the speakers.

Molina pointed out that a conceptual paper would be needed, showing the present situation and making recommendations for the years 2005 and 2006. This concept paper could facilitate the action regarding the new member states in various initiatives (EIE, structural funds etc.). The concept paper could also be presented to the national delegates for the EIE programme, who could then influence the process through their channels.

After discussion the RG agreed on the following **action items**:

- 18 May: Goldmann will make a draft paper, distributed to the RG via Chairman
- 31 May: Feedback, comments from RG members to Ralf Goldmann
- 4 June: Finalised paper by Goldmann, distributed to RG via Chairman
- 7 June: Final comments

Afterwards: Communication to EC and member states

4. Building Sector – EU Directives and local expertise

This session was chaired by Mikko Ahonen (Finland), co-ordinating this topic as a part of the RG action plan for 2004.

At first, the Directive on Energy Efficiency and Energy Services was discussed. Molina presented the main objectives of the Directive. Papousek said that on one hand it would be important to support the spirit and objectives of the Directive, as considerable opposition against the Directive can be expected, as well. On the other hand it should be put forward that the local energy actors are important for the implementation of the Directive and can make valuable contributions.

Then Ahonen presented the situation concerning the implementation of the Building Directive in Finland.

It was agreed, that a position paper, including the various relevant Directives would be good. It should support the Directives (esp. the ESD), direct attention to the local actors, show what kind of action can be delivered by the energy agencies and make recommendations, what kind of support is needed, e.g. through the EIE programme. No specific steps were agreed in the meeting.

5. Intelligent Energy Europe – a successor instrument?

Molina presented the current plans of the EC about a successor programme for the current Intelligent Energy for Europe programme (EIE). A paper was distributed at the meeting. He invited the RG to provide inputs, opinions and suggestions about the current plans. The consultation of the ManagEnergy Reflection Group on the need and opportunity for renewing the Community programme "Intelligent Energy- Europe" in the period 2007-2013 is one of very few consultations at this stage of the programme.

After a more general discussion a tour de table was started, in which the RG members gave their first reaction on the EC concept paper. At the meeting there was not enough time to conclude the discussion.

Wardell said it is very important for the Reflection Group to respond to this opportunity and proposed to develop a brief Opinion Document (within the time limit and RG resources) about key issues and priorities for the local energy actors. This Opinion Document should be a summary of the inputs from the RG members and represent a broad consensus among the Reflection Group members.

The RG **agreed on the following steps** for developing the Opinion Document:

10 May (mid-day):	Input and comments from MERG members to Chairman
11 May:	First draft, in bullet point form, distributed to MERG from Chairman
13 May:	Comments and feedback from MERG members to Chairman
14 May	Draft document circulated to MERG from Chairman, for approval

17 May (mid-day) Deadline for final comments from MERG members to Chairman
17 May Submission of final opinion document to Paula Abreu Marques by
Chairman

[The Opinion Document '*Consultation of the ManagEnergy Reflection Group on the need and opportunity for renewing the Community programme "Intelligent Energy – Europe" in the period 2007-2013*' was successfully developed and submitted, on schedule]

6. Any other business

Wardell and Molina informed that the next annual conference of ManagEnergy is planned for 20th-21st October 2004 in Brussels.

John Fitzgerald, Dublin City Manager, welcomed all the participants to Dublin.

Gerry Wardell concluded, wished all participants a good journey back home and closed the meeting.

Participants - Reflection Group Meeting, Dublin 04-05-2004

CHAIR

Gerry Wardell AIEA – Association of Irish Energy Agencies

VICE-CHAIR

Boris Papousek Austrian Association of Local Energy Agencies

Gonzalo Molina Igartua European Commission, DG Energy and Transport

Ronald Bailey European Commission, DG Energy and Transport

Mikko Ahonen NAFEA - National Association of Finnish Energy Agencies

Rita Biacs Energy Centre Hungary

Erika Brokvist FSEK - Association of Swedish Regional Energy Agencies

Ian Byrne AUKEA - Association of UK Energy Agencies

Geraldine Cusack AIEA – Association of Irish Energy Agencies

Roman Doubrava Energy Centre Bratislava, Slovakia

Philippe Duval FLAME – French Local Energy Management Agencies Federation

Priit Enok REC - Regional Energy Centres in Estonia

Michael Geissler FEDARENE - European Federation of Regional Energy and Environment Agencies

Ralf Goldmann EaD - Association of German Energy Agencies

Rogert Leckström CEMR – Council of European Municipalities and Regions

Gerard Magnin Energie-Cités - Association of European local authorities

Gian Mario Varalda RENAEL – National network of Local Energy Agencies, Italy

Irene Menéndez ENERAGEN - Association of Spanish Energy Management Agencies

Radan Panacek TCASCR - Technology Centre of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic

Zeno Winkels Local and regional energy management agencies in the Netherlands

Grzegorz Wisniewski Association of Polish Energy actors at local and regional level

Christopher Walden STEM – Swedish Energy Agency (ManagEnergy Service Provider)

APOLOGIES

Tomaz Fatur Institut Jozef Stefan Energy Efficiency Centre, Slovenia

Francois Greaume EnR, European Energy Network

Ivan Kalchev ABEA - Association of Bulgarian Energy Agencies

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