

## **ZEP External Relations Group (ERG)**

### **Progress Report to the ZEP Advisory Council, 14 September 2016**

ERG co-chairs: Mark Downes (Shell), Jonas Helseth (Bellona)

#### ***External Communications Support***

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In recent years, ZEP has engaged the services of an external communication agency (Weber Shandwick) to support its strategic reporting, communications and external relations work. The previous contract between ZEP-C and Weber Shandwick came to an end on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016. Before the contract came to an end, the new secretariat and ERG co-chairs held a series of teleconferences with Weber Shandwick to ensure a smooth handover and that all ongoing tasks were taken on by others.

Under the terms of its Grant Agreement with the European Commission, the new secretariat has provision for some external communications support to help deliver its services to ZEP, and a process is underway to appoint a new external communications agency. A Request for Proposals (RfP) was issued in August and bids are currently being evaluated on the basis of transparency and equal treatment against pre-set criteria. A total of 5 bids were received.

The new communications agency will be contracted by the secretariat to provide support to ZEP stakeholders through strategic reporting services, public affairs support, media management and events support. It is hoped that a communications agency will be appointed before the end of September until the end of the period of the Secretariat's Grant Agreement, which runs to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017.

#### ***ZEP Technical Workshop on changes to the EU ETS***

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In support of TWG Policy and Funding's (Network Policy and Economics) ongoing work with respect to changes to the EU ETS, ERG has been working with Shell to organise a technical workshop for MEPs ahead of the Committee votes in October and November. Shell has offered to host the workshop and has invited Ivo Belet MEP (EPP Shadow Rapporteur, ENVI Committee) to chair the discussions.

The workshop is currently planned for early October (date *tbc*).

#### ***General Assembly***

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A 2016 General Assembly concept note was developed by ERG and Weber Shandwick ahead of AC47 in June 2016. The event was envisaged as an opportunity to launch the new narrative of ETIP ZEP and the Market Economics 5 report. It had been notionally planned for Q4 2016, potentially taking place in either w/c 28 November or w/c 12 December (both EP Committee weeks).

At the last AC meeting it was unclear whether ZEP-C was going to be in an appropriate financial position to organise and host a large public meeting on CCS as it has done in previous years. It has now been confirmed that the new secretariat has some provision to organise an event in Q4

2016 or Q1 2017, in a similar manner to previous General Assemblies, with the support of the Communications Agency.

Since AC47, and with direction from the ACEC, the secretariat and ERG have discussed collaborating with partners on the ZEP General Assembly and preliminary discussions have taken place with the International Energy Agency (IEA). These discussions have been positive and it's hoped that a joint event (including with other partners) could be organised. In addition to ZEP's proposals for the event, the IEA also suggested linking to a number of forthcoming reports it plans to publish;

- 20 years of successful CO2 storage at Sleipner
- The latest edition of its Energy Technologies Perspective publication
- New modelling work relating to the feasibility of 1.5 degree aspirations and the Paris Agreement, and the role of CCS in meeting these ambitions.

Additional conversations have taken place with Bellona, which has some funding from the Norwegian Research Council, about including an element of discussion around carbon negative / BECCS. This would seem to fit well with the ME5 report (on meeting INDCs under the Paris Agreement) and the IEA work around achieving 1.5 degree aspirations.

From prior experience, it will be important for ZEP to begin planning for its General Assembly as soon as possible, including;

- Liaising with potential venues and hosts, particularly if the aspiration is to host the meeting in the European parliament
- Developing an agenda and seeking feedback from ZEP members
- Sourcing any additional financial support that may be needed.

The secretariat will work closely with the ERG to begin planning the event and all ZEP members and observers are invited to input to the planning.

Actions:

Topic	Co-Leads	Actions for the ZEP AC
General Assembly	Mark Downes (Shell) Theo Mitchell (Secretariat)	Members of the AC are invited to provide feedback on the General Assembly concept and support the organisation of the event.