

Minutes of the Executive Board meeting

15th of December 2022

Start & end of the meeting: 09h00 – 12h00

Venue: MARCOGAZ Premises, Rue Belliard 40, 1040-Brussels & Web-conference

Attendants: Liam Nolan (President), Alexander Schwanzer (Vice-President), Manuel Coxe (Secretary General), Stefano Cagnoli, Thierry Chapuis, Daniel Czeto (replacing Rastislav Nukovic), Kris de Wit, Christopher Erhel (replacing Anne-Sophie Decaux), Sylwia Gladysz, Frank Graf, Antony Green, Mykola Kadenskyi (replacing Pawel Stanczak), Stanislav Kazda, Alvaro Laranjo, Thea Larsen, Diego Modolell, Francisco Sichar (replacing Naiara Ortiz de Mendibil), Ioannis Tsiblakis, Jose Miguel Tudela Olivares, Steven Van Caekenberghe, Veronika Vohlidkova, Uwe Wetzel.

Invited: Olga Bielkova.

Apologized: Arto Korpela, Francisco de La Flor, Ioannis Chomatas, Ion Manescu, Elżbieta Kramek, Mattias Hanson, Jeroen Zanting.

1. Opening of the Session

The President welcomed the Members and opened the meeting.

1.1. Quorum and approval of the agenda

The quorum was reached as 18 Executive Board Members out of 21 were present or represented. The proposed agenda was approved without modification.

1.2. Welcome to new attendants

The President welcomed Olga Bielkova for attending the Executive Board meeting for the first time.

1.3. Approval of the Minutes of 22/09/2022

The Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting of 22/09/2022 were approved without modification.

2. Update on decisions of the last Executive Board meeting

2.1. Organization Structure and Leadership

The President informed the Members of the Executive Board that the SCGU and SCH2+ are now working jointly with good coordination under the co-Chairing of Kris de Wit and Frank Graf.

The President reported to the Executive Board Members on the status of the hibernated WG's, noting that WG Sector Integration has a candidate for Chairmanship that would be presented that day to the Board for approval. The President also notified the Executive Board about the progress of the new WG Energy Efficiency.

At last, the President reminded that membership in any SC or WG is open to all MARCOGAZ members and

underlined that the call for experts is open for 4 groups:

- WG Sector Integration,
- WG Energy Efficiency,
- Project “Production processes for different technologies”,
- Project “Scope 3 Emissions”.

2.2. Liaison and Networking

The Secretary General updated the Executive Board on the latest liaisons and networking activities with different partners and relevant stakeholders and informed that the Secretariat will continue working to expand MARCOGAZ liaisons.

2.3. Membership expansion

The Secretary General informed the Board about the entities that were contacted which had shown interest to join MARCOGAZ in the past and updated the Members on the meetings that the Secretariat held during the last period with potential members.

The Secretary General briefly informed that there has been structural changes with the ownership of our Charter Member DGC, which became a fully owned company of EVIDA Group. In this regard, the collaboration of the Danish TSO (Energinet Gas Transmission) with MARCOGAZ, that has occurred under the membership of DGC, will continue through its own membership as from 2023.

2.4. Work Program 2023

The Secretary General informed the Executive Board that the SC’s had discussed their Work Plan for 2023 and that these would be presented afterwards by the respective SC’s during the meeting. The Secretary General also informed the Executive Board that the Secretariat would update the matrix accordingly to the Working Plans and it would be made available on the Intranet.

2.5. Organization of 55th MARCOGAZ Anniversary

The Secretary General addressed the updates on the organization of the 55th MARCOGAZ Anniversary and presented both the proposal for the 55 years logo and the draft programme for the Anniversary celebration on the 22nd June 2022.



DECISION 2022/36: The Executive Board agreed to officially use the proposed logo for the 55 years of MARCOGAZ during the course of 2023 in all MARCOGAZ internal and external communication channels.

DECISION 2022/37: The Executive Board agreed that the theme for the celebration of MARCOGAZ 55th Anniversary will be *“the role of gas infrastructure in decarbonising the energy system”*.

2.6. Organization of EGATEC 2024 & EGATEC 2026

The Vice-President briefly informed the Executive Board that OVGW is considering to present a proposal to host the EGATEC 2026 in Vienna, possibly during the month of November 2026. The candidature of OVGW would nonetheless be considered only after MARCOGAZ has terminated the process for the call for candidates to host the EGATEC 2024.

