



# Reflection Group

## Minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting

19<sup>th</sup> October 2004, 10:30 – 16:30

European Commission, 24 Rue de Mot, Brussels

### Agenda:

1. Welcome by the Chairman and minutes of last meeting
2. Commission opening remarks from Alfonso Gonzalez-Finat, Director
3. Action on the new member states (Ralf Goldmann)
4. Report from consultation process on the new IEE programme 2007-2013 (Paula Abreu Marques)
5. Study on the performance of energy agencies (Marcello Antinucci)
6. Building Sector – EU Directives and local expertise (Mikko Ahonen)
7. ManagEnergy case studies and activities on education (Daniela Mormile)
8. RTD thematic promotion and dissemination (Pedro Ballesteros Torres)
9. Election of Reflection Group Chairperson & Vice-Chair for 2005
10. Any other business

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## 1. Welcome by the Chairman and review of last meeting

Gerry Wardell as the Chairman of the Reflection Group (RG) opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.

Wardell refreshed the results of the last RG meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2004 in Dublin and asked if there were any comments about the minutes. As there were no comments, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Wardell then presented the agenda for the meeting.

## **2. Commission opening remarks (Alfonso Gonzalez-Finat, Director)**

Alfonso Gonzalez-Finat introduced himself as the new Director of Directorate D, New and renewable sources of energy, demand management and sustainable development, and welcomed all participants on behalf of the Commission. He sees the RG as an important feedback body for the Commission and looks forward to working with the RG in the future.

From the current point of view the support for energy efficiency and renewables will remain as a focus under the new Commissioner. Also the linking between energy and transport will stay important, even if there might be two separate Directorates General in the future.

The development of the "Intelligent Energy – Europe II" programme is under discussion now and every strategic input from the RG is welcome, as it was already done after the last meeting. He would like to see a fruitful co-operation between the group and the Commission and wishes the RG a positive further development.

## **3. Action on the new member states (Ralf Goldmann)**

This special session was chaired by Ralph Goldmann (Germany), co-ordinating this topic. Goldmann presented a concept paper, addressing the current situation in the new member states (NMS) and candidate countries and possible actions as next steps.

A productive discussion involving especially the participants from the new member states and the networks followed the presentation. The key issues pointed out were:

- Specific action in the NMS is seen necessary to reduce the gap in energy efficiency between the NMS and the most efficient economies in the "old" EU 15.
- It was pointed out that an important condition for local energy action and the creation of energy agencies are local decision making structures in place and that energy topics could be tackled by local administrations. In the New Member States local decision-making structures have been developed during the process of EU accession and this process is still under way. It is often not clear who is responsible for energy on the local and regional level.
- Therefore a crucial point for developing local action on sustainable energy is to persuade the local key actors and to get their support. The local authorities as key stakeholders play an important role. Their awareness must be raised and energy must become an issue inside municipalities.

Concerning the creation of new energy agencies, the involvement and positive attitude of the key actors on the local level was seen as a first vital step; then the formation of an energy agency to implement the strategies can follow.

- The development of local energy plans and regional energy strategies could play an important role in setting the necessary framework for local energy action. These activities should be supported by the EIE programme.

Municipalities and other local/regional authorities should be trained and supported on that. CEMR informed that a guidebook on municipal energy planning is under preparation by CEMR's energy group.

- Information and know how transfer into NMS, providing lessons learned, capacity building in energy expertise, training, financial instruments and legislation were mentioned as important instruments to support local energy action in the NMS.
- Some NMS put forward that missing legislation for the demand side, for energy efficiency and renewables is an important barrier. At the moment EU Directives are the drivers. New strategies and legislation is done in conjunction with the implementation of the EU Directives.
- Of course the situation in each NMS is somehow different. The ways on how to do things best depend on given structures and conditions in the country. Sometimes the co-operation with other structures and networks, like local energy managers, energy advice centres, municipalities etc. could be of value for local energy actions.  
It was also mentioned that some problems are quite similar in the old MS.
- Another point made was, that all relevant EU funds, especially the Structural Funds, should be used to address sustainable energy issues. Energy efficiency and renewables objectives must be an integral part there (e.g. for retrofitting hospitals or social housing).

Goldmann concluded, that the opinion paper on action in the new member states and candidate countries should focus on what the RG can do. Some more information and activities should be brought in. Based on today's input he will fine-tune the paper for the next meeting.

#### **4. Report from consultation process on the new IEE programme 2007-2013 (Paula Abreu Marques)**

At first, Abreu Marques thanked the RG for the input during the consultation of key stakeholders on the different possible configurations of the future Intelligent Energy Europe (EIE) programme (see RG opinion paper: On the need and opportunity for renewing the Community programme "Intelligent Energy – Europe" in the period 2007-2013, May 17, 2004).

A study, currently concluded by Ecotec (UK) and Ecofy (NL), also shows a clear need for an EIE II. Abreu Marques said that replication projects would be added as additional stimulus. The new programme will focus on:

- Increasing investments in EE and RES, through better access to finance.
- Emphasizing local and regional action.
- Improving links with other EU programmes (e.g. structural funds).

All input will be used for the next draft of the EIE II programme. The proposal foresees a doubling of the current budget.

Then Abreu Marques informed about the EC proposal for a framework programme on competitiveness and innovation from July 2004. Various programmes should be brought together under this umbrella and also the EIE programme should be included. The Commission will make a short consultation paper on this new framework programme and will ask the RG for its opinion on that during the next months.

## **5. Study on the performance of energy agencies (Marcello Antinucci)**

Marcello Antinucci (EUCUBA, Modena, Italy) presented the just started evaluation of the performance of energy agencies. A special meeting about the study will be held during the Annual Conference.

It was agreed that the results should be presented and discussed in the next RG meeting.

## **6. Building Sector – EU Directives and local expertise (Mikko Ahonen)**

Mikko Ahonen (Finland) took over to chair this session. He presented a draft working paper, summarising the activities so far.

In the discussion the RG members emphasised the importance of the Directives in this field (energy performance of buildings, energy services) for local energy actors and energy agencies. Many agencies work on buildings, especially public buildings. Important tasks for the RG members and the agencies would be to make the public authorities aware of the Directives and prepare them for the implementation as well as inform the national governments about the possible role and contributions of the energy agencies to support the implementation.

Concerning the role of the RG it was proposed that the RG could facilitate a comparison of the situation in the member states concerning the implementation of the EPBD. This could support the countries where not much action has taken place up till now. Regarding the Energy Services Directive it was proposed that especially the impact on energy agencies should be analysed.

No specific action was agreed on this topic. It was seen as an ongoing discussion.

## **7. ManagEnergy case studies and activities on education (Daniela Mormile)**

Daniela Mormile presented the achieved results concerning the ManagEnergy case studies and emphasised their relevance for ManagEnergy. The Commission and the service provider had consulted the RG before in order to define the criteria for the good practice case studies.

There are currently 600 case studies available; 22 have been awarded as “good practice”. 12 out of them were selected to be published in a brochure, which will be distributed in the Annual Conference. She proposed that the RG members think about translation of the brochure into country languages for better use inside the countries.

Then Mormile told that a questionnaire on sustainable energy and education had been sent out to agencies and that 60 answers were received. A summary document was produced (“Reflection Document on a EU-wide Co-operation of Local Actors on Sustainable Energy Educa-

tion”, available through the managenergy.net web site). She informed the group that this issue will be a focus for the Commission in the next year.

## **8. RTD thematic promotion and dissemination (Pedro Ballesteros Torres)**

Ballesteros informed the RG about the specific support actions for RTD thematic promotion and dissemination. A call for proposals is open until 8 December 2004. These specific support actions focus on dissemination of results from research and demonstration. It has a thematic approach, complementary to other projects.

The activities in the proposals must relate to local activities. Energy agencies are welcome to take part and submit proposals.

Ballesteros will put the RG members on the email list and inform the group about the further activities.

## **9. Election of Reflection Group Chairperson & Vice-Chair for 2005 and address of incoming Chairperson**

The Chairman, Gerry Wardell, presented the paper “Election of Chairperson & Vice-Chair for 2005”, which was sent out to the RG members prior to the meeting. It describes the roles of Chairperson and Vice-Chair and sets the rules for election. The proposal was unanimously adopted by the RG.

It was proposed that the outgoing Vice-Chairperson, Boris Papousek (Austria), should be appointed as Chairperson for 2005, as previously agreed in the RG meeting on 13 October 2003. It was further proposed that Priit Enok (Estonia) should be appointed as Vice-Chairperson for 2005.

The RG members unanimously approved both proposals.

Boris Papousek, as incoming Chairperson for 2005, expressed his and the groups thanks to Gerry Wardell for his excellent work as RG Chairperson and the valuable contributions to set the foundation for a well functioning RG. Then he thanked the RG members for his election and the Commission for enabling the RG and further supporting it.

He then outlined shortly the strategic focus for next years work. He emphasised that the ManagEnergy Reflection Group is an informal think-tank, set up by the Commission, as a two-way forum of communication and reflection between the Commission and local energy actors, including European networks. The Commission, its legislation and programmes, benefit from the expertise of local actors. The local energy actors benefit from, according to their needs, better formulated EC programmes and measures. The overall objectives and strategies, as presented in the strategy paper by Gerry Wardell in October 2003, are still a good basis for the RG.

Then he recalled the objectives of the Reflection Group, which are mainly a) to advise the Commission on Community legislation, local initiatives, partnerships and good practice that can help identify policy priorities of the EU, b) suggest supplementary areas of action, which

can be particularly recommended on the basis of the experiences at local and regional level and c) to disseminate Community policies and project results to actors at the local and regional level.

What are the means the RG can use? Given the limited time and resources of its members the RG can:

- keep up to date and follow actively the preparation and implementation of relevant EU Directives, energy programmes and further activities;
- make use of our networks, information channels etc. to distribute information to the local and regional level and gather input from there;
- develop opinion papers as input for EU policies and programmes, either on proposals from the Commission or as proposals for supplementary action;
- give feedback to the ManagEnergy Service Provider and the EC on the web-site, case studies, workshops and other activities of ManagEnergy;
- propose and initiate workshops and meetings on specific topics of interest.

To get the best out of the group, it is important to make good use of the meetings to gather and compile input, develop suggestions and opinions. The members should prepare well for the meetings to be ready to give inputs at the meetings. In addition, the good co-operation with the ME Service Provider is highly appreciated and should continue.

Important issues for next year, as far as it could be seen from now, include:

- New member states: creation of agencies, creation and strengthening of networks
- Building related Directives, as the ESD and EPBD
- Study on SAVE energy agencies: discussion of results
- EIE II programme: inputs for the design of the programme
- Better participation of local energy actors in EIE and other energy programmes
- Consultation on the framework programme for competitiveness and innovation

In addition, further initiatives and activities from the Commission are expected to emerge in the coming years. The RG will react on them up to date and present its input and opinion, when asked for.

Concluding, Papousek kindly asked the members to contribute to the RG activities as actively as their other obligations allow them. The quality and effectiveness of the RG output highly depends on the input of its members. He also asked the RG members to bring forward their own ideas and suggestions and that he would be happy to receive them in the coming months.

## **6. Any other business**

As it was not possible to present an overview of the participation of local and regional energy agencies in the last EIE call in this meeting, the Commission was asked to provide some information (number of actors involved, proposals, successful proposals, share of total etc.) in a document, which could be distributed by email.

Wardell said that he would write a short executive summary of the RG activities in 2004 as an annual report to be distributed to the RG and relevant stakeholders.

The next meeting is planned for February/March 2005 in Brussels.

Gerry Wardell concluded, wished all participants further interesting days in Brussels with the annual conference and closed the meeting.