



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Energy and Transport Directorate General – Research Directorate General
Steering Group on Strategic Energy Technologies
The Secretariat

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EUROPEAN COMMUNITY STEERING GROUP ON STRATEGIC ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES (SET-Group)

Terms of Reference

1. MISSION

Contribute to and foster the implementation of a collaborative European Energy Technology Policy to accelerate the development and market take-up of clean, sustainable and efficient energy technologies, as a fundamental pillar of the EU's response to the inter-related challenges of climate change, security of energy supply and competitiveness.

2. KEY OBJECTIVES

The Steering Group will be established to provide a high level discussion platform and a flexible framework for strategic planning and implementation, to maximise the cost-effective contribution of technology to the achievement of the Energy Policy for Europe objectives.

The high-level objectives of the Steering Group will be to:

- To steer the implementation of the European Energy Technology Policy, including the SET-Plan actions and related Community Programmes, reinforcing the coherence between national, European and international efforts, maintaining a productive balance between the principles of cooperation and competition.
- To foster European joint actions and measures, matching specific instruments to the needs of different technologies, to ensure an optimisation of overall energy RDD&D¹ efforts in the European Research Area, through joint programming and concerted actions, involving groups of Member States under variable geometry when appropriate.

¹ RDD&D stands for Research, Technological Development, Demonstration and Deployment.

- To identify resources available to contribute to the financing of joint actions, such as European Industrial Initiatives and the European Energy Research Alliance, on the basis of Community and national priorities and preferences.
- To monitor and review progress in a systematic manner, fully geared towards reaching our common objectives.

3. MAIN TASKS OF THE STEERING GROUP

To take forward the SET-Plan through dialogue and strategic planning, the Steering Group will:

- Review the potential, maturity and specific needs of different technologies, discuss roadmaps and propose common objectives and milestones as necessary to bring them to the market (using input from the SET Information System).
- Facilitate the definition and launching of European Industrial Initiatives and the European Energy Research Alliance.
- Conceive and launch other joint programming actions and initiatives between groups of MSs interested in pursuing the various technology avenues.
- Assess the optimal timelines for investment in the various technologies.
- Identify resources available and assess regularly whether they are adequate to achieve the objectives of the SET-plan.
- Facilitate the process so that adequate resources are made available to finance collective actions in a manner that gives sufficient long-term visibility to attract and leverage private investment.
- Contribute to the definition of an International Cooperation strategy on energy technologies, addressing both developed and developing nations, and identifying possible areas of cooperation.
- Exchange information and best practices, review Community and national programmes and policies and identify EU strengths and weaknesses from both technical and socio-economic points of view.
- Consult and involve stakeholders (industry, investors, innovators and researchers) in the planning process, through appropriate mechanisms.
- Exploit synergies with existing on-going initiatives and with other Community groups and committees to achieve maximum impact without overlapping.
- Systematically monitor and review the progress of the implementation of the SET-Plan and other related Community Programmes, using appropriate indicators.

4. COMPOSITION

The Steering group will be composed of High Level representatives from Member States and from the European Commission.

The European Commission will ensure the Chair and Secretariat of the Steering Group.

Each Member State should designate up to two representatives, normally from the Energy and Research authorities. The representatives should be responsible for national

energy innovation strategies, having sufficient seniority and knowledge to take positions on Community and national research and innovation investments.

The Steering Group may also invite other interested parties to participate to meetings on an ad-hoc basis, including representatives from industry, the research community, the financial sector and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

5. WORKING MODALITIES

The Steering Group will be assisted by a Secretariat and its work supported by an EU Energy Technology Information System (SETIS), both provided by the Commission.

To ensure maximum efficiency, meetings of the Steering Group will normally be prepared by 'sherpas' designated by the Member States for this purpose, working closely with the Commission. The work will be facilitated through a web-based platform.

The Steering Group will work in consensual mode. Groups of Member States can agree on specific actions in line with their national priorities and decisions on their own energy mix. In such cases, not all Member States will participate in the joint actions (principle of variable geometry). Participation will be on a voluntary basis, allowing Member States to pursue RDD&D in line with their own national situation and preferences.

The Steering Group may establish ad-hoc Working Groups to examine particular issues that warrant in-depth investigation.

Expenses of the Members of the Steering Group and 'sherpas' in relation to the work of the Group, including attendance at meetings, will not be covered by the European Commission.