The Secretary General presented to the Members of the Executive Board a draft of the call for the EGATEC 2024 hosting organisation. DVGW (and possibly jointly with neighbouring country Members) expressed its interest to present candidature for hosting the EGATEC 2024 in Hamburg-Germany, similarly to what they performed in the EGATEC 2022.

DECISION 2022/38: The Executive Board agreed to use the draft proposal of the call and start the process for collecting individual or joint proposals for hosting the EGATEC 2024.

3. Communications

The President briefly updated the Executive Board about his participation to the European Commission's Citizens Forum that address among others, the relevance of the energy efficiency for the end use.

The Secretary General updated the Executive Board on the latest activities and news regarding communications, both internal and external, and stated that the Secretariat will continue securing its partnerships through participation in external events, in which the Chairs of the SC's and WG's have the possibility to speak, representing MARCOGAZ on relevant topics.

4. Review of Budget of 2023

4.1. Membership fee for RGC and TSO of Ukraine in 2023

The President suggested reviewing the budget for the year 2023 that was approved by the General Assembly of 14 June 2022, particularly, by waiving the membership fee for Regional Gas Company (RGC) and Gas Transmission System Operator of Ukraine, Limited Liability Company (UA TSO) due to the continuation of the war in Ukraine.

DECISION 2022/39: The Executive Board agreed to propose to the General Assembly the exemption of the payment of membership fee in 2023 by the two following members from Ukraine: Gas Transmission System Operator of Ukraine, Limited Liability Company (UA TSO) and Regional Gas Company (RGC). The Membership fee for all other members remain the same as approved in the General Assembly of 14 June 2022.

4.2. Proposal for revised budget for 2023

The Secretary General presented the revised budget proposal for 2023 in which the income coming from the membership fees was reduced by 46.000€ (corresponding to the removed fees from UA Members), remaining a total income of 594.000€, which is the total receivable as the interests on deposits were cut off. To the total amount received, the withdrawal of reserves (74.000€) was added, so that the total available is of 668.000€.

Regarding the costs, 470.000€ are earmarked for the cost of payroll staff, taking into account the 5 full-time permanent staff, together with 48.000€ for the office rent, logistic and reception. 82.000€ are designated to operations; 43.000€ to services and membership; and 25.000€ to communications and events. All these set a total cost of **668.000€**. Therefore, the expected profit/loss for 2023 is null.

The following table shows the proposed budget in detail:

Income & Reserves			Costs		
Nr.	Description	Amount (EUR)	Nr.	Description	Amount (EUR)
1	Membership Fees	+ 594.000	1	Cost of payroll staff	- 470.000
2	Interests on Deposits	0	2	Office rent, logistic & reception	- 48.000
Total Receivable		+ 594.000	3	Operations	- 82.000
3	Withdrawal of Reserves	+ 74.000	4	Services and membership	- 43.000
Total Available		+ 668.000	5	Communication and events	- 25.000
			Total Costs		- 668.000

DECISION 2022/40: The Executive Board agreed on the revised proposed budget presented for 2023.

DECISION 2022/41: The Executive Board agreed to propose the approved revised budget to the General Assembly for approval.

5. Presentations of the Standing Committees

5.1. Standing Committee Sustainability (SCS)

The Chair of the SC Sustainability reported on the technical activities and roadmap for 2023 for the WG Health and Labour Safety and gave a feedback on the MARCOGAZ Tech Forum on Hydrogen Safety held in October 2022.

The Chair informed the Executive Board on the ongoing activities in the WG Methane Emissions+, namely the ongoing discussion with European Institutions on Methane Emissions Regulation, CEN Standardization on assessment of Methane Emissions for gas transmission and distribution systems and air quality, OGMP 2.0 reporting, Methane Emissions assessment, correlation factors, best available techniques documents on venting and flaring and the EU methane target setting.

The Chair reported to the Board that the next projects to be addressed by the WG ME+ will be on hydrogen emissions and Scope 3 Emissions. The Chair also presented some other projects being carried out in the SCS including “Hydrogen Climate Impact” and “EU Taxonomy for Sustainable Activities”.

During the exchange of views, it was the understanding of some members that the “EU Taxonomy for Sustainable Activities Project” should involve not only the TSO but also the DSOs to avoid duplication of efforts by the DSOs.

DECISION 2022/42: The Executive Board agreed to run the “EU Taxonomy for Sustainable Activities Project” with the TSO experts currently involved and to share the results of the project with the WG Distribution for review prior to its finalisation.

5.2. Joint Standing Committee Gas Utilisation & New Gases (SCGU &H2+)

The co-Chairs of the joint SCGU & SCH2, briefly informed about the main decisions of the last joint SC meeting in October 2022 comprising the follow-up of the Eco-design & Energy Labelling, the approval of the creation of a database on “LNG quality in Europe” in the WG Gas Quality, the coordination between MARCOGAZ and Eurogas, the continuation of exchange of information on national situations regarding (gas) heating of buildings and Kris De Wit as the MARCOGAZ liaison for CEN SFG-U.

Some Executive Board members suggested consulting the ENTSOG study “*Wobbe Index and Gross Calorific Value in European networks – Analysis of ranges and variability (2017)*” to avoid duplication of work.

The co-Chairs updated the Executive Board with the activities decided in terms of the Work Plan 2023, which will be focused on:

- Industrial gas use and the creation of a centralized library on MARCOGAZ Intranet.
- The WG Energy Efficiency will focus on the study of the Primary Energy Factor (PEF) and the close follow-up of the relevant EU Regulations and Directives.
- The WG Gas Installations will continue its work on the EGAS-C report and its study on methane leakage as well as the gas installations laws in different countries. Additionally, it will start its study on the H2 (NG) impact on end-use gas installation.
- The WG Gas Quality will launch the follow-up of the revision of EN16726 and will elaborate a new technical Report on H2 quality specification in rededicated natural gas pipelines.
- Regarding WG Sector Integration, the co-Chairs proposed Massimiliano Capezzali as candidate for the open position of Chairman.

The co-Chairs briefly informed about the main decisions regarding New Gases and the WG H2, BioCH4 & SNG comprising the launch of two new projects regarding a (1) study on technological and gas infrastructure related aspects as well as the climate impact of new gases and (2) the overview of political targets and roadmaps on H2 and new gases.

DECISION 2022/43: The Executive Board agreed to nominate Massimiliano Capezzali as the new Chair of WG Sector Integration with immediate effect.

5.3. Standing Committee Gas Infrastructure (SCGI)

The Secretary of the SC Gas Infrastructure informed the Board about the status of both WG’s that were on hibernation mode (WG LNG & WG Storage). He reported as well about the roadmap of activities discussed in the last SCGI meeting in November 2022, aiming to address topics related to energy transition, hydrogen and new gases in existing infrastructure, methane emissions reduction, CO2 transmission, grid digitalization and sector coupling, ammonia, system integrity and safety, impact of gas consumption reduction in the infrastructure and Standardization activities.

6. Administration and Secretariat

6.1. Status of budget 2022

The Secretary General informed the Executive Board that all members had paid the fee for 2022. The General Assembly has decided to waive the membership fee of 2022 from the two Ukrainian members, which means a loss of 46.000€. Nevertheless, the preliminary projections showed that financial year 2022 will close with a profit (instead of loss). The Secretary General also informed that the total cost of the year 2022 will be lower than the early planned due to less physical meetings and a reduction of human resources. The Secretary General notified the Members of the Executive Board that detailed figures of the financial year 2022 will be presented in the meeting of March 2023, after gathering all information from the accountants.

6.2. Human Resources

The Secretary General proposed to the Executive Board to offer permanent contracts to Francesco Arena, Virginia Sanchez and Evangelia Skreka, at the end of respective traineeships, considering the outstanding performance achieved during the past months:

DECISION 2022/44: The Executive Board agreed to offer permanent contracts to Francesco Arena, Virginia Sanchez and Evangelia Skreka, starting at the end of respective traineeship contracts.

7. Dates of the next meetings

The following dates summarize MARCOGAZ's next meetings:

- **16/03/2023:** Executive Board Meeting - Hybrid (Brussels and Online). Welcome dinner the night before (15/03/2023).
- **1/06/2023:** Executive Board Meeting and General Assembly - Copenhagen, Denmark. Welcome dinner the night before (31/05/2023).
- **22/06/2023:** 55th Anniversary of MARCOGAZ (Brussels).

8. Any other business

1. The Secretary General briefly presented HYDROGENi and informed the Executive Board that the Secretariat held a meeting with HYDROGENi's Director and asked the Board Members and underlined the possibilities for cooperation with HYDROGENi members.
2. The Secretary General introduced the new features of the EU Energy Policy Tracker in the intranet of MARCOGAZ.
3. The Secretary General pointed out that Ukraine energy system is still in need and reminded the Board that if any of their companies or members would like to make any financial or equipment donation, they can do it directly through the Energy Community Secretariat